



Remembering  
the Queen  
Page 14



Vol. 5, Issue 37

Serving all five communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake

September 15, 2022



## Cost for 'spill' cleanup hits \$873K, town still doesn't know source

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It's been four weeks since a mysterious "organic pollutant" showed up in the Cole municipal drain that runs from Line 5 to 6 in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Much remains unknown, including exactly what the pollutant was. After councillors were updated pub-



## Solmar, Two Sisters suit claims violations of Charter rights

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

A ruling in a legal action by Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar (Niagara) 2 Inc. against the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be delivered on Oct. 5, just weeks before the parties are due in court again over the 2018 clear-cutting of trees on NOTL's historic Rand Estate.

The first part of the saga is a Charter suit by the companies, claiming the town is violating their rights in two ways.

## Hovercraft service to connect Niagara to Toronto

Company headed by NOTL resident will dock in Port Weller, with a free shuttle bus to Old Town

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

For \$25 to \$30, you could soon commute one-way across Lake Ontario to work, see the sights or catch

a flight from the island airport – all in about 30 minutes.

Hoverlink Ontario Inc., headed by Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Chris Morgan, plans to launch

a cross-lake hovercraft service by next summer and run daily year-round.

The company, headquartered in St. Catharines, unveiled its plans Wednesday after nearly 11 years of

planning and research, Morgan said in an interview.

The service will run two hovercraft on up to 24 round-trips daily from Port Weller in St. Catharines to near Ontario Place.

Each craft holds up to 180 people.

On both ends people can be picked up or take free electric shuttle buses to a

*Continued on Page 3*

## Polo games draw crowds



Polo players chase the ball on Saturday during the biannual Niagara Polo tournament on the Commons. The NOTL Museum estimates about 2,500 people attended the festivities, making it the most successful polo event in NOTL to date. RICHARD HARLEY

## Disero endorses first five candidates for council spots

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

### ELECTION '22

It's not Team Disero, per se, but it gives you a pretty good idea who the incumbent lord mayor is backing in the municipal election.

Like many people in election season, incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero is displaying election signs on her front lawn in Niagara-

on-the-Lake.

Besides a large red "Re-elect Betty Disero" sign, are placards for incumbents Allan Bisback and Sandra O'Connor, and political newcomers Tim Balasiuk, Maria Mavridis and Nick Ruller.

Coming soon is a sign

from rookie candidate Adriana Cater (Vizzari) of St. Davids, the mayor said.

Conspicuous by their absence are current councillors Wendy Cheropita and Erwin Wiens.

"These are the people I'm



Like many people at election time, incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero has lawn signs showing who she is supporting in the Oct. 24 municipal election. KEVIN MACLEAN

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Left: Members of the Second World War Canadian motorcycle dispatch riders. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: Sgt. Jack Howarth was killed in Nova Scotia when his military motorcycle collided with a truck. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124

A truck hauls off logs from the Rand Estate in November 2018 the cutting of dozens of trees. JUDITH BARNES

## Charter challenge claims town's inspection of property was done illegally

*Continued from Front Page*

First, the suit asks the court to stay the proceedings entirely, claiming too much time has passed since the charges were laid.

A factum filed with the court by Solmar and Two Sisters calculates the time since the charges at 50 months.

It claims the timeframe is well past the "presumptive ceiling" of 18 months set by a 2016 Supreme Court of Canada ruling.

The second part calls into question the methods used to obtain evidence against the companies and asks the court to exclude the evidence in question.

The factum says town officials contacted Giuseppe Paolicelli, a representative of the companies, to obtain access to the property during the clear-cutting, which saw residents filing complaints and holding a protest outside the walls of the Rand Estate.

Complaints from residents alleged key heritage attributes of the property were destroyed in the process of removing the trees.

The filing claims that on two occasions the town communicated that its sole purpose of accessing the property was to exonerate the companies of wrongdoing — Benny Marotta, who owns both companies, maintains that they had the proper permissions from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to cut the trees down.

The town ended up being given permission to access

the sites on Nov. 7 and 12, 2018, for those purposes.

However, the suit claims the town's communications were deceitful and that the town actually suspected heritage aspects had been destroyed, and sent the email as a guise to gain access to the property for an investigation.

In Welland provincial court, Patrick Maloney, a lawyer for Two Sisters and Solmar, argued this contravenes the Charter right to informed consent from an enforcement body.

He said if the town was going to collect evidence as part of an investigation to lay a charge, that information should have been clearly communicated to the companies.

He relied on case law and legal framework examples, citing a case where a blatant plea from a murder was withdrawn from evidence after it was found to be obtained illegally.

The suit asks the court to disallow any evidence collected on Nov. 7 and 12, 2018, for being obtained illegally.

The town's lawyer, Terrence Hill, argued the email's contents are largely semantics and not nefarious.

He said that when the email mentioned complaints and requesting access, it would logically be assumed there would be some form of inspection.

If town officials suspected nothing was wrong, they would still be obligated to report if they found evidence contrary to their initial belief, he added.

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## Two NOTL soldiers who died accidentally

*This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made.*

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

When researching the local men commemorated on Niagara-on-the-Lake's memorial clock tower cenotaph, it is natural to think of men killed in battle.

However, several died from other causes.

Joseph Malcolm Hall was born in McNab on June 10, 1916, son of Alexander Hall, a veterinary surgeon and veteran of the First World War, and his wife Amy.

Joseph was not interested in becoming a veterinarian but decided when he was 18 to become a soldier.

On July 15, 1935, he enlisted in the Permanent Militia Force, joining the Royal Canadian Regiment stationed during the summer at Camp Niagara. During the rest of the year the regiment was headquartered in Toronto.

Hall married Mary Jean Atherton in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Feb. 19, 1938. The couple had one child, Beverley Atherton Hall, born in August 1939.

On Sept. 1, 1939, nine days prior to Canada's declaration of war with Germany, the government mobilized the army, forming an overseas contingent, the Canadian Active Service Force.

Hall signed on, still with the Royal Canadian Regiment, on Sept. 1, 1939. By Dec. 30 he was in Great Britain with his regiment.

In June 1940, two weeks after the British withdrawal from France at Dunkirk, the Royal Canadian Regiment and other Canadian forces landed in France ostensibly to halt the German advance.

It was a short-lived plan. Hall disembarked at Brest on June 14 and re-embarked to return to England the next day.

He was promoted to corporal and continued to train in infantry tactics and signalling. He also received certification as a truck driver and a motorcycle dispatch rider.

That proved to be dangerous. From January to June 1941, he was hospitalized with a broken leg.

On his return to duty, he was promoted lance sergeant in the Divisional Infantry Reinforcement

Unit, awaiting reassignment to another regiment.

He was sent to join the 1st Canadian Signals Reinforcement Unit and promoted again to acting sergeant.

Hall wanted to get back with his old regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment. On Oct. 22, 1942, he requested to be reduced to private and be reassigned to the Royal Canadian Regiment.

It was rumoured that the regiment would soon be going into action, breaking the monotony of three years training in Great Britain. Hall was welcomed back to his old regiment but never saw action.

On a dark night on a road near Hurlford, Scotland, on June 23, 1943, Hall was driving his motorcycle without lights, following blackout rules.

He began passing a truck heading in the same direction and when the truck turned down a side road, Hall's motorcycle crashed into it. He was thrown from the bike and fractured his skull, dying at 2:30 a.m. on June 24.

Joseph Hall was buried in the Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey and is commemorated on the Niagara-on-the-Lake cenotaph.

Sgt. Jack Leach Howarth is also memorialized on the cenotaph. Three of his

brothers, two in the Canadian Army and one in the RCAF, survived the war.

Howarth was born in Chippawa on Dec. 18, 1915, and was working as a millwright when he decided to enlist in the army.

At that point the family was living on King Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He travelled to Hamilton to sign up with the 2nd/10th Dragoons on June 29, 1942, and was sent to Camp Niagara, and promoted to lance corporal.

After a short stay at Camp Niagara, Howarth was sent to Woodstock to train on tracked vehicles.

Howarth proved to have leadership qualities and was promoted to corporal in February 1943 and to sergeant a month later. In October, he was sent to Debart, N.S., to train other drivers and was now attached to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Training Battalion.

On Jan. 22, 1944, Howarth was a passenger on a bus travelling to Truro, N.S. When the bus broke down, he got out to assist the driver.

Standing on the left side of the bus he was struck by a passing car that did not stop. Howarth had fractured limbs and a broken neck.

He died in hospital on Jan. 28, 1944. His body was sent home and he now lies in St. Mark's Cemetery.

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North America's first-ever rapid transit hovercraft, set to launch in 2023, will connect Toronto and Niagara in 30 minutes. A shuttle bus will connect transit riders to Niagara-on-the-Lake. HOVERLINK ONTARIO INC.

## Hovercraft service **first of its kind** in North America

*Continued from Front Page*

variety of destinations.

Bus routes are planned from Port Weller to NOTL, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

On the Toronto side, people will be shuttled to Billy Bishop Airport, Union Station and other stops, Morgan said.

"We've talked to hundreds of people about this and so many people in Niagara have told us this is a game-changer," he said.

Morgan, a father of four who grew up in the Alder-shot area of Burlington, moved to NOTL in 2018.

He has an earth sciences degree from McMaster University and extensive background in motorsport racing and international marketing for companies like Procter & Gamble, Walmart and Nestle, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Besides the convenience factor, he emphasized the environmental-friendly aspects of the hovercraft service.

"The crafts 'hover' on a cushion of air above the water, so they leave virtually no wake or wash, and unlike traditional boats and ferries, they cause no harm to shorelines and protection



Hoverlink CEO Chris Morgan. HOVERLINK ONTARIO INC.

efforts along Lake Ontario," he said in a news release.

As well, the machines are "super quiet," he said – "quieter than a standard dishwasher."

Eventually the two hovercraft his company will operate on the lake will be electrically powered, but that technology is not yet ready, he told The Lake Report.

"We've assembled experts from around the world and this will be the first service of its kind in North America," he added.

The company's two craft are now being built in North America and once complete will be subject to open-water testing before the service can launch next summer, he said.

But Hoverlink already has many of its government approvals in place and has

been working behind the scenes with municipal and provincial politicians for several years.

NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who said she's "excited" and "elated" about the project, first met Morgan during the 2018 election campaign.

Since then, council has discussed the plan twice during in camera sessions and is fully supportive of the project, she said.

This is not the first such project to be proposed for a cross-lake service but the technology and Hoverlink's research make this one different, Disero said.

"It's affordable and environmentally friendly," she said in an interview, "and I believe people will embrace it" rather than spend hours stuck in traffic on the QEW travelling to and from Toronto.

Morgan noted his "closest friend," former Toronto Argonauts star Michael "Pinball" Clemons is on Hoverlink's board of directors and has been a valuable sounding board.

He said he came up with the hovercraft concept while on a business trip to the U.K. in 2011.

"We were talking about technology and urban

challenges and struggles to make it easier for people to move about" which prompted him to start researching options and diving into the historical data to "see what makes sense and what doesn't make sense."

"When it started making sense, I started getting nervous. So, I went to one of my closest friends, Michael Clemons, and said, 'Let's punch holes in this. Let's see if we can make this better and if I'm missing something, please tell me.'"

Long story short, they felt they were on to something and now, after years of preparation, they've gone public with it.

Based on the research, focus groups, studies and meetings, he also is confident it is the right option at the right time.

He said the service isn't so much competing with other travel choices as it is offering "a Golden Horse-shoe rapid transit option" to people who want to embrace clean technology that cuts greenhouse gas emissions and don't want to sit in their car for hours.

Ultimately, if the hovercraft service takes off, the company hopes to serve more than 3 million passengers a year.

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# Goettler and Zalepa promise they'll change how town operates

Continued from Front Page

supporting," Disero says, pointing to the signs, a wry smile crossing her face.

While she knows some of them are supporting her re-election bid, "That's not a condition of me doing this."

And she doesn't ask them to put up her sign, she said.

"I just think it's important for me to show support for people" whose platforms and plans she thinks will benefit the town.

"At some point, there'll be seven or eight signs on my lawn."

Despite some occasional verbal jousting between them during council meetings over the last four years, incumbent Gary Burroughs could be added to the sign mix, she said. "Gary and I haven't discussed it yet."

