



## 20 YEARS AFTER 9/11 Honouring heroic first responders



NOTL politicians stand in solidarity Saturday while firefighters salute the Canadian and U.S. flags after they were raised from half mast during a memorial ceremony on the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks of 9/11. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake first responders say they never want to forget the tragedy of 9/11 and will be out on the streets every Sept. 11 to pay respects to those who died that day.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce held a small, solemn memorial ceremony on Saturday, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

About 30 people, plus crews from all five NOTL fire stations, gathered

around the clock tower cenotaph early in the morning, coinciding with the time of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

They paid respects to those who lost their lives during the tragic attack that killed almost 3,000 people, including more than two

dozen Canadians and 350 firefighters.

Louis Prue, a NOTL firefighter for 15 years, said the tragic loss of life affected all first responders.

"It's sort of a tribute to all first responders, but mostly

*Continued on Page 2*



Voters wait at the NOTL Community Centre on Monday to cast their ballots ahead of election day. EVAN SAUNDERS

## Voters complain of long lines, delays at some advance polls

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The first day of advance polls at the Virgil arena and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre were chaotic and disorganized, resulting in long waits and some people leaving without casting a ballot, some residents say.

Large numbers of NOTL voters flocked to the polls early to cast ballots and that led to some frayed tempers and angry residents, poll workers said.

However, at NOTL's third advance poll location, the Holiday Inn Express in Glendale, no problems were reported.

More voters turned out than ever before for the first

day of advance polls across the country, Elections Canada official Nathalie de Montigny told The Lake Report. And NOTL was no different.

She said that on Friday, 8,093 turned out across the riding, which includes NOTL, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. In the 2019 federal election, only 5,837 people voted on the first day, she noted.

Across the country, this year more than 1.3 million votes were cast on the first day of advance polling, the organization said in a tweet.

Niagara advance polls were open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday through Monday and by the end of the first three days the riding had 6,000 more votes

*Continued on Page 14*

## Only 12 of 255 short-term rentals eligible for new accommodation tax

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Only 12 of 255 licensed short-term rentals in Niagara-on-the-Lake would have to collect the town's new accommodation tax, which targets properties with five or more rooms.

Of the 255 licensed short-term rentals in town, only a dozen meet the five-room criteria and they are either villas or country inns, according to research by The Lake Report.

Council passed a motion

on Aug. 30, spearheaded by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, instituting a 2 per cent tax on rental accommodation. The 2 per cent phased-in tax would begin in 2022 and eventually increase to 4 per cent.

Here's how The Lake Report determined the vast majority of registered, legal rental units would be excluded from the new levy.

Under the town bylaw on short-term rentals, bed and breakfasts and cottage rentals cannot legally have more than three rooms. This means every licensed

establishment of that nature is exempt from the accommodation tax.

The 255 licensed short-term rentals listed on the town's website include 96 classified as B&Bs and 120 as cottage rentals, for a total of 216 exempt from the new tax.

The remaining 39 licensed facilities are villas, country inns or vacation apartments. Of the 22 registered villas, only five advertise having five or more rooms, while seven of the nine country inns advertise five or more rooms.

There are eight vacation apartments registered with the town but none has five bedrooms.

And just like that the list of taxable short-term rentals drops to 12 from 255. The majority of the municipal accommodation tax revenue will thus be coming from visitors who stay in hotels.

There are no details available on how many illegal, unlicensed rentals might qualify for the tax, but in March, Granicus Host Compliance issued a report stating there could be over 200 unlicensed short-term



A NOTL vacation rental on Delater Street that's charging \$1,120 per night on Airbnb will not be taxed, under council's accommodation tax plan. SOURCED/AIRBNB



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NOTL politicians, firefighters and a small crowd of people share a moment of silence in honour of the lives of people lost during the terror attacks of 9/11. RICHARD HARLEY

# Firefighters remember heroism of 9/11 first responders

*Continued from Front Page*

the ones that lost their lives in New York. It was devastating. Guys, women going in to do their duty, not knowing what they were going to face, and catastrophe struck. It affects all first responders."

Prue was living and working in northern Virginia when the attacks happened. He said he could see the smoke coming from the Pentagon from where he was at the time, near Dulles Airport, about 40 kilometres west of Washington, D.C.