Disero displayed signs from other council hopefuls in 2018, she said, and all but one of the candidates she backed won a seat.

While, historically, party politics is not formally involved in municipal elections, sometimes mayoral candidates will organize a slate of candidates, so voters know what team everyone is on.

Disero insists that's not what is happening here.

"There are certain candidates that I love, love, love and hope they get elected and they would bring good things to the discussion at the council table. Those are people I'm supporting," she said in an interview.

One of her two opponents, regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, said he won't be following suit.

"I've never aligned myself with other candidates," he said in an interview. "I will work with everybody."

Zalepa, who by many



Above: Businessman Vaughn Goettler wants to bring his experience to NOTL council. Right: Gary Zalepa, current regional councillor for NOTL, wants a more "common sense approach" to council. FILE PHOTOS/RICHARD HARLEY/SUPPLIED



observational accounts was an early leader in the "sign wars" – his black-and-white lawns signs were just about the only ones up for the first week or so of the lengthy campaign – said he has assembled a core team of about a half-dozen "very organized" people to help guide his campaign.

That team includes his wife Tammy and sister Alison, as well as retired insurance broker Rick Sherk and former Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake chief administrator Holly Dowd.

"I haven't given anybody specific titles, but Holly has been chairing our meetings," Zalepa said.

All the mayoral candidates say they and their supporters have been busy meeting voters and knocking on doors.

Among the main issues she is hearing about from people are the need for new services in St. Davids – including a community centre and a resolution to the plans for the village pool, Disero said.

The region's proposed roundabout remains a big concern for St. Davids and she said she wants to see alternative solutions.

The upcoming revised transportation master plan is also a big one – "We have to make sure we're not sending traffic down Charlotte Street" and instead redirect it to the Niagara Parkway – as is finalizing revisions to the town's official plan so it can be approved by the region.

Disero insisted the official plan will be done soon.

While much of the informal campaign chat-

ter around town seems to be that Zalepa, a born and raised NOTLer, is going to attract a lot of votes from fellow longtime residents, Zalepa naturally emphasizes that he hopes to attract support from across the town.

"We're not strategically trying to do anything like that, in fact we're trying to appeal to a really broad base," he said.

"I'm looking to take a more common sense approach to how the mayor engages with council and how council can work together in the best interests of the community. And I think that appeals to a very broad group of people."

While he said he is not blaming the mayor personally for a significant number of unfilled jobs at the town, he said the

municipality needs to do a better job at attracting and keeping talent.

He acknowledged that filling jobs is a problem worldwide post-COVID, he also expressed concern with "dysfunction" both with council and in the employee ranks.

With several senior managers retiring or leaving during the last council term and many jobs unfilled – including the fire chief, director of operations, town clerk and some planning positions – Zalepa wonders if the town is no longer seen as a desirable place to work.

"While I don't know all the circumstances behind all those situations, it's not a positive development. It just seems to be a pattern of concern."

As for council, while he doesn't expect everyone to always agree with one another, he said there is too much "adversarial" debate.

"There are exchanges that are not what I would describe as a respectful working environment."

He said the Region of Niagara has been successful at ensuring that atmosphere and he thinks his "collaborative" approach can help change that "tone" at council.

The third candidate in the race, retired business owner Vaughn Goettler, is a political newcomer who, among other things, is concerned town council spends a lot of time talking about things that need doing and little time putting those words into action.

"It drives me crazy and was one of the things that was part of my decision to run," he said in an interview.

Besides getting final approval for the new official plan, the lack of a town

tourism strategy is one of the things he wants to see done quickly, if he is elected.

"I think that we have a very great opportunity to improve our revenue through a focused tourism approach," he said.

He prefers a "sustainable" approach to tourism that balances residents' needs with those of businesses, while also being eco-friendly.

"I think we need to have a co-ordinated effort with restaurateurs, hoteliers and working with the merchants on Queen Street to figure out what we want to create. I think we need to figure out who we are and what we want to do."

In doing so, though, "we need to make sure that we're friendly to our residents, especially seniors. For example, we need to solve our parking issues."

That could mean creating off-street parking, perhaps with a parking garage, or alternatives such as "hop-on, hop-off trolleys" like many other tourist destinations offer worldwide.

"A lot of the traffic problems we have are people driving around looking for parking spots. And then our seniors can't find a spot when they go to the post office. If you're lucky you might find a spot out back, but if you're a senior with limited mobility, that might not work."

But NOTL is more than just about Old Town, he noted, and said getting the town's finances in order could allow it to pursue projects like the long-awaited new pool for St. Davids.

"Time is of the essence in anything that we do and I think we need to be much more respectful of that because if you're not careful time becomes money that you don't have and nothing gets done."

## Schedule set for series of FocusNOTL candidate debates at Legion

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

The schedule has been finalized for candidate debates in advance of the Oct. 24 municipal election.

The series of "meet and greet" meetings, organized by FocusNOTL, a grass-

roots political group in Niagara-on-the-Lake, will feature several two-hour debates.

All sessions will be at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, 410 King St., from 7 to 9 p.m. on each date.

Candidates will have

10 minutes to introduce themselves and present their platform, followed by a question-and-answer session. If time permits, candidates can mingle and speak to audience members one-on-one.

FocusNOTL is soliciting questions from the public

and media organizations. Spokesperson Joe Accardo said people can email questions to [notlelection2022@cogeco.ca](mailto:notlelection2022@cogeco.ca).

The schedule is as follows:  
**Mayoral debate**  
**Tuesday, Sept 27:** Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler, Gary Zalepa

**Councillors**  
**Session 1 – Wednesday, Oct. 5** – Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis, Richard Mell, Nick Ruller

**Session 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 11** – John McCallum, Sandra O'Connor, Katherine Reid, Erwin Wiens

**Session 3 – Wednesday,**

**Oct. 12** – Tim Balasiuk, Allan Bisback, Wendy Cheropita, Adriana Cater (Vizzari), Alistair Harlond

**Regional Councillor**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 18** – Pat Darte, Andrea Kaiser, Paolo Miele, William Roberts



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New bicycle bollards were installed last week on Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids, leaving residents concerned about safety and what to do if emergency vehicles need to pass. SOMER SLOBODIAN

## Bicycle bollards **baffle** residents in St. Davids

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The installation of “bicycle bollards” on a stretch of Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids caught everyone – including the mayor – by surprise.

The flexible plastic pylons are part of a Region of Niagara pilot project and were installed on Thursday, Sept. 8, without warning, neighbours said.

The project is about cyclist safety, a regional official says.

“The primary intention of installing bicycle bollards is to provide a physical separation between motorists and cyclists to reduce the risk of exposure and improve safety,” Carolyn Ryall, director of transportation services for the Region of Niagara, said in an email to The Lake Report.

The pilot program will be in effect for up to two months. The region plans to remove them in October or November before the winter season.

The bollards are on a stretch of road near the Grist restaurant, where the region also installed no

parking signs on both sides of the road.

When the posts were installed, many residents had no idea what they were for – or why.

**“It concerns me that if an emergency vehicle has to go through, where do people pull over?”**

LORD MAYOR BETTY DISERO

“It’d be nice if the region provided an explanation for the rationale behind it,” said St. Davids resident Peter Rusin.

He wasn’t sure if it was to reduce speed, or to prevent vehicles from passing each other. The region never sent out any notices.

Rusin is worried about the safety of drivers and cyclists. The placement of the bollards doesn’t leave any room for cars to move over in case of a larger, oncoming vehicle.

“Those are standard-size lanes and that’s a regional arterial road so there’s no real escape if a transport (truck) is coming,” he said.

If you’re going to do something where you restrict the lanes, you have to make them wider, he said.

He added that a solution would be to push them out a few more feet to allow vehicles to have more room.

Four Mile Creek was one of three areas in the region targeted for the bollard pilot project.

Before the installation, the region implemented traffic calming efforts after consulting with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, police and residents who had speeding and safety concerns.

“Check speed” markings were painted on the road, a speed trailer that digitally displays the speed of vehicles was added and there has been an increased police presence in the area.

Ryall said the town participated in previous meetings regarding the pilot program for the area.

“There was a telephone meeting with a couple of the residents on Four Mile Creek and they were looking at different ways to slow down the traffic,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

She knew that the region discussed installing the bollards, but she didn’t know

it was happening for sure. She’s surprised the region didn’t provide a little bit more input.

“It concerns me that if an emergency vehicle has to go through, where do people pull over?” she said.

Ryall said the bollards are far enough apart that vehicles can safely pull over onto the shoulder without damaging the bollards or their vehicles, as per the requirements of the Ontario Traffic Manual for cycling facilities.

Disero is also concerned about the tight space, particularly if bigger vehicles like tractors pass through.

The cost of the materials totalled roughly \$12,000 and installation was done by regional workers, Ryall said.

The bollards can be reused in the future after the pilot program is completed.

Pending the assessment, Four Mile Creek along with other locations could undergo an extension of the pilot, said Ryan. The region aims for that to begin in spring 2023.

Rusin thinks the region could do a better job communicating.

“Be respectful to the people (and) just tell people what you’re doing,” he said.



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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 69**  
**Region active cases: 775**  
**Region deaths: 607**  
**Region total cases: 45,584**

*\*Sept. 14 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "May my heart always be open to little birds who are the secret of living."  
 - e. e. cummings

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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## Under the spell of city lights



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this stunning shot of Toronto across the lake on a clear night from Queen's Royal Park. The lights from the city cast a glow across the water. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

### Editorial

## St. Davids 'wins' the regional trifecta

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

If you haven't yet driven the stretch of Four Mile Creek Road on which the region has installed a series of "bicycle lane" pylons, then the pictures we and many residents have shared really do tell the story.

This boondoggle of a Region of Niagara project – unannounced, not promoted, it just "happened" one day last week – is the sort of thing that makes people shake their heads and wonder, "What were they thinking?"

It is not a good look for the regional bureaucracy, but maybe they just don't care.

It comes on the heels of another questionable regional decision: to install no parking signs on this same segment of roadway,

after apparently receiving complaints about patrons of the Grist restaurant parking on the extra-wide shoulders of the road.

As we said before, the region made no apparent attempt to seek a solution and instead opted for the sledgehammer approach. No finesse there.

And just to ensure that St. Davids wins the regional trifecta, of course there is the ongoing saga of the planned roundabout at Four Mile Creek and York roads.

The silliness seems to know no bounds.

Except it's not silly. It's bureaucratic overkill.

The bike lane pylons – on a stretch of road with very wide shoulders – is being pitched as a pilot project, one that presumably will be measured and assessed to determine its effectiveness.

We can tell you it is certainly effective at getting drivers' attention, slowing them down as they try to not wander too far in their lane and clip a pylon.

But there also are unintended consequences.

The driving space feels narrowed, leaving little margin for error, but, more importantly, nowhere for emergency vehicles to go – or for other traffic to move out of the way.

Whether it's an ambulance or fire truck en route to an emergency or a large school bus headed to or from school, this narrowed alleyway is asking for trouble.

It's being sold by the region as a cyclist-friendly pilot project (launched in early September? Huh?) – to be removed before winter to allow for snow clearing – but we find that hard to swallow.

(And these would have to be candidates for the world's widest bike lanes.)

Not only was there no communication or warning or consultation, a cynic might conclude it's a case of the region piling on to try to show the upstart, successful Grist restaurant who's the boss. Or maybe the folks who thought this was a good idea are just blind to the impact and optics of their decision.

All in all, it's just a really bad idea, no matter how anyone tries to spin it.

We hope the region has the good sense to quickly realize a mistake has been made.

And sends its crews back to the scene (to park at the Grist, if there's room, because there's no space in the no parking zone) and remove the pylons immediately.

editor@niagaranow.com



### Town ad misspelled school board trustee candidate's name

Dear editor:  
 A Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake advertisement in The Lake Report on Sept. 8

listing candidates running for the position of District School Board of Niagara trustee misspelled the name

of candidate Kris Vrcek. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regrets this error and assures that it will

be corrected in all future advertisements.

Clerk's department  
 Town of NOTL

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## Town **denied** group use of community centre for candidate debates

Dear editor:  
Regarding the Sept. 8 letter from Leslie Moulson, (“Site for candidate debates is not easily accessible”), we fully understand the issue with accessibility at

the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion hall.