"That day was — it was surreal. That's the best way to describe it. Absolutely surreal," he said.

"One of my most vivid memories was, there was a fellow I worked with who was a former Marine, and he was retired, and we were going out to our car. They

sent us home. And he was on his phone trying to get hold of his sister who was a captain in the Marine Corps stationed at the Pentagon, and he couldn't get her," Prue said.

"And finally at the last minute before we got into cars he contacted her. And she just changed out of her civies into her utilities and she was going in to do body recovery, search and rescue."

Derek Rooney, assistant district chief for St. Davids, said for him, the morning was about everyone who lost their lives.

"I think for most of us it's just about paying respects to the guys that did the job that day in New York. And, you know, they weren't able to go home that night and see their families," he said.

"And not only the guys that responded, but everybody that was involved



Firefighters from all five NOTL stations pay respects to the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks during a small ceremony on Saturday, on the 20th anniversary of the tragic morning. RICHARD HARLEY **See 9/11 memories on Pages 10 and 11.**

that was in the towers, everybody that lost their lives, everybody that was in New York that day, and the world. It was a life-changing event, definitely for all of us, as part of the fire service," Rooney said.

"And we just come down here to commemorate those events and what happened and pay homage to our

brothers and sisters that were down there that day. It does mean a lot to us. It's a big deal. And you never want to forget that day. You never will, so we'll keep coming down here on Sept. 11, every year."

He said it's one of the biggest fire calls he can remember.

"I mean, there's been big



fires, but nothing like that," he said.

Knowing that sometimes you don't know exactly how a fire call will go is something all firefighters have faced, which adds to a sense of empathy, Rooney said.

"You can go and talk to any one of the people wearing a uniform here today and we've all felt that thing

in our gut where you don't know how it's gonna go. And (9/11) is on the larger scale. But anytime we go on the trucks and we go lights and sirens, you don't know how it's gonna go. We definitely feel empathy for those members that went down there that day, not knowing if they would go back to their families."

# Vaccine certificate **needed** to avoid lockdowns, says Chamber president

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The vaccine certificate program is the best case scenario for struggling businesses that need to avoid further lockdowns amid the pandemic, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue says.

“We want to avoid another lockdown, it would be absolutely catastrophic. That’s why we have been so supportive (of the vaccine certificate),” Lafforgue said.

He emphasized the vaccine certificate is not a political whim imposed by the Ontario government.

“This is under the recommendation of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, which is very important because we are really following the science,” he said.

“We are in our fourth wave, right now. Vaccination is the single greatest risk-mitigation tool against the resurgence of the variants.”

Kelly Turner, owner of the Olde Angel Inn, welcomes the vaccine certificate program.

“It’s a good thing. It keeps everybody safe, keeps the staff safe and keeps the patrons safe and allows us to operate,” Turner said in an interview Wednesday.

Turner knew there would be some people unhappy with the restrictions but said it’s a minority of potential customers.

“Eighty per cent of the people are going to be happy and support it and are for it,” she said.

She said the certificate would be more beneficial than detrimental to business.

“If we want to avoid another lockdown, we need to do this. We need to protect patrons and the staff and everybody out there so we can move forward.”

Staff at the Angel Inn are all in favour, she said.

“Everybody’s on board and knows what we have to do. We’re ready for it.”

But other business owners in town worry further restrictions on their customers is bad news as they just start recovering from previous lockdowns.



Niagara Fit owner and physical trainer Robb Chrzaszcz and trainee Patrick Guidnard on Wednesday. EVAN SAUNDERS

“I think it’s going to create a division amongst people in terms of going to a business and making use of their services,” Niagara Fit owner Robb Chrzaszcz said in an interview Wednesday.

Starting Sept. 22, people will need to prove that they are fully vaccinated to access indoor dining, bars, clubs, gyms and fitness centres, theatres and event spaces among other places. Fully vaccinated generally means having received two COVID-19 shots over 14 days prior.

A certificate will not be needed to dine on a patio, use a bathroom or get take-out from an establishment. Retail spaces are also exempt from enforcing the certificate.

On Tuesday, the province announced that medical exemptions were only eligible for people who have an allergy to a component of the vaccine as proven by an allergist and for people who suffer from inflammation of the heart.

It also announced that fines for non-compliant individuals and businesses would be roughly \$750 to \$1,000.

Chrzaszcz has worked at Niagara Fit for a year and became the new owner at the beginning of September.

“People who are unvaccinated are going to get churned out right away. That’s going to impact (everyone’s) business.”

He said most of his customers and the people he has spoken with are supportive of the certificate but he worries about the people who will now be refused service at many establishments.

Silks Country Kitchen owner Joel Dempsey had similar concerns.

Dempsey said he was “undecided” about the vaccine certificate, but had real worries it would hurt his restaurant’s finances.

“I’ve already had people say, ‘Well, I guess I won’t be seeing you after next week,’” he said.

After 18 months of lockdowns, a phased reopening and restrictions slowly abating, Dempsey didn’t understand why the province had to implement more restrictions on businesses.

He said the government started easing rules but is now “forcing us to drive people away.”

As a fitness and rehab centre owner, Chrzaszcz was particularly concerned that COVID-19 has taken away the focus away from other physical and mental health problems.

Lafforgue said there are only two choices for Ontario — to support vaccine certificates and get vaccinated or to face further lockdowns due to an overwhelmed health care system, “which will be absolutely catastrophic for the economy and for the tourism sector.”

He noted the history of vaccine certificates in international travel.

“Fifty years ago you would not have been able to get on a plane to Europe if you were not carrying your vaccine passport,” he said.

“My passport, in the back, had a full list of vaccines that I had to carry with me, otherwise I would not be able to get, well, anywhere.”

Lafforgue said all the Chambers of Commerce across the province are united in supporting the certificates.

A poll from NOTL showed that 64 per cent of

residents support vaccine passports, he said.

But he did have some criticisms of the provincial government’s handling of the certificate system.

“We need more clarity. The government has yet to reveal those how-to instructions and this goes into effect on Sept. 22,” he said.

And while the printed vaccine certificates are easier to manage, Lafforgue was really worried about the rollout of the QR codes that the province has said will be introduced on Oct. 22.

The Chamber has received lots of inquiries about how the QR code will be implemented but Lafforgue is awaiting answers.

And it’s not just the lack of information for the public that has Lafforgue worried but the businesses and front-line workers who will need to track and enforce the new restrictions as well.

“It will be difficult for every business who needs a system to read the QR and to keep a record of that, which is very important,” he said.

Dempsey was also worried about the impact the certificate will have on his front-of-house staff.

Slowdowns as people arrive will make things difficult for Silks, he said, and he is frustrated with the province’s lack of details on how the certificate will be implemented.

Having staff screen people for COVID was already a hurdle and now checking identification and scanning codes will add to the difficulties, he said.

Lafforgue was sympathetic.

At some businesses, “People will come and say, ‘I’m not vaccinated and I bought my ticket and I want to get in.’ Well, sorry you can’t. That will be difficult,” he said.

The NOTL Chamber will be posting a document on its website, niagaraonthelake.com, outlining how people can get their vaccine certificates ready for Sept. 22.

Lafforgue says people curious about the QR code will have to keep their eyes peeled for updates from the provincial government.



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# Developer seeks approval after **illegally** paving conservation land

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



A car drives through environmental conservation lands that were paved over by Vrancor Inc. EVAN SAUNDERS

A parking lot and road were built without permission on top of an environmental conservation area near the Holiday Inn on York Road and now the developer is looking to get approval after the fact by having the area rezoned.

The road was built to connect Counsell Street and Glendale Avenue, which are separated by conservation land.

The unsanctioned construction came to light during a public meeting regarding 524 York Rd. held during a committee of the whole session on Monday.

Coun Norm. Arsenault was vocal in his criticism.

“You know, it never ceases to (amaze) me about the audacity of developers, the way they do this. They take over, in this case, something like 60 feet of conservation land, do what they want, and they come back looking for approval after the fact,” he told councillors.

“It just makes me crazy when I see developers taking over conservation areas

like this without asking permission. I will not support this, I cannot support this,” Arsenault continued before being reminded by Lord Mayor Betty Disero that the meeting was an open house and not the venue for councillors to express their opinions.

Disero later apologized to Arsenault through Zoom chat.

The area in question includes a Holiday Inn Express and Staybridge Suites, both developed by the Vrancor Group.