However, it was the only reasonably priced venue available to FocusNOTL, which is organizing the debates.

We asked the acting town clerk to allow us to rent the community centre auditorium but she declined our request.

While we are inviting all candidates to participate over five nights, the acting

town clerk said she would not rent to us unless all candidates were present at the same time.

In her world it is better to have all 20 candidates overcrowding a stage for two

hours and be given three to four minutes of stage time, rather than breaking the Meet & Greets up into five sessions where all candidates will get up to 25-plus minutes of time to interact with residents.

Maybe, the new council will work to put residents and common sense first and stop having the “staff tail” wag the “council dog.”

**Joe Accardo**  
NOTL

## We're there when you need us, now NOTL Palliative Care **needs you**

Bonnie Bagnulo  
NOTL Palliative Care

*Picture this: It's morning and she can't get out of bed. You've done your best up till now to put your feelings on the shelf, you've tried your best not to bite through your lip since the time of the diagnosis.*

*Now she can't get out of bed. You wonder "what's next"? Your heart skips a beat while your brain is searching for something to say to offer comfort, to motivate her, to get her up.*

*She is weaker, thinner, slower. You ask yourself: "Where do I get help?"*

*This is becoming too much for both of us, physically and mentally. She needs a cane, a walker and maybe a chair to push her in.*

*How will we navigate these changes? How can we go on not talking about what's clearly happening?*



Bonnie Bagnulo, Trish Anthony and Courtney MacGregor of NOTL Palliative Care. The organization is participating in the Healing Cycle charity ride for the tenth year. FILE

*How long DO we have?*

These are the questions that people living in your backyard are asking themselves on a regular basis.

These are the questions we hope not to have to ask ever, but when we do ask them, please remember

NOTL Community Palliative Care Service is here to give you answers.

We not only answer your questions, but we bring you equipment of all kinds. We can support you with the social aspects of a life-limiting diagnosis and we

can help support you with professional care when that time comes, too.

Being in a home with a life-limiting or end-of-life illness does not have to be a nightmare. It doesn't have to be so scary when you know you are not alone.

Let the health care and medical professionals provide care with the medical tasks at hand, and let our organization's specially trained team, support you with everything else that is needed for your palliative care journey.

How can you help too?

We are seeking donors and sponsors at all levels to help us with our ongoing mission so that when the families here in Niagara-on-the-Lake turn to us, we have the resources available to help.

The annual Healing Cycle Ride for Palliative Care is

one of our most important fundraisers.

This year's ride is extra special as it is our 10th year participating in this event.

The money raised by our team of riders goes directly to NOTL Palliative Care Service to fund our programming and significant equipment needs and to keep our small but mighty service viable as the demand for our services has grown dramatically over the last 36 years.

To reach our goal of raising \$25,000 in honour of our 10th year, we are hoping to secure several larger gifts this year. We are especially pleased that NOTL developer Rainer Hummel has pledged to match every donation up to \$25,000.

Every dollar matters to the recipients of our services so, keep in mind, that we are happy to accept any pledge to our ride this

year. We will gladly provide tax receipts for all eligible donations of \$25 or more.

For more information about the Healing Cycle Ride, visit [thehealingcycle.ca](http://thehealingcycle.ca). Our team is called the “Pedal Pushers” and you can donate directly to our team on this website.

We would also be happy to pick up a donation from you in person.

When the families of NOTL need us, we are there to help. We hope that we can count on you to support us during our time of need. Please help us to help others.

A direct link to our team also is available. You can donate on this secure platform and keep track of our progress. Go to [thehealingcycle.crowdfunder.ca/10653/team/4582](http://thehealingcycle.crowdfunder.ca/10653/team/4582)

*Bonnie Bagnulo is executive director of the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service.*

## Thanks to Chautauqua for making **corn roast** a blast

Dear editor:

As the chair of the Chautauqua Residents Association, I wanted to take a moment to thank our wonderful community for coming together for a fantastic event last week – our annual corn roast and barbecue.

The Chautauqua community never fails to amaze me.

The warmth and kindness that the evening was staggering. It brings me so much joy to see members of our community, both old and new, come together to share a good time in the heart of our neighbourhood.

I haven't seen a turnout like the one we had for many years; it was very heartwarming.

I felt a touch of nostalgia and emotion as I gathered with my community, eating cake, sharing a few

laughs and watching a new generation of neighbourhood children run around and compete in a tug-of-war and egg and spoon race, just as we did growing up years ago.

It took me back in time, not only to my childhood, but seemingly to a place where there was no division, no disagreements between neighbours, no “us vs. them” mentality, just to a place where we all came together to savour and enjoy the beautiful community we share and live in.

My hope is that we can continue to foster this sense of spirit and community, not only in Chautauqua, but in the rest of our town as well.

This event was special not only because it was the first time the community had been able to gather in a while, but it was also the



70th anniversary of the Chautauqua Residents Association.

For 70 years, the association has been advocating for the rights and preservation of our little neighbourhood. Countless residents have volunteered their time and effort over the years to ensure that our community has a strong voice speaking for it.

I am so grateful to be the

third generation of my family living in Chautauqua. I grew up on Shakespeare Avenue and look forward to calling the neighbourhood home for many years to come.

We are all so lucky to live in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Chautauqua. The unique charm, gorgeous tree canopy and friendly atmosphere truly creates a special place.

In a world where things are constantly changing, Chautauqua has kept its beauty and charm the entire time, and, in my opinion, that is rare for a community.

Let us keep reminding ourselves the importance of community and preservation, and be thankful that we all share such a special place as our home.

**Weston Miller**  
NOTL

## Congrats to all who made **polo fundraiser** successful

Dear editor:

A big thank you to our Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum staff and volunteers for organizing Saturday's polo matches on the Commons.

We appreciated all the work that was involved both before and during, and by the end of the day all those involved must have been exhausted.

As a chartered accountant, I looked at the significant economic activity and I hope that the town and its politicians appreciate the economic impact of museum events such as this one.

Despite some attendees bringing picnic lunches, the local food vendors must have had one of their best days of the year, and

if our table and the ones nearby were any example, a lot of Niagara wine was sold.

And some of the attendees were likely from out of town, which means more business for NOTL hotels and restaurants.

Amazing! And thanks to the town for its ongoing support of this unique cultural institution.

The NOTL Museum is not your grandmother's museum. Its events and activities are a tourism magnet (I'm sure that it wasn't just the horses that came from Toronto), while its collections and displays reflect the depth and richness of our local history.

We are so fortunate.  
**John Sayers**  
NOTL



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ARCHITEXT



The case of the disappearing foundation. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

# More things to wonder about

## Was foundation that sinks below the ground ever inspected?



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

By way of full disclosure, in addition to Irish, Welsh, English and French contributors, my family lineage includes Seneca and Mississauga ancestors.

But, even if that wasn't the case, I would still be a proponent of understanding and preserving Indigenous history on this land as well as the cultural and built heritage resulting from European immigration.

An important, dare I say vital, part of developing that understanding is derived from the discoveries unearthed by archeologists.

As a result, I believe every town, township, region and city in Canada should strongly encourage a policy of having archeology performed in areas of high potential prior to granting building permits.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake it is not only encouraged but required – and to this I say well done.

However, the town has gone one step further by requiring this work to be performed at the expense of

the property owner, something I find very odd.

In the 1982 case of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (trustees of) v. Ottawa (city), the Supreme Court of Canada ruled:

"The Ontario Heritage Act was enacted to provide for the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario. There is no doubt that the act provides for and the Legislature intended that municipalities, acting under the provisions of the act, should have wide powers to interfere with individual property rights. It is equally evident, however, that the Legislature recognized that the preservation of Ontario's heritage should be accomplished at the cost of the community at large, not at the cost of the individual property owner, and certainly not in total disregard of the property owner's rights." (CanLII 60 (SCC), p. 591).

This precedent was used quite recently in a Conservation Review Board decision on a case the town itself was involved in, so it clearly remains valid in law.

The wording of this ruling is pretty clear as to the limitations of the act and, by derivation, associated bylaws. And that leads me to wonder if the town's direction vis-à-vis archeology was ever vetted by a lawyer?

Moving on, let's shift our attention to an odd situa-

tion that was brought to my attention by a regular reader of this column along Anne Street starting at King.

On King Street, the substantial brick-veneered wall that surrounds the Pillar and Post's beautiful garden rests securely on a concrete foundation that sits proud of ground in strict accordance with the Ontario Building Code.

However, when one turns onto Anne Street, that foundation drops out of sight and is below ground level. This, in turn, means that courses of clay brick (not made to be in direct contact with soil due to its propensity for water absorption and subsequent deterioration) are buried below ground level in direct contravention of the building code.

Now, as a part of standard practice, any foundation constructed under a building permit is required to be inspected by a member of the town's building department and receive clearance approval prior to being built upon.

I wonder if this foundation was, in fact inspected. If so, given the very obvious step-down below ground level, how did it ever receive approval?

Stepping over to the Region of Niagara, a couple of weeks ago in this column I questioned the regional authority's logic in its apparent insistence on installing a

roundabout in the centre of St Davids.

It is contextually wrong, horrendously expensive (compared to the alternative) and functionally inferior for that location.

It appears roundabouts are the "flavour-of-the-month" and so, too, is densification.

It seems to matter little that the town has met and exceeded its density targets (well into the future), putting more dwellings on less space is apparently the region's mandate.

This direction is manifesting in recommendations to developers undergoing the approval process to increase their planned development density even to the point, in one case, of suggesting a contextually inappropriate apartment building be constructed within a development of single-family homes.

Of course, as government bureaucrats, such things as buyer demographics, marketability, community integration and the impact on existing streetscapes would have little or no relevance.

Still, regional councillors are elected by their constituents ostensibly to represent their interests (which overwhelmingly reject this level of densification). If this is true, why is the bureaucracy running amok?

This all, leaves me wondering: just who is actually in charge?



## Poles along road causing serious safety concerns

Dear editor:

In addition to the extensive series of no parking signs along the road near the Grist restaurant in St. Davids, a brand new and very dangerous road safety issue has resulted from the installation of two rows of approximately four-foot poles that restrict active roadway lane travel.

The new installation was completed in haste on Thursday, Sept. 8.

This new road work traffic control installation is inviting head-on collisions and significant risks associated with large truck and car conflicts.

Somebody is going to die as a result of this. This situation needs to be fixed before somebody gets killed.

It appears the Region of Niagara and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake may not be working together

in a collaborative fashion and the region's transportation study is lagging behind new roadworks such as this.

In addition, this new installation is another example of poor infrastructure planning, and lack of government transparency, not too dissimilar to how the issues associated with the proposed roundabout are being managed.

The region needs to explain the purpose of the new installation and if there is a need to widen the travelled lanes to eliminate the risk of head-on collisions.

We would be very happy to assist the region and the town in developing a more safe roadway management design than what has currently evolved.

We are two very concerned NOTL citizens.

*Peter and Stephanie Rusin  
St. Davids*

## Trust experts on St. Davids roundabout. But those pylons ...

Dear editor:

Most, if not all, road traffic studies across both North America and Europe conclude that roundabouts are far more sustainable than traffic lights (no hydro, no equipment breakdowns and little long-term maintenance).

They result in a more fluid and gentle traffic flow (provided that drivers are educated about how to use them properly), but most importantly they result in a far safer environment for both pedestrians and vehicular occupants – and that's a fact.

Four-way stop signs and traffic lights are always a

disaster waiting to happen.

So, let's trust our professional engineers and planners, support the necessary changes to improve for the greater good and the whole sum, and rest in the knowledge that when driverless electric cars are commonplace, roundabouts will surely rule.

With all this said, of course, I cannot believe the absolute sheer stupidity of Region of Niagara staff with the plastic pylons now installed along a small section of Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids.

What in heaven's name were they thinking?

*Philip Hoad  
St. Davids*

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## HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE





# 50 no parking signs and now 76 plastic bollards

Dear editor:  
Did you know that “It’s Miller Time,” a brewery established in 1855 in Milwaukee, Wisc., has now been replaced by “It’s White Knuckle Time” in the village of St. Davids?

Much to my displeasure, the historic identity of this once unique community was changed with the overkill placement of 50 no parking signs at the toe of the Niagara Escarpment, an internationally recognized UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

In addition to this unsightliness, the staccato placement of 76 collapsible, white and green bollards by the Region of Niagara has made matters even worse.

These posts, neatly installed, now form a corridor along both sides of the travelled portion of the road where no parking is possible any longer along Creek Road.

On Sept. 9, while enjoying an afternoon at the Grist Restaurant, I saw an ambulance with its siren and flashing red lights on was rapidly heading toward Niagara Falls along Creek Road.



Region workers had to park on private property to install these bollards to prevent people from parking. SUPPLIED

Motorists in both directions dutifully stopped their vehicles. As there was no longer any place for the cars to move over onto the shoulder of Creek Road because of the white and green bollards, the ambulance had to zig zag to avoid a collision with oncoming traffic.

A narrow miss to say the least.

This is not good planning by any stretch of the imagination. I was jolted to see what has happened to what was once a beautiful entrance to the village.

The no parking signs and 76 collapsible bollards

extend past what was formerly known as Ife’s Old Mill Inn on the east side of Creek Road.

Peter Secord built that grist mill in 1837 and it’s now and has been for some time identified as a historically interesting asset to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This inn was where Marilyn Monroe stayed and dined while filming “Niagara” in the early 1950s.

While there is much to be thankful for among all the historic and cultural assets that are found in this community, it’s almost

laughable and completely ludicrous to see what the Region of Niagara has now done to contribute to destroying an important entry statement to St. Davids.

But, after all, it’s only St. Davids.

It’s time the Region of Niagara and Town of NOTL show some leadership and interest in maintaining the integrity of the village of St. Davids instead of approving anything within the urban boundaries of the village.

“Joltin” Joe DiMaggio, briefly the husband of Marilyn Monroe, a Yankee slugger of renown, would not be happy to see what currently is located in front of the property that was once Ife’s Old Mill Inn.

By the way, when the white and green plastic bollards were installed, the regional workers parked their vehicles on private property as there was no room to park along the wide shoulders of Creek Road because of the no parking signs and endless staccato placement of 76 plastic bollards.

Where did they park? The Grist, of course.

*John Morley  
St. Davids*



Ishani Ayona Pal, 6, with her dog spot, is flanked by Niagara Dog Rescue volunteers as she presents a \$905 cheque to the organization on Saturday. SUPPLIED

# Lemonade stand raised \$905 for Niagara Dog Rescue

Dear editor:  
Our daughter, Ishani Ayona Pal, who is six years old, organized a lemonade and popcorn stand in our front yard in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, Sept 3.

She wanted to donate all her proceeds earned from her stand to the Niagara Dog Rescue, the place that helped us find our rescue dog, Spot.

Ishani is in Grade 1 and just started at Crossroads Public School in NOTL last week.

We live in Old Town and that Saturday just happened to be super hot and sunny, a perfect day for some ice cold lemonade and some delicious popcorn to go with it.

She sold more than 40 litres of lemonade and over 60 bags of popcorn.

The generosity and support from our family, friends and neighbours was just overwhelming. Even her young friends helped her out at the stand during the day. It was so sweet.

On Sept. 10, Ishani was invited to Niagara Dog Rescue’s Ride4Paws to the Willoughby Firehall in Niagara Falls from the Husky Travel Centre in NOTL where she handed over a cheque for \$905 to help this charitable organization.

*Urbee Shome-Pal  
Bhashkar Pal  
NOTL*

**Re-Elect ERWIN WIENS FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR**

*Straight Forward and Stable Leadership*

- \*Advocates for a sustainable budget
- \*Promotes agriculture and rural viability
- \*Let’s improve tourism with dialogue & action



# Town took initiative to clean spill **without** a formal order: CAO

*Continued from Front Page*

licly on Monday evening, here's what we know — and don't know — so far:

After the first six days, the town accumulated a hefty bill of over \$650,000. As of Monday, the cost is \$873,000 and counting.

The town responded to a call about sewage odour and discoloration in the water of the drain on Aug. 17. After the town assessed the issue, the environment ministry and the province's Spills Action Centre were contacted.

A ministry official "directed" the town to hire a contractor to remove the substance, to hire an environmental consultant and to keep an eye on the site 24/7. The town installed four berms to contain the substance.

The town hired Accuworx to handle the removal and in total 1.8 million litres was disposed of.

The town's environmental consultant said the source of

the organic pollutant is still unknown. However, early results showed the substance did not pose any threat to humans or wildlife.

"We know the family of material and the way it behaves in the environment, but the exact source and the exact substance remains unknown at this time," said Will Armes, the lead environmental engineer and project director at GHD. He also is the town's environmental consultant.

Coun. Erwin Wiens noted it's been four weeks and the town is no closer to identifying the source.

"I can tell you maybe some things that it's not, but we could have told you that on the first day," said Armes.

"That would have actually been helpful to know what it was not on the first day," Wiens responded.

Though the ministry gave verbal and written direction to the town to clean it up, it did not officially order the town to clean it. There is a difference between a direc-

tive and an order, which has been unclear from the outset.

Does this mean it was a voluntary cleanup?

It wasn't "entirely voluntary," said chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie.

The ministry official who visited the site gave verbal direction, followed by a written directive, to clean up the spill and hire an environmental consultant.

"if you've ever dealt with the ministries before, you know that if you do not comply, they do issue orders to you and it does create an adversarial relationship," said Cluckie.

She said only the ministry could definitively answer whether it would have issued a formal order to do the cleanup.

However, the town's legal counsel "identified that in their experience, where the field officer issues a written directive, if it is not followed, a field officer will, more often than not, generate an order."

The town says its initiative to clean the spill without a formal order was an attempt to control costs because if a formal order was issued, the costs could have risen even more.

"In my experience it is often the ministry's practice to require more than what really is necessary," said Dennis O'Leary, the town's external legal counsel from Aird & Berlis LLP.

"They take a very conservative approach and would rather see you do everything, rather than what's necessary or what is the most efficient way to respond."

O'Leary said the advice he gave the town early on was to try to negotiate with the ministry and to attempt to avoid having a formal order issued by the ministry.

A formal order may have contained a number of things that, in hindsight, didn't need to be done, he said.

"It could be that much more costly to follow all the steps in a formal order —

and if you want to try and avoid some of those steps then you'll have to appeal that order to a director," he said.

Having taken the initiative to clean the spill without a formal order, Cluckie said the town was able to retain more control of the process, which she said saved money.

The town also trimmed costs by sending some of the pollutant to the Port Weller wastewater treatment plant.

Exact figures on how much the town saved weren't available by press time.

The town could have saved even more if it had brought the substance to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in the beginning, Armes said. However, water sample results were required before that was possible.

Instead, about 1.1 million litres were disposed of at Mors Refining in Beamsville from Aug. 18 to 20 while the town waited for the test data.

"We did get those samples very early on in

the process and once those results were available we were successful in switching up the disposal alternative," said Armes.

As a result, the remaining 700,000 litres were taken to the NOTL and Port Weller sewage treatment plants.

An investigation to identify the source of the pollutant is still underway. Work is being done to assess the water and sediment quality, as well as physical and chemical analysis.

Lord Mayor Betty DiSero suggested councillors, residents and media should be careful with what they say so that they don't "stir people up into a frenzy."

The town has been clear that it is worried about whether its insurance will cover the costs of the spill.

Asked whether a direct order from the ministry to clean the spill would have helped the town's case for an insurance claim, Cluckie said she was explicitly directed not to discuss insurance with the media.

## Right time. Right choice.



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**5K Fun Run/Walk & 2K Dog Walk**

**Saturday**  
**Sept. 24**  
**2022**

Upper Canada  
Heritage Trail  
NOTL

Register online at [heritagetrail.ca](http://heritagetrail.ca) until Sept. 21

**5K Fun Run or Walk: \$45\***

**2K Dog Walk: \$45\***

**Family (up to 2 adults/2 children): \$100\***

\* + Running Room credit card fee

Giveaways include: backpack, participation medal, water bottle, and refreshments.

After Sept. 21, registration will be in person on Run Day, Sept. 24 at 7:00 a.m. for \$60 cash only

Start location: Tennis Pavilion at Memorial Park (King St. & Veterans Way)

**Limited to 150 runners/walkers & 50 dog walkers (limit of 2 dogs per human)**

Fun Run/Walk check-in 7:00 a.m. Start time 8:00 a.m.

Dog Walk check-in 8:00 a.m. Start time 9:00 a.m.

Ask friends & family to support the Trail with a donation. Details at: [heritagetrail.ca](http://heritagetrail.ca).

Prize to participant who brings in top donation total!

Hosted by Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Heritage Trail Committee. Generously sponsored by:







Left: Polo players race for the ball during Saturday's matches. Top right: Derek Sifton from the NOTL Bed & Breakfast Association team in action. Mid-right: Delaney Hudon rides a Shetland pony from Warner Ranch named Lucky. Bottom right: Everywhere you looked people were sporting fancy hats and outfits. RICHARD HARLEY/SOMER SLOBODIAN PHOTOS

## Polo in the Commons brings **thousands** of people to watch sport

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The heat didn't stop anyone from enjoying the long-awaited return of polo to Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Commons on Saturday.

Hundreds of men and women were decked out in colourful, elaborate hats and finery as they milled about the Commons while the horses were being saddled and prepared for the day's matches.

The Niagara Polo gathering was a community fundraiser and is expected to raise as much as \$50,000 for the NOTL Museum, a crucial cash infusion for the organization.

Alaina Hillier and Jeff Bignell celebrated their third date together at the last polo match in 2018.

"We're trying to do this as a biannual tradition," Hillier said as they returned Saturday.

This year marked four

years since polo was last played at the Commons, which was postponed in 2020.

The Commons' history dates back to the 1800s, when it was used as a military training ground.

"The reason that we do polo here is because they used to do polo for training of the cavalry troops, and it was the King's Dragoon guard," said Sarah Kaufman, manager and curator of the NOTL Museum.

"And so the polo would help them practise riding on their horse and holding their weapons," she added.

Polo is not only about the matches on the pitch, but also the fashions – and headgear – of those who attend.

Mary Wardle caught the eye of many people with her flowery hat topped with an elongated, thin black feather. She'd never been to polo before, but thought it would be something different.

Hundreds of people walked around on the Com-

mons. The 300 seats in a VIP tent were sold out, as were the 360 seats in the Rotary Lounge.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Social Club filled six tables.

"We are a local group that loves to have fun. We bring people to a variety of activities, like polo," said Penny Milligan, the organizer of the club.

The first polo match was nothing short of intense. VRG Capital went head to head with the Niagara Bed and Breakfast Association, who prevailed 5-3.

Later, as Niagara B&B's Jen Buchan lined up at a vendor for food, she was beaming with excitement over her team's victory. She was the only woman playing in that match.

"I wish more women played it," she said.

"Honestly, on horseback, everyone's equal. I can bump just as hard as any of the guys," she added.

Though the ground was too hard to effectively do the popular divot stomp at

half-time, the crowd still enjoyed mingling on the field, sipping some bubbly.

The team sponsored by Engel and Volkers realtor Nancy Bailey (the major sponsor of the entire day) faced Arterra Wines Canada in the second match, which ended in a 3-3 tie.

Polo might not be as popular in Niagara as other equestrian sports, like dressage, but there's reason to believe it should be. It's fast-paced, intense and a joy to watch.

"What makes it unique is that you've got a team sport on horses. So whereas a lot of horse sports are individual, polo is a team sport," said Emily Hurst from the Toronto Polo Club as she tacked up a horse named Rambo, whom she was preparing to ride for a one-on-one demonstration.

Hurst was competing in the second match on the Engel and Volkers team with her two horses. Dino, a quarter horse from Canada, and Mago from Argentina,

waited patiently at the trailer for their time to shine.

"There's a ton of moving parts to make the game happen. And for everything to go right in the game, to get a goal you have to have your horse co-operating, other players have to pass you the ball or make the defensive play," she said.

Polo consists of a team with four players. The number on their shirt is the position they play – however, each player must be flexible and be able to take on any position.

It's much like hockey on horseback, Hurst told a polo news conference back in August.

Each match consists of four chukkers that last seven minutes. The goal is to score more points than the opposition.

"These horses each get exercise for 40 minutes a day, so they can play one seven-minute period," Brian O'Leary told the crowd during the one-on-one demonstration.