The west side of the developed lot is bordered by an environmental conservation area separating the lot from Glendale Avenue.

The developer had always planned to build a parking lot and connecting road

through the area, said Susan Smyth, a land use planner with Quartek Group Inc., appearing on behalf of Vrancor.

But the construction was not approved as part of the development’s first phase but the company built the parking lot and road on top of the conservation land anyway.

“Although constructed early and prematurely, this area was always part of the overall development master plan,” Smyth told council.

She said rezoning would rectify the “non-compliance issue,” a term she repeatedly used to describe the unapproved construction.

The phase one construction plan was approved by the previous council under then-Lord Mayor Pat Darte

in 2017. The parking lot and connecting road were part of the unapproved phase two master plan, Smyth said.

Town planner Rick Wilson stressed throughout his presentation that this construction was done independent of the town or region.

“The developer did this construction beyond the limits of what was approved,” he repeatedly told councillors.

He said the work must have taken place sometime in late 2017 into 2018.

Wilson said the developer was required to submit a study showing that ecological features would not be affected by the proposed development.

Vrancor submitted its report after the work had already been completed but the report claimed the studies had been done in 2016 and 2017, before construction took place.

The assessment is now in the hands of the Niagara Region for review. The region is responsible for natural heritage features, Wilson said.

The region noted the “rec-

ommendations and mitigation measures contained in the environmental impact study are insufficient to address the construction encroachments,” he said.

Wilson said the region wants more information.

According to the submitted assessment, no species at risk or significant wildlife habitat was affected by the construction.

Significant wildlife habitat referred to areas for snake hibernation or deer wintering. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Services’ Anne Yagi and Natural Resource Solutions Inc., were involved in the assessments. It was signed by Barry Myler, a biologist with Myler Ecological Consulting.

Myler spoke in defence of the developer.

“There were no species at risk found. Like, zero,” he emphasized.

Coun. Gary Burroughs noted part of Six Mile Creek extends up through the area, and salmon and trout have been seen migrating there.

Myler said the construction completed on the conservation land was purely

“terrestrial” as a culvert crossing had been previously built under the area for the creek.

Smyth noted that no sensitive fish species or fish habitat were found, meaning the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority had no jurisdiction. She said the agency had no concern in its most recent comments.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor raised the issue of mammal crossings in the area but Myler said mammals would be minimally affected.

“Birds can still fly from one tree to another or terrestrial wildlife could still cross a two-lane driveway,” he said.

Myler pointed to the impediments caused by York Road and the Queen Elizabeth Highway as far greater impediments for wildlife than the new roadway.

“We don’t have herds of deer moving through here or anything like that. We’re really just talking about the squirrels and rabbits and the neighbourhood birds,” he told council.

The potential rezoning will come before council for approval at a later date.

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Canada

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## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases: 6**  
**Region active cases: 292**  
**Region deaths: 425**  
**Region total cases: 17,181**  
**Region resolved cases: 16,464**

\*Sept. 15 data per Niagara Region Public Health

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

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## Editorial

Short-term rentals: Part 1

# Town must tax **all** short-term rentals

*This is the first in a series of editorials about the issue of short-term rentals in our community, how they hollow out neighbourhoods, and how town council has continued to give in to pressure from the industry. As well we'll offer potential solutions to the problem.*

Richard Harley  
 Editor-In-Chief

Asked about the plethora of problems associated with the short-term rental industry (take note of that word, industry), Lord Mayor Betty Disero said that if there's one problem council needs to tackle, it is short-term rentals.

Yet, despite excellent ideas like limiting rentals to primary residences only, council has been beaten back by industry stakeholders of these profitable, but destructive businesses.

It's been tough to watch the cowardice of our councillors in fighting a systemic expansion of these operations filling up our town.

These homes artificially inflate housing market



prices, making it harder for NOTL-born children to afford to live in town.

They destroy communities, by filling residentially zoned neighbourhoods with commercial businesses (essentially a small hotel), while simultaneously evading commercial taxes.

The homes taken away ensure no residents will live in them, which proliferates into larger issues, like lack of children to keep a high school running and, ultimately, real, community-based businesses being driven out of town.

All of this in the name of greedy short-term rental owners, real estate agents who sell residential homes as turn-key rental operations (in other words, a commercial business, which should be illegal) and others like property managers,

etc., who suckle off the teat of short-term rentals.