O'Leary is the owner and operator of the Toronto Polo School at Bancroft Farm.

Volunteers dedicated many hours to make the day happen. The museum relies a lot on volunteer dedication, since it is a small non-profit organization.

The money raised will go toward operations at the museum.

"I think we will probably make about \$50,000," said Amy Klassen, director of finance and marketing at the museum.

In 2018, polo raised about \$40,000, and in 2016 it brought in about \$20,000.

"We have learned and grown as we've gone (on)," she said.

Members of the Toronto Polo club volunteered their time for the day, which was a huge favour to the museum, said Kaufman.

While this may have been the first polo match for some, judging by the sounds of all the laughter and enjoyment, it likely won't be their last.



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# Weekend bottle drive helps boost **air cadet** program

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

It was the perfect day for a bottle drive.

On Saturday, a steady stream of drivers arrived at the parking lot of the Royal Canadian Legion 124 branch to donate their empty bottles to the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron.

Squadron sponsorship committee treasurer Christine Lett, along with her husband Paul, led the drive at the legion with some current and past cadets.

Lett said air cadets is great for kids.

"I see the benefits. Shy, quiet, tiny little kids coming in and then you see them grow through and become leaders," Lett said about her own kids, who are now too old for the program.

"The point of the program (is) to enhance, to learn and to serve," she added.

The 809 Newark squadron accepts kids between the ages of 12 and 18 and helps them learn valuable life skills.



From left, Sam Marandola sorts bottles with Dante Bell. Behind Marandola, Shay Vidal talks to Christine Lett while sorting more bottles. SOMER SLOBODIAN

The program promotes physical fitness, leadership skills, public speaking and community service as well, Lett said.

"It's changed my life in ways I can't describe," said Flight Sgt. Shay Vidal.

Vidal has been in cadets for six years now. He recently came back from

London, Ont., where he received his pilot's licence at the London International Airport with the Diamond Flight Centre.

From studying on his own time and taking extra courses to making sure he had good grades, he said he worked hard to secure a spot at the training centre.

The training was covered by the Regional Cadet Support Unit. Vidal had the chance to fly twice a day for several weeks, meet new people and learn valuable life skills.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," he said.

Next, he plans to go to

university for his commercial pilot's licence.

As the clock ticked closer to 9:30 a.m., cars arrived, each with trunks full of empty bottles. As the drivers popped open the trunks, the cadets were there ready to unload.

"In our last training year, we did over \$20,000 in bottle returns," said Lett.

However, this bottle drive didn't attract as many cars as the previous ones.

"It was a half of the volume that we did in our January one," said Cory Abt, chair of the squadron sponsorship committee.

The squadron also collected bottles in May.

The reduction is somewhat expected, since COVID is over and more people are going out rather than staying in, he said.

The money from each bottle drive goes toward anything the cadets might need.

"Like when they go for their pilot's licence, they do have additional costs involved in that so we were able to cover those things that (they) need," said Lett.

Cadets need to go through certain testing and medicals, and the money from the bottle drives helps pay for all their training needs.

"There's no cost to the kids in the program," she said.

The money also pays for fun outings for the cadets, like trips to Canada's Wonderland and movie premieres.

The Legion was one of three drop-off locations as Cornerstone Church in Virgil and the St. Davids Lions Club were also accepting donations.

All bottles are stored at Van Noort Florists, which offers a large holding and sorting spot. Then, the Stoney Creek beer outlet collects them.

Even as the sun beat down, the cadets kept busy unloading and organizing the bottles.

Abt is hoping to make a few changes to boost the next bottle drive. He's also hoping to do a cadet recruitment blitz.

"We have a fantastic program. And not everybody knows about it," he said.

# Fun run and **dog walk** will support heritage trail

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Upper Canada Heritage Trail's special five-kilometre run and two-kilometre dog walk is just over a week away and organizers are anticipating a big turnout for the important fundraiser.

"We hope you can join us and support a great local cause as the committee raises funds to restore the next session of the trail to

Line 3," said spokesperson Tony Chisholm.

The Saturday, Sept. 24, run and walk is almost all on the heritage trail and off regular roads.

Advance registration costs \$45 for either event up till Sept. 21. Participants can register online at [www.heritagetrail.ca](http://www.heritagetrail.ca) until then.

Thereafter only in-person registration is available on race day for a \$60 cash payment.

Participation is limited to 150 runners/walkers and 50 dog-walkers.

"This has been planned as a fun event for both runners and dog walkers," Chisholm said.

Each participant will receive a backpack, medal, water bottle and refreshments at the end of the race.

The event, sponsored in part by The Lake Report, starts at the tennis pavilion on Veterans Lane, off King

Street.

Runner check-in is from 7 to 7:30 a.m. for the run, with a 8 a.m. start. Check-in for the dog walk is from 8 to 8:30 a.m. with a 9 a.m. start time.

"Ask family and friends to support you with a donation. There will be prizes for the top three donations," Chisholm said.

All donations over \$10 will receive a tax receipt from the town.



Bring your dog out for a walk to raise money for the heritage trail on Sept. 24. FILE/SOMER SLOBODIAN

  
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# Group raising \$150K for old burial ground

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Fundraising efforts have begun for a major restoration project at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

James and Marilyn Russell began the restoration project last year after seeing how little is known about the site, historically known as the Negro Burial Ground, and also how little has been done to preserve it.

The Russells, with help from NOTL residents, have been able to mark 28 graves so far at the graveyard on Mississauga Street.

Now, together with a group of supporters, they have launched a campaign to raise \$150,000 for restoration work.

So far Russell has spent about \$4,000 of his own money on the project. Earlier in the year, he paid for ground-penetrating radar to help determine where the unmarked graves were.

He then placed little Canadian flags on each site. Many of the names of those buried are still unknown.

That's something he wants to change.

The next steps of the project will see a variety of stages. With the help of Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. stage one will focus on identifying who is buried, stage two will focus on unearthing the headstones and stage three will be restoring the headstones.

That work is expected to cost about \$59,000.

George Webber and Niki Walker are leading the fundraising efforts through a new steering commit-



George Webber kneels next to the grave of George Wesley at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground, historically known as the Negro Burial Ground. SOMER SLOBODIAN

tee. Their goal is to raise \$150,000 and Webber hopes to use any leftover money on other burial sites that need work.

"There are other burial sites in Niagara-on-the-Lake that could use a little attention and use a little love," said Webber.

The town, however, won't let Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. begin work until the group has the amount for the first stage, which is \$5,000. Webber said they're about two-fifths of the way there.

Since the cemetery is town property, Russell was always adamant about the town paying for this project, he said. But town officials have told him there is no budget for the work, he said.

Webber is determined to raise the \$150,000 without the town's help.

"We've decided that as a committee, and as a project, we would like this to be self-funded," he said.

He's confident that residents will be supportive on this journey.

Russell is focusing on the research side of the project. He and his wife arrive in NOTL this week for a month and he plans to spend a lot of time at the library digging up information.

Recently, he discovered that a 21-year-old white female is buried at the site. Her name was Susan Augusta Oakley, the daughter of John and Mary Oakley.

John Oakley was responsible for the building of a Baptist church on the grounds.

During Russell's research, he couldn't find any evidence of a Baptist church.

"Evidently, the Baptist church was not part of the overall Baptist organization. It was a fellowship," he said. "Which means it wasn't registered as a Baptist church with the larger Baptist organization and so they have no record."

Though called the Negro Burial Ground, the plot contains just as many white people who were members of the church that was started by Oakley, accord-

ing to a newspaper article in "What's new Niagara?" from 1993.

There's lots still unknown about the grounds, which is why Russell is determined to find answers.

"This isn't the first time someone has made an effort to renovate the Negro Burial Grounds," he said.

In the same article from 1993, a landscaping plan was in the works. But it doesn't look like it got anywhere.

Russell said the grounds may also be larger than originally thought and he's going to spend some time trying to confirm that.

To donate to the project, residents can call the town offices, which will then provide them with the account information they need to donate.

Once a website is up and running, Webber encourages people to contribute their thoughts and opinions.

"We want to share information and we want to give folks a chance to comment to let us know how they feel," he said.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: Movie time

**1966's "The Silencers" was the first movie with a scene after these, a teaser for the next Matt Helm spy adventure.**

Last issue: This cocktail is vodka & Kahlua, without the light cream that would change its color & name

Answer: What is a black Russian?

Answered first by: Susan Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margaret Garaughty, Maria Janeiro, Susan Dewar, KC King, Pam Dowling, Jane Morris, Claudia Grimwood, Elaine Landray, Bert Dandy, Sheila Meloche, Christine Yakymishen, Hedy Wiebe, Bob Stevens, Margie Enns

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# REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

## Reflections on a 70-year reign and royal visit to NOTL

Linda Fritz  
The Lake Report

Earlier this year, Canadians marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign as Queen of Canada.

As the Canadian sovereign, she had visited this country many times. Her visits were watched and followed closely not only by avid royalists, but also by people interested in the history and pageantry of the royal connection.

Several days ago, we witnessed what is technically referred to as the "demise of the Crown." Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, died.

Flags, many in people's front gardens, are flying at half-mast all over Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It's interesting to note how much a person who is not Canadian, nor has lived in Canada, is revered by those who are and do.

Whether it's the need for continuity or a hunger



John Drope at the Pillar and Post with the Queen in 1973. She visited to commemorate the opening of Shaw's Festival Theatre. SUPPLIED

for leaders who are more than just bureaucrats or legislators, or the need for a symbol to look up to, Queen Elizabeth is remembered with love and reverence.

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip paid their first official visit to Canada in 1951. Later in that decade and 20 years after her parents made a cross-country tour, Queen Elizabeth and

Prince Philip did the same.

On all of these occasions people flocked to see them. Royal trains were inevitably late as people waited at small-town stations to wave and be waved at in return.

The 1959 visit was important to the people of Niagara because the Queen and U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower officially opened the St. Lawrence

Seaway, a vital part of life in the region.

In 1973, the Shaw Festival Theatre building officially opened in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Queen did the honours. A performance of "You Never Can Tell" by George Bernard Shaw was mounted for the occasion.

The royal couple stayed at the Pillar and Post during the visit. The records note

they travelled with a staff of 11, including dressers, a valet, ladies-in-waiting, travelling yeomen, a footman and a page.

On a personal note, during a royal visit in the 1980s, I was invited to a luncheon for the Queen and Prince Philip.

Along with about 1,200 people, I had the opportunity to curtsy – and move on. In spite of the numbers of people she met, the Queen remained unfailingly courteous and charming.

People are now talking about the future. They wonder if King Charles III will measure up. Whether the public approves or not, Charles III has been proclaimed king.

For those who concern themselves with these matters, it may be worth remembering that 121 years ago another "older" man became king following the lengthy reign of his mother.

At the time, the public were concerned about his

reputation and a playboy and gambler. King Edward VII was the sovereign who led England out of the repressive Victorian era and into the 20th century.

Will King Charles III manage to modernize the monarchy in the 21st century? During his life so far, he has shown himself to be profoundly interested in things that matter to so many of us.

As Prince of Wales, he was patron of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston, an organization dedicated to the preservation of our built heritage. He has been known to speak out on conservation and the environment issues as well. These are just two examples.

The concept of the Crown is deeply embedded in Canadian life. Queen Elizabeth II was an integral part of our country. Only in the future will we know if King Charles III is able to follow in her footsteps.

## Monday ceremony commemorates life of Queen

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion is holding a solemn service Monday to commemorate the life and 70 years of service of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The Legion service, at 11 a.m. at the Queen Street cenotaph, is part of an official day of mourning across the country, declared by the Legion's Dominion Command.

NOTL branch 124 president Allan Howse said "everyone in the community is invited and welcome to come out and pay their respects" to the Queen.

A single commemorative wreath will be laid by a Legion member, Howse said in an interview.

The Queen's funeral takes place earlier that day at Westminster Abbey in London.

Meanwhile, at the Town of NOTL offices in Virgil, a book of condolences has been placed in the front

lobby for residents to extend their sympathies.

It will be there until Sept. 19, after which it will be sent to Buckingham Palace, the town said in an announcement.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake wreath ceremony "will be similar to our Remembrance Day service," Howse said.

While there won't be the usual parade from Market Square, on Monday Legion members and veterans will form up on Queen Street and proceed to the cenotaph, he said.

"Any other veterans living in town who want to parade with us are invited to do so," he said.

The service will be led by Howse and branch padre Sheldon Kofsky.

Since the Queen's death last Thursday, Legion members and people in the community have been sharing stories and reminiscing



Queen Elizabeth, shown in a 2012 portrait, died Sept. 8 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. ELLI GERRA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

about her long reign.

Howse's own story revolves around his father, Percy, who helped organize a parade for when the Queen and Prince Philip visited NOTL in 1973 to celebrate the dedication of the Shaw's Festival Theatre.

"The parade was so big they had to use the soccer field to organize it because every community organization in town wanted to be in it. So, he and three

assistants from the Legion led the parade" out to Fort George.

Afterward, Percy and his wife Edna were "greatly honoured" to join the royal couple for the large dinner gathering at the Pillar and Post, as well as the festival's performance of George Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell" later.

That royal visit also prompted the paving of Queen's Parade in NOTL, which had been a gravel road until then, Howse said.

He noted another NOTL Legion connection to the monarch: the branch's honorary president, Victoria Cross recipient Maj. B.H. Geary, a First World War veteran, was the sergeant-at-arms for the Ontario Legislature when a young Queen Elizabeth visited in the 1950s.

The branch has a commemorative photo hanging in the club room.

## Close encounters and a cherished letter

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

This evening, Thursday, Sept. 8, I am feeling very nostalgic. Today, we lost our Queen, the only monarch many, if not all, of us ever knew.

Growing up in Cobourg, I recall several occasions when I had an encounter with Queen Elizabeth.

As a three-year-old in 1959 we went to the top of Abbott Boulevard when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip rode by in their landau.

As an air cadet I had the honour of lining a walkway in full uniform in the summer as the Queen and Prince Phillip strode by to dedicate Rotary Park.

My best memory is dating back to 1969 when, as a 12-year-old, I sent Queen Elizabeth a Christmas card



for 1968.

Then, in January of 1969, I received a letter from her Lady-in-Waiting, Rose Baring, thanking me for my best wishes for Christmas and New Year's. My dad immediately contacted the local newspaper.

We are entering a new era of our nation's figurehead. As we reflect on our Queen's wonderful reign, let the future be positive and full of hope. God save the King!



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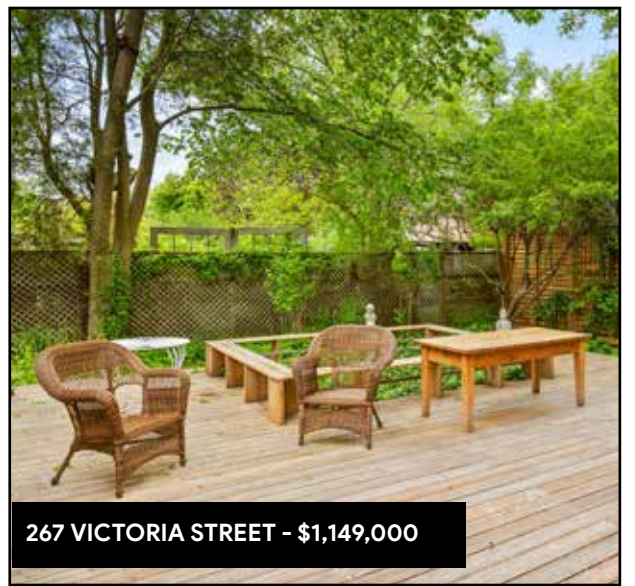
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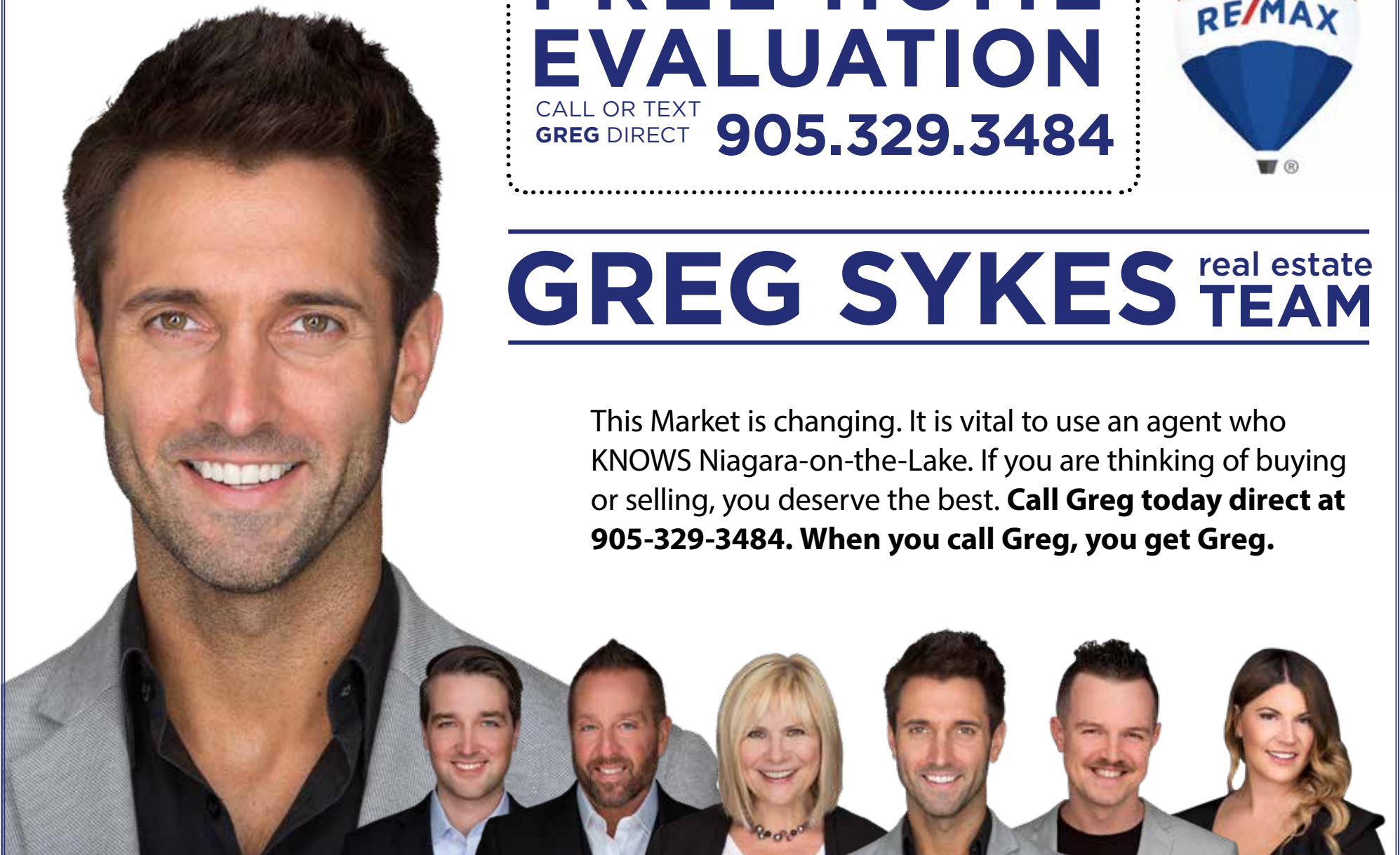
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## Museum lecture casts a net on NOTL's controversial fishing history

Barbara Worthy  
Special to The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake sits beside one of the great freshwater resources on the planet.

And for more than 70 years that resource provided the town with a massive fishing industry that rivalled anything in the world.

The NOTL Museum's next in-person lecture, presented by Terry Boulton on Thursday Sept. 15, at 7:30 p.m., will cast a net on this colourful and often controversial history.

In the mid-1800s, the supply of fish in Lake Ontario appeared to be inexhaustible. Local fishermen harvested sturgeon, whitefish, herring, pike, trout, lake salmon or pickerel, in massive amounts.

Sometimes the catch was so large, hundreds of fish carcasses were simply piled on the beaches. The industry served the town's



hotels, restaurants, the local population, as well as many from upper New York State and beyond.

More than 30 families played a significant role in the development of this industry – but also in its ultimate demise.

Boulton shows how the story of commercial fishing in Niagara is one of conflict. The fishermen and local officials were constantly in disputes over fishing quotas and practices, which many fishermen ignored.

But the lives and colourful characters who made up Niagara's once boom-

ing industry are a major part of local history. And while their contribution to the growing economy of the town may have been controversial, Boulton illustrates how they made an undeniable contribution to Niagara's society.

Boulton is a descendant of one of those fisherman families. His two most recent publications – “Destroyed: Commercial Fishing in Niagara” (2022) and “Smuggling on the Lower Niagara River” (2021) – uncover many untold stories of living beside this massive water resource.

For more than a decade Boulton has been researching and compiling these stories, not only to search out his own family history, but also to ensure that a significant aspect of Niagara's history is revealed.

Registration is required. Call 905-468-3912. Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members.



Maya Webster gets the crowd pumped up before the walk. Even with the steady fall of rain, more than 150 people showed up to participate to help end diabetes. SOMER SLOBODIAN

## Niagara raises \$20K to help find a cure for Type 1 diabetes

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

A steady rain fell as people across Niagara came together to walk to cure diabetes.

Kids and adults alike showed up Sunday to Centennial Arena in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the annual Sun Life Walk to Cure Diabetes for JDRF, a global organization that funds Type 1 diabetes research.

“I think this year will probably be bigger. We have a lot of new families,” said Christi Webster, one of the organizers of this year's walk.

“We have a lot of new families coming today, which is pretty exciting for them to get involved in and meet other people,” she added.

Webster's daughter, Maya, 10, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was only two years old. They've been doing these walks ever since she was diagnosed, but it's the first time the walk was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“Our only symptom with her was excessive thirst, and thankfully, I knew the signs and symptoms, so we got it very, very early,” she said about her daughter.

Finding a cure and spreading awareness is important to Webster. Along with trying to get rid of the negative stereotypes surrounding Type 1 diabetes.

“It's an autoimmune disease. There's nothing anybody did to make it happen or can do to make it not happen. It's just genes and where your body takes you,” she said.

Maya has been an advocate for JDRF for a few years now.

“One of her biggest fights has been to get coverage for

continuous glucose monitors for people that don't have benefits and can't afford it,” said Webster.

They had a partial win earlier this year when Maya helped convince the Ontario government to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitoring systems for many patients, she said.

“It is very good to see that this many people, and probably more coming, are willing to show up,” said Maya. “It makes me happy.”

Her fundraising group, Marchers for Maya, surpassed their original goal of raising \$500. With 30 donations, they raised \$3,222 for JDRF.

The 21 teams across Niagara combined to raise \$21,563 and counting.

“Originally, we were shooting for \$5,000. And then it was \$10,000. And then just \$15,000. And this morning, we were over \$20,000,” Webster said Sunday.

The money goes to JDRF to help find a cure for Type 1 diabetes. It also goes to helping people of all ages who have Type 1 diabetes.

The walk had between 25 and 30 volunteers show up to help, said

“Since COVID, there's been a lot of children who were diagnosed in that period of time, who have not had the opportunity because of restrictions to meet another child with Type 1, so this is a great event for them,” said Anne Martin, a development officer for JDRF.

While a group of kids ran around, Ann Deuerlein and Stephanie Fast watched their daughters from a distance.

Deuerlein's daughter, Greta, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in April.

They're part of “The Go Team” and raised just over \$1,800.

Deuerlein and Fast both agreed that it's nice to see how their kids support each other. While Greta was doing a presentation at school on diabetes, Fast's daughter Evabeth stood in front of the class with her for support.

Before the walk began, Maya spoke to the crowd before introducing Olympic rower Chris Jarvis from I Challenge Diabetes, to give a pre-walk stretch session.

“Over the past few years, one thing I've learned is that nothing can stop the T1D community from rallying together and supporting each other,” Maya told the large crowd.

Before calling up Jarvis, she made sure to tell the crowd that the day before was his birthday.

Jarvis has been living with diabetes for 27 years.

“So many of us know the challenges of living with diabetes every day. It goes pretty deep, and a lot of our friends might not see the little intricacies, all the steps that go into every day,” he said.

He encouraged everyone to try all of the exercises he, along with a few others, will be leading.