And yet again, council has been entirely, unapologetically, asleep at the wheel regarding yet another tax evasion by short-term rental owners.

The Town of NOTL has voted to only apply the newly approved municipal accommodation tax to short-term rentals with five or more rooms — despite the fact these are accommodation businesses and that hotels (which DO pay commercial taxes) will be collecting the tax from each visitor.

We have serious concerns about whose interests our councillors are really supporting. In this outrageous circumstance, it certainly doesn't appear to be the resident taxpayers.

For some context, as reported this week in The Lake Report, only 12 of 255 registered short-term rentals (and don't forget, the slew of unregistered ones) will be subject to the accommodation tax — despite, by definition, offering accommodation.

It's an insult to every

taxpayer in Niagara-on-the-Lake, an insult to our hotels and an insult to basic fairness.

These rental businesses charge anywhere from \$400 to well over \$1,000 a night (most only accept two-night bookings) and they're filled up weeks in advance.

It's a cash cow and yet these businesses only pay a nominal licence fee of \$117.25 per room per year (which council actually lowered this year due to COVID).

We are not picking on short-term rentals. We understand their business model and that COVID has been tough. But the people and companies that operate these rentals need to be included in the municipal accommodation tax program. That's only fair and their customers need to remit their fair share to the town. Period.

So far, council's actions are simply not good enough.

**Next: Too much influence and damaging neighbourhoods.**

editor@niagaranow.com

## Tourism group **supports** plan for hotel tax

Dear editor:

Residents for Sustainable Tourism is pleased that the Niagara-on-the-Lake council has approved a municipal accommodation tax to be considered by the finance committee for 2022.

The tax revenue, as intended by Ontario, will go toward tourism infrastructure and marketing. We know that it was a spirited and passionate

debate by all parties and we appreciate that it was fully discussed and reviewed.

After hearing all sides of the issue, hopefully council and staff will implement the plan in a sensitive manner based on prevailing COVID conditions in 2022.

We hope NOTL taxpayers will see some cost recovery from the industry. At the same time we hope the levy helps the tourism industry by funding mar-

keting focused on brand and building the infrastructure the industry needs to keep up with growth.

Our group believes Niagara-on-the-Lake should continue to be branded as the TEMCO industry committee described "a living historical community" that is a joy to live in and visit.

NOTL should be an alternative to Toronto and Niagara Falls. We would like our elected representa-

tives to focus on "liveability before overtourism."

To that end, we call for the town, tourism industry and resident groups to be equally represented in the development of the new town tourism strategy. We look forward to building a great town for all to visit and live.

**Bruce Gitelman**  
 Spokesperson  
 Residents for  
 Sustainable Tourism

## Claims against PM Justin Trudeau were **false**

Dear editor:

Samuel Young's diatribe ("More promises to be broken on seniors benefits," letter, The Lake Report, Sept.9) against Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau and the federal Liberals is false.

At least two of my friends and I have received the \$500 promised (via direct deposit to bank accounts in the third

week of August) for those over 75 on OAS (Old Age Security). Those coming by mail should be arriving now.

This is an interim payment until proposed in-

creases of 10 per cent and 25 per cent in survivor benefits in July 2022. So, who is telling the truth now?

**Elizabeth Oliver-Malone**  
 NOTL



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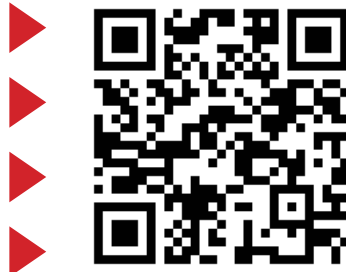
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## Scan the QR code to read the editorials

The Lake Report reached out to all of our federal candidates offering them one last chance to let YOU, the voters, know their platforms before the Sept. 20 election. Scan the QR code to the right to read all five opinion pieces with ease, or find them manually at [www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/6243](http://www.niagaranow.com/news.phtml/6243). The Lake Report strongly encourages all residents to get out and vote on Sept. 20. This is your chance to voice your opinion through your ballot. See you at the polls.



## Chautauqua parking signs are doing the job

Dear editor:  
The new no parking signage with increased fines of \$150 posted near Ryerson Park and along Niagara Boulevard really is working as far as I am concerned. These signs were installed by the town after a long battle led by a dedicated group of area homeowners and it seems to be a very successful solution. I am one of the first of the lucky people to actually get one of these very expensive parking tickets. But not a problem. I just have to get used to a new situation, a good one for our special area.

Also, the traffic jamming, highly confusing, unpopular and unsuccessful three-way stop and "bumpout" at Queen and Mississauga streets really had nothing to do with the problems we were having with cars near Ryerson Park. The solution is, and always was, proper parking signage and some enforcement by the town. The little "No Thru Traffic" sign that was put up for westbound traffic on Queen may help a bit. Who knows? The real problem is

the proposed, overdone and uncalled-for intersection reconstruction. It now seems very apparent that most people are not happy with the proposed overhaul of this intersection. It's totally unnecessary. Why fix something that is not broken? And how about having just a normal three-way stop? Get rid of the confusing road markings and traffic bumpout. Start over with a second look at this area. J.B. Hopkins and his excellent crew have done a great job with the look of

this intersection. But spend those funds somewhere else in town that really needs help. I am sure there are many suggestions that are worth looking at – and I have one. Why can't we get a proper stop light at the corner of King and Queen streets, one of the busiest traffic intersections in town? It's always a huge problem. We have had a blinking light at this corner for over 70 years. Isn't technology great? What's the problem here?  
**Christopher Allen  
NOTL**

## Liberals are not proposing home equity tax

Dear editor:  
I am writing today to call out the misinformation being spread by Conservatives across the country about home equity taxes. The Conservatives are spreading falsities by claiming the Liberals want to introduce a capital gains tax on the sale of primary residences. This is NOT true. The Liberals have never proposed this and have repeatedly said on the

record that they oppose it. Several credible independent analysts and media organizations have verified that this is indeed misinformation being spread by the Conservatives with zero factual basis. It is incredibly disappointing to see the Conservatives resort to these tactics to scare voters into supporting them. I was particularly upset to see local Conservative

candidate Tony Baldinelli joined in on this misinformation campaign this past weekend by spreading false articles online written by Conservative partisans. He even claimed this policy was outlined in the Liberal party's platform, something he knows full well is not true. Tony and his party spread the exact same misinformation during the 2019 election. Beyond the fact that

spreading false information to constituents is inherently unacceptable, the nature of this misinformation is particularly inappropriate because it is causing tremendous anxiety among seniors. I simply cannot support a candidate who stirs up anxiety among vulnerable seniors for political and electoral gain.  
**Amy Casey  
NOTL**

## We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.

### COMMUNITY DONATION PROJECT Porch Pick-up Food Drive

Newark Neighbours, together with our partners from the NOTL Rotary Club, are once again holding a porch pick-up food drive. We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held last May – it was overwhelming. Thank you all very much. We're asking for your support once again, this time to assist us in filling our Thanksgiving hampers for our clients. On Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Note that our volunteers will all wear masks and gloves and will respect all physical distancing restrictions, including contactless pick-up. If you wish to donate in support of our Food Bank, please call 905-468-7498 or email us at [newarkneighbours1@gmail.com](mailto:newarkneighbours1@gmail.com) to register your address for pick-up.



**Items required for Thanksgiving hampers**  
Stuffing Mix | Cranberry Sauce | Canned Ham  
Canned Gravy (turkey or chicken)  
Canned Pineapple | Applesauce or Canned Fruit  
Canned Corn | Canned green beans  
Canned peas + other daily items  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club

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# As vote looms, let's ignore the nasty babble

## Don't let the ugly crowds distract from key issues: Economy, child care and climate

David Israelson  
Special to The Lake Report

As we stumble toward the Sept. 20 federal election, some of the biggest questions voters may face are not on the ballot.

The biggest question of all, I think, is about us. As in: What is wrong with us?

This is not about taking sides in the vote here. I have my own preferences and though it's a secret ballot, I'm happy to share them, but not here.

The bigger problem right now is not who might win or lose the election and who gets to run Canada, but how we get there. In these lingering days of lockdown, too many Canadians are sizzling in a season of rage.

It's tempting to say we should reach out and understand. Actually, the rest of us should plug our ears and focus.

Really, what else to make of those people who show up and boo someone at an all-candidates' meeting because she's filling in for a



Debate is healthy, but nasty comments should be ignored, says columnist David Israelson. FILE/JESSICA MAXWELL

candidate who is sick? This is what happened at The Lake Report's candidate debate held at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.

Attacking people for feeling ill during a pandemic? Really, what is wrong with us?

### Three huge issues

We can do better. We have three huge issues to contend with, now, and they don't involve people yelling.

We need to keep the post-COVID economy moving. We need to help families who need daycare. And we need to get serious about climate change — the carbon we burn is now in-

disputably making our lives unpredictable and damaging our work and our homes.

In a twisted way, it may be fortunate that because of COVID-19 restrictions many people will avoid going to election rallies with crowds of people who attack the sick. As seen on TV and online, there have been a lot of these big knots of mean-spirited folks venting their spleen, swearing, shoving and shouting things that should not be repeated.

Speaking of spleens, some demonstrators even took to attacking modern medicine, protesting against doctors, nurses and front-

line responders who might save their own spleens some time.

### Protect what's being lost

Anyone who places even the tiniest bit of value on the rule of law — on civilization for that matter — ought to be concerned about what's being lost amid the noise.

The first thing that's being lost is the minimum standard of civil discourse we thought we had. The bar was never high, but it's already at a new low.

The nastiness seems to be organic too. It used to be that anti-vax, anti-science and all the other unsavoury anti-causes could be ascribed to people following around creepy people who could whip them to a frenzy with trumped-up rhetoric.

Now the hate seems to be coming from people who congeal using social media to organize and show up on their own to spew.

Canadian society has long tolerated outrageous ideas. But until recently, one of the magical features of our

politics has been a public preference for cautious compromise. A province doesn't want to sign the Constitution? OK, let's talk. You think the Senate is useless? Let's talk about it for 154 more years.

This patience can be annoying, but in many ways it has served Canadians well. At the same time, on some key issues in this election, there should be a rush to move forward.

### Shouting doesn't help

First, we're going to have to pull together to dig ourselves out of the last days — one hopes — of the pandemic. No one has a perfect answer, but whomever we elect is going to have to keep the economy moving, and shouting horrible things at them isn't going to help.

Next, with a real, universal, affordable child care program, we have an opportunity to actually restructure our society for better. Eight provinces have miraculously agreed to sign on for \$10 per day child care — significantly though,

not Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative Ontario.

The quality of child care could be enhanced by a universal, nationally funded program, and with \$10 daycare, many families that are already struggling to afford home ownership might be able to save enough money to own a decent home by no longer having to shovel huge piles of cash to daycare.

The third big issue? Climate. Just weeks before the election was called, the United Nations' panel of scientists warned that the world is in Code Red. Who in this election has the best plan that will actually do something to meet this existential challenge?

That's something voters can decide — if we don't let the nasty babble of irrational crowds seize the day.

*David Israelson is a non-practising lawyer, author, communications advisor and journalist who lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A version of this article appeared recently in The Lawyer's Daily.*

# Hotel tax will not hurt tourism industry, despite stakeholder cries

Dear editor:

I read with interest your reporting of town council's latest deliberations over the introduction of a municipal accommodation tax in NOTL, "Town passes controversial hotel tax — again," (Sept. 2).

Your reporting captured the usual baseless claims from the tourism delegations ... the tax "will hurt the hotel industry," it will "prompt a decrease in demand," the tax will be an "impediment to recovery," and it "will be detrimental to the town's image."

These baseless and unquantified claims received new packaging this time: we are in a pandemic, need to wait 18+ months for a \$100K+ tourism strategy and, my new personal favourite, that the tax is a "divisive issue" that pits residents (who pay for the tourist services and infrastructure) against the tour-



Tourism is not at risk from a hotel tax, says Lake Report reader Joe Accardo. FILE

ism businesses (that profit from having the services and infrastructure available to visitors).

Three delegations were heard. Tim Jennings, from the Shaw Festival, warned councillors that they don't have enough information and need input from the industry and that the Shaw contributes significantly to the local economy.

But so do our historical position, wine industry, nature (river, lake, parks, etc.), Old Town architecture,

beautifications, weather and proximity to major urban cities and the U.S. border contribute to our economy.

What he doesn't say is that the tax has been studied, first by the previous