But before the stretch, he asked everyone to show him what they were carrying in order to be successful on their walk, in the event of a low or high blood sugar.

Some kids pulled out their insulin pumps, others pulled out little packets of candy. Another kid pulled out a stuffed animal and gave it a tight squeeze.

After a quick warm up and a blood sugar check, everyone made their way over to the starting line to begin the walk.

“Niagara-on-the-Lake has stepped up. Niagara-on-the-Lake has been absolutely amazing,” said Webster.



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# Fans pack stands for IceDogs and Otters exhibition fundraiser

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Erie Otters and Niagara IceDogs hit the ice Friday night in Virgil to the roar of a crowd hungry for hockey and popcorn.

The smell of hotdogs and melted butter wafted into the rink from the snack bar in the Meridian Credit Union lobby as hockey fans milled about looking for the best view of the pre-season exhibition game.

“We’re super proud to have the opportunity to host an event like this and see the support that our town is giving us,” Trevor Falk, director of development for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association, said in an interview.

“We hope to make it an almost annual event if we can,” he added.

The fundraiser sold more than 800 tickets and the fans packed the stands.

Kids dressed in red jerseys stomped in the bleachers and drummed the rink-side plexiglass to the chant of, “IceDogs!”

The Otters may have been the home team on the



Left: IceDogs players stand on the ice for the national anthem.



Right: Sage Watson was out in a Brock Badgers jersey with friends and family. EVAN LOREE

scoresheet, but the crowd was largely cheering for the IceDogs.

A sea of kids in red jerseys surrounded the dressing room entrance after the second period with fans itching to get autographs from their favourite players.

Centre Pano Fimis took a few minutes to sign jerseys, shoes, hockey pucks and even a few chocolate bars.

Goalkeeper Josh Rosenzweig joined his teammate

to sign memorabilia even as security held back the crowd of rambunctious young hockey fans.

Otters general manager Dave Brown, a Virgil resident, and NOTL Minor Hockey League Association president Peter Flynn brought the teams together for the match to raise money for NOTL hockey.

“Sometimes minor hockey needs that little bit of a boost,” Brown said.

He added that it was

good to “create some opportunities for kids who can’t play and reduce costs for those who can.”

Mayoral candidate Gary Zalepa, a former hockey coach, was there for the puck drop and to enjoy a big game in a small town.

“It’s great to be back in the rink again too, after a long time,” he said.

Zalepa has been around the rink for years, first as a player, then as a referee and later as a coach.

He said he’s proud of the arena, built mostly from fundraised money and large enough to host junior games.

Flynn credited Brown with making the game a reality.

With back-to-back games versus Niagara on Sept. 9 and 10, Brown came to him with the idea of holding an Otters hockey game in Virgil to save the team a second trip back across the border to their hometown,

Erie, Penn.

Many of the organizers see potential in the facility to host junior games regularly.

“We’d love to have a Junior C team here,” Flynn said.

“And I’m gonna be pushing hard to try and get one,” he added.

The IceDogs took an early lead against the Otters and closed out the game 7-2 in a dominant display.



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# Six NOTL sailors compete in **Shark World Championship** in Austria

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Sailors from Niagara-on-the-Lake are testing new waters and catching fresh wind this week.

Rob Vanderperk was the last to catch his flight when he left NOTL Saturday morning on his way to Brezgenz, Austria, to compete in the World Shark Championships.

The competition pits Shark against Shark and brings 43 different teams together from all over the world for a series of tough races.

Seven teams will be competing from Canada – and three of them are from Niagara.

The Shark was engineered to be crewed by three people. It's quick, durable and affordable, making it a favourite for people who are still learning the sport.

It was originally designed by George Hinterhoeller and Gordon Brinsmead in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Hinterhoeller was the first commodore of the NOTL Sailing Club after helping to establish it in 1964.



Rob Vanderperk took sailing lessons at the NOTL Sailing Club and now is competing internationally in Austria. EVAN LOREE

So, it is somewhat suitable that the town is represented at the competition by six competitors from the NOTL Sailing Club.

Vanderperk will be competing with teammates Cameron Smith and Chris Russell, whom he originally met in Montreal.

He describes his team as "friends, racing together and competing and having fun."

They will be crewing the Toga Party! at this week's regatta.

"I'm looking forward to racing amongst the Austrian mountains," Vanderperk said prior to his departure.

He will face stiff competition in Austria from fellow NOTLers Rod Gardner and David Deboy, who will be crewing the Devil with a Blue Dress, as well as from

Jinnie Gordon, her sister Laurel and friend Eileen Quigley.

They will be crewing the Red Dwarf and make up the competition's only team composed completely of NOTL sailors.

Jinnie Gordon has been captain of an all-woman crew aboard the Red Dwarf since purchasing the boat in 1999.

This will be the fifth time she's raced in Europe at the Shark World Championships.

"The sport of sailing has traditionally been male-dominated," Gordon said.

"I wanted to share my experiences and help other women to also grow in the sport," she added.

Gordon speaks highly of the support and mentor-

ship she's received from the NOTL Sailing Club.

As a former coach for the club's Learn to Sail program, Vanderperk can speak directly to the club's investment in the development of young sailors.

"I learned how to sail as a junior sailor and then I took my instructor courses and got certified as an instructor and then got a job coaching the junior sailing program," he said.

The club tends to hire coaches that have come up through the junior sailing program.

Vanderperk describes it as a cycle where junior sailors stay and grow with the club long enough to coach the next generation of sailors.

The World Shark Championships is an annual competition and while this year's regatta is in Austria, next year's will be held in NOTL.

Gardner is the chief organizer for next year's competition.

The sailors will be returning to NOTL on Sept. 20, just in time for the Homecomers Regatta on the 24th, which will host racers from all over southern Ontario.

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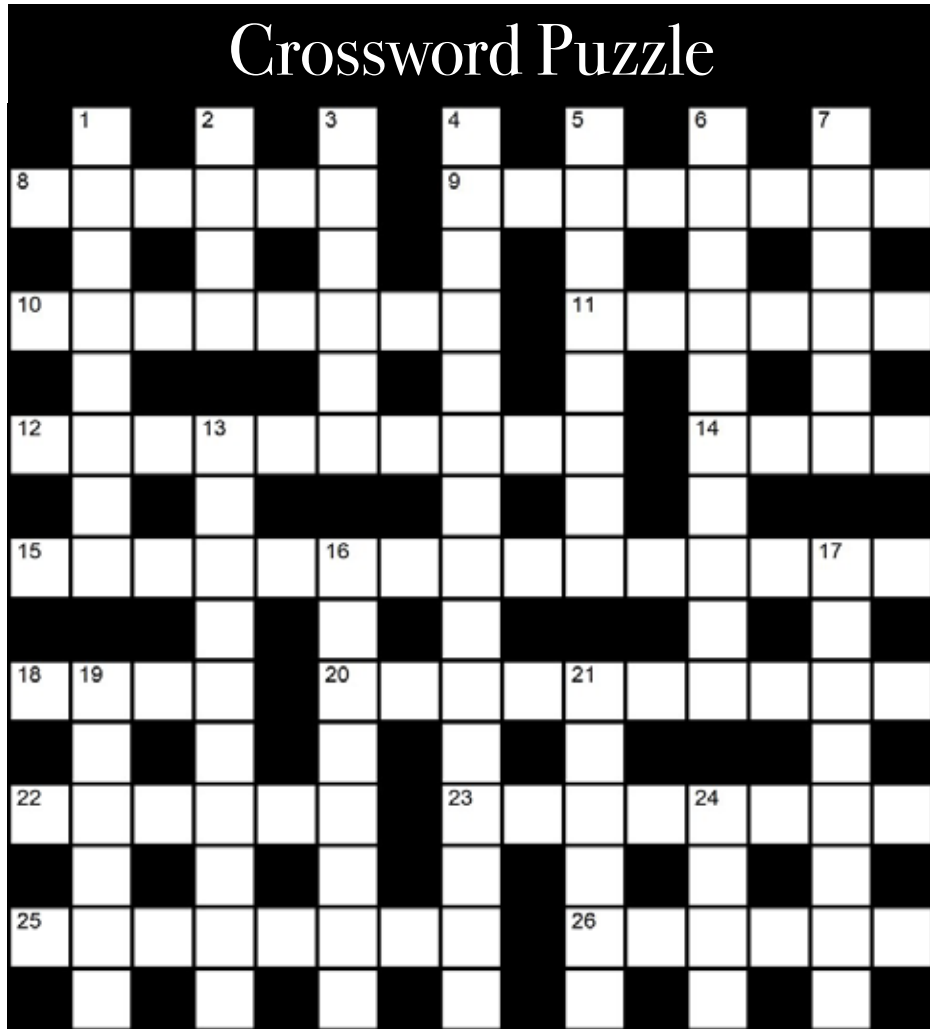
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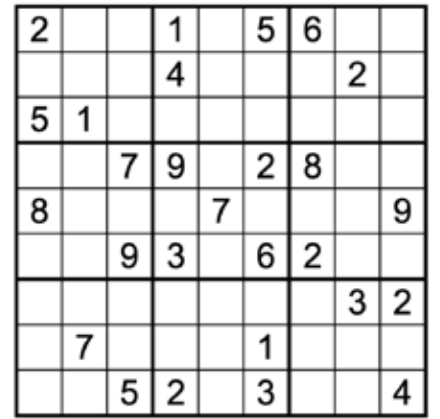
# Have some fun



- Across**
- 8. Part of a sentence (6)
  - 9. Newbie (8)
  - 10. Where Drake bowled (8)
  - 11. Put the phone down (4,2)
  - 12. "Late December, back in ---" (Four Seasons) (5-5)
  - 14. Some want to eat this and still have it (4)
  - 15. Mart cart? (8,7)
  - 18. Send (4)
  - 20. Upbeat (10)
  - 22. He had a talking donkey (6)
  - 23. Herb often found with with lamb (8)
  - 25. Relating to a law court (8)
  - 26. Burger topping (6)
- Down**
- 1. Puerile (8)
  - 2. Inner surface of the hand (4)
  - 3. Take off (6)
  - 4. Getting warm (2,3,5,5)
  - 5. Kind of ear implant (8)
  - 6. Mealtime annoyances (5,5)
  - 7. Walked out (6)
  - 13. Old-style audio accessory (4,6)
  - 16. "The Man in the ---" (Dumas novel) (4,4)
  - 17. German IT manager settles elsewhere (8)
  - 19. Kind of collision (4-2)
  - 21. Regimental animal (6)
  - 24. The high seas (4)



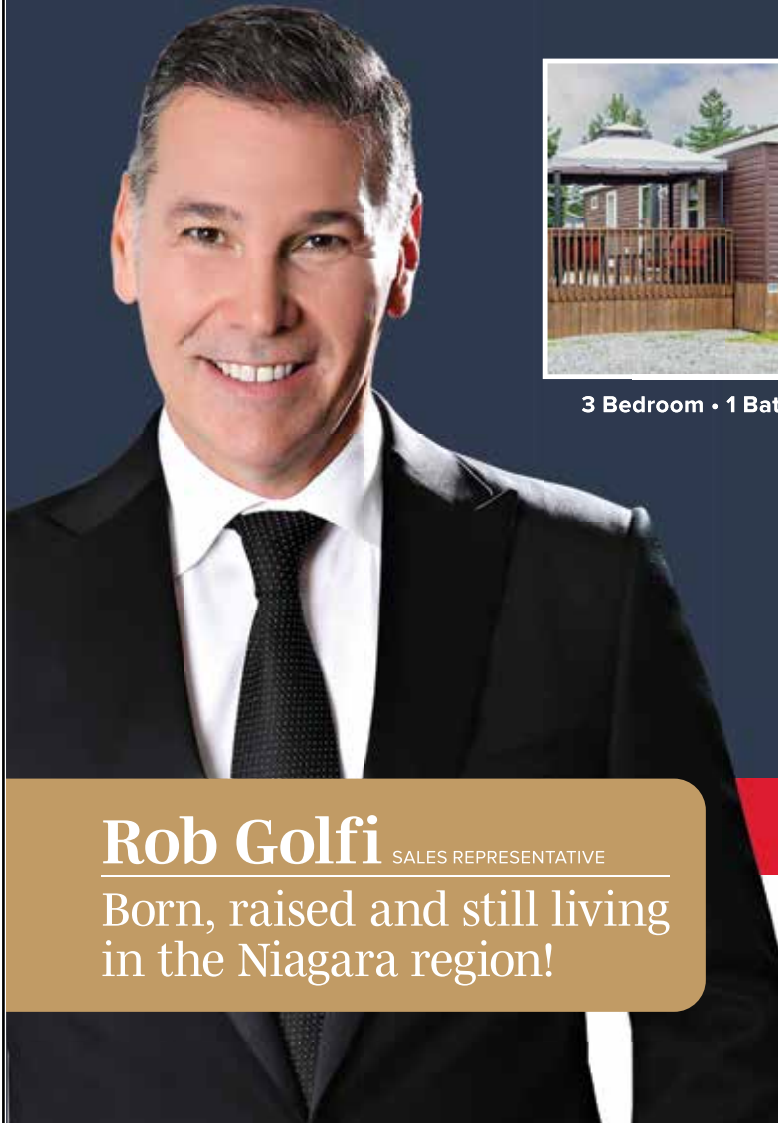
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# Following the footsteps of heroes at this year's Terry Fox Run

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Sean Wright is swimming for this year's Terry Fox Run. He's participated in the run since 2016. EVAN LOREE

Terry Fox casts a long shadow through history, touching the lives of millions across Canada and inspiring legions of runners to lace up their shoes and continue his Marathon of Hope.

Professional comedian Joe Pillitteri runs in the shadow of the Canadian hero again this Saturday and will be joined by people from all across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Our goal this year is \$60,000. I'd like to say that we're going to do more than that," Pillitteri said in an interview.

He has been raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation every year since 2008 after that year's recession put one of his new business prospects into jeopardy.

"I was in kind of a personal crisis," he said.

Pillitteri was a stranger to anxiety and depression but he found himself asking, "Would this just be all better if I wasn't here and they didn't have to worry about this?"

At the time, though, one of his daughters was doing a school assignment on Terry Fox.

"And for whatever reason, Terry Fox, his story jumped out at me," he added.

It reminded Pillitteri that "whatever our problems are, there's someone who's going through something worse."

And life took a positive turn for him.

He's happy to say that Lakeview Vineyard Equipment survived the recession and prospered.

He swears he couldn't have done it without the support of his family.

"My wife and kids never stopped telling me they loved me," he recalls.

His views on mental health have since changed.

"Shamefully, I kind of didn't believe that (mental health issues) actually

existed," he said.

Pillitteri has since become much more open about his own struggles with mental health.

He is not the only one inspired by Terry Fox.

When he was young, Sean Wright sustained a brain injury in a car crash. It has made it difficult for him to retain information.

Wright works as a massage therapist today, but it took multiple stabs at

his qualifying exam to get licensed.

He recalls that he was ready to give up on massage therapy after failing in his second year.

The supportive words of a teacher helped. "I've never seen anybody with your work ethic, your desire to do this and I hope you don't give up," Wright said, paraphrasing the teacher.

He has been doing the Terry Fox Run since 2016

and has no intention of quitting.

He's walked it, he's biked it, he's run it and this year he's swimming it.

"The last piece of terrain left was water," he said.

Wright has already reached his goal of raising \$800 and thinks he can collect more on the day of the run.

Much like Terry Fox, he doesn't believe in quitting in the face of adversity.

Wright advises people to use their negativity to push themselves further because self-doubt leads to failure.

"Stop focusing on the negative. We all can be negative, of course we can. There's another way. A better way," he added.

Runners, walkers, bikers and movers of all types will get the chance to find a better way this Saturday at 9 a.m.

Runners will be lining up at Simcoe Park at King and Queen streets to show their support for Fox and raise money for cancer research.

Participants had raised \$67,034 as of Wednesday, well on the way to the run's \$80,000 goal.

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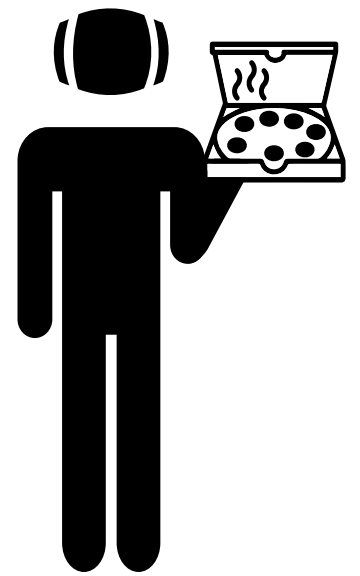
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# FEATURED

## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



### NOTL Coronation Parade, 1953

In honour of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, this week's picture shows a snippet of the Coronation Parade that was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 2, 1953. Members of the Reid family are featured here with a child dressed up as the Queen in a well-decorated crown-like carriage float. The parade featured bands, horses, and royal floats for the enjoyment of the community.



### Moonlight Picnic a *lively* time

With live music by Back in the Daze, picnic tables filled with delicious foods, dancing and sparklers, the Niagara Pumphouse's Moonlight Picnic fundraiser was a fun time for all on Friday. JESSICA MAXWELL

## Looking to the Stars

### Venus wants to help heal some old wounds

**Thursday, Sept. 15:** The moon in Taurus is in perfect harmony with the sun in Virgo and in the same place in the sky as Pluto. It brings strong willpower and stubborn drive to make life more of what you want it to be. On Sept. 15, 1960, Maurice "Rocket" Richard announced his retirement. And Google.com turns 25 today.



**Friday, Sept. 16:** It's a very active day in the solar system with seven connections in all, including Venus square to Mars this afternoon and the moon in the same place as Mars and also square to Venus. While intimate relationships may be strained, a spiritual awakening helps to heal. Michael Moore's film "Roger and Me" won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 6, 1989.



**Saturday, Sept. 17:** The third-quarter moon in Gemini is square to the sun in Virgo so it is mandatory that an honest review of thinking takes place. Fortunately, Venus wants to help by healing old wounds and Mars is connected to Chiron and working to do the same thing. It's a great day to solve issues like sibling rivalry. Two hundred and thirty-five years ago the U.S. Constitution came into effect on Sept. 17, 1878. Since then, it has been amended 27 times but still begins with the words "We the people..."

**Sunday, Sept. 18:** With the sun in perfect harmony with Pluto late today, it's going to be a time when maximum willpower is on hand to make for a more practical and firmly grounded life. All we need to

do is be ourselves. It was Sept. 18, 2020, just two years ago that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. Her radical stances on many decisions were part of her effort to move the law forward.



**Monday, Sept. 19:** If today is handled well, there are opportunities to heal serious relationship issues. If not handled honestly and with care, a lot of sadness is the result. On Sept. 19, 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to extend voting rights to women.

**Tuesday, Sept. 20:** With Venus in Virgo getting a surprising new partner from Uranus in Taurus, things may have to change as Saturn in Aquarius insists on honesty and the truth. On Sept. 20, 2019, students from 185 countries staged the world's largest-ever protest on climate change, culminating in a Manhattan rally led by Greta Thunberg.



**Wednesday, Sept. 21:** A day to remember to practise having a balance between personal needs and wants, and responsibility to others. Clarity on this one issue is worth a ton of anxiety and pain. One of the world's greatest song writers and poets, the late Leonard Cohen, was born in Montreal on Sept. 21, 1934.



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# It's a new season – time to buy bulbs



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

If you are a keen gardener, you will know there are more than four seasons in a year.

Sure, there is still spring, summer, fall and winter, but then there are the “mini” seasons.

So, caught in between summer and fall is the exciting bulb season. The bulbs are just beginning to show up on the store shelves and the fun of choosing new ones is about to begin.

Here are some tips to guide you through this season.

**What to look for:**

Choose bulbs that are not bruised, marked up or showing signs of any fungal diseases. You want to make sure the bulb has the best possible beginning. Any injury on the bulb or even the lack of the tunic (the papery covering) can be an entry point for disease.

When shopping for bulbs, you will notice a wide range of prices. This usually corresponds with the size of bulb. Choose a larger bulb whenever possible – the larger the bulb, the larger the flowers will be. Small bulbs (immature bulbs) may not bloom until the second or possibly the third season. Spend a little more for instant results.

If you are purchasing different varieties either of the same type of bulb (e.g. tulips) or different species to plant together check the labels to make sure you choose bulbs with staggered bloom times to extend the length of colour in your spring garden.

Also, when choosing your bulbs, consider the height the bulbs will grow to and the height of surrounding plants. It's disappointing



A sea of tulips. JOANNE YOUNG

to plant a bunch of bulbs and not be able to see them blooming because they are hidden by taller plants.

**When, Where and How:**

I like planting my bulbs a bit later in the fall. I find the best time to plant fall bulbs is from mid-October to mid-November, before the ground freezes. One reason for this is that it gives the squirrels less time to find them.

That said, don't wait until mid-October to go shopping for bulbs though because all the good stuff will be gone. So, shop in the next couple of weeks for the best selection and keep the bulbs in a paper bag or open box and

place them in a cool, dark, dry spot.

Bulbs prefer loose, porous soil with lots of organic matter and good drainage. Wet soil can cause bulbs to rot.

Plant bulbs in larger groupings to have a more dramatic and instant show of colour. An odd number of bulbs in groupings is best.

Follow the directions on package for planting depth. If there are no instructions, plant bulbs at a depth that is equal to three times the diameter of the bulb its (e.g. if bulb is two inches wide, plant it six inches deep.)

Once the hole is dug, mix some bone meal into the

soil at the bottom of the hole. Place bulbs in hole at the suggested spacing. Backfill hole with amended soil, gently packing the soil as you go. Water thoroughly.

**Discouraging squirrels:**

Let's face it, those cunning squirrels are just sitting up in the trees watching you plant your bulbs. As soon as you turn your back, they will be digging them up.

There are many repellents on the market, such as blood meal, Critter Ritter etc., but nothing seems to be fool-proof. Most of them have to be used repeatedly and even then, results vary.

One of the most effective ways to discourage squirrels is to plant the bulbs as recommended, but before filling in the hole with soil place a piece of chicken wire large enough to cover the grouping of bulbs.

Then fill in the hole with soil. The bulbs will still be able to grow up through the chicken wire, but the squirrels will not be able to get at the bulbs.

I love messing with their little heads.

So, get out there shopping early for your bulbs and let the new season begin.

*Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.*

## Obituary

### Leendert Byl



BYL, Leendert (Len) – Passed away peacefully surrounded by family in his 94th year at Chapel Heights Retirement Home in Niagara Falls on Saturday Sept. 10, 2022. Special thanks to the doctor and staff at Chapel Heights. A huge thank you to Vanessa Villers who cared for Dad and Mom for the last five years. Beloved

husband of Lena who passed just seven days prior and to whom he was married for over 73 years. He could not be without his sweetheart.

Loving father of Lane (Margaret) Byl, Casey (Valerie) Byl, May (Alan) Simpson, Richard (Linda) Byl and Marinus (Beverly) Byl. Caring 'Opa' of Marlena, Jason, Sarah, Melissa, Derek, Cassandra, Lane, Christopher, and Whitney and step grandfather of Brett, Maureen, Ben, Dustin, Sarah, Jade, and Jared.

He was also known as 'Opa B.' to 17 great grandchildren. Dear brother of Hendrika, Marinus, John, Pauline and Adriana. Predeceased by his grandson Corey and his sisters Leentje, Jacoba, Maria and Eva. Fondly remembered by many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Len and Lena were grape growers in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1964 to 2008, expanding their family farm to over 100 acres. Before farming full time, Len was a transport driver for Direct Systems for 22 years where he earned many "Safe Driver" awards. Len was a proud board member of the Grape Growers of Ontario and was crowned Grape King in 1986.

He was a founding member of the Niagara Bridge Center. He and Lena became Silver Life Masters and were recognizable at bridge events around the world.

Len and Lena travelled the globe extensively, to such exotic places as Bali, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Tunisia, Moscow, Antarctica and everywhere in between.

They were both active in the Port Weller Sailing Club where they raced their sailboat, 'Vintage' for many years.

The family received friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Tuesday Sept. 13, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A service to celebrate the life of Len took place at the St. David's Lions Hall, 1462 York Rd., St. Davids, on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. Interment of both Len and Lena took place privately at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to may make a memorial donation may do so to the Niagara Health Foundation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



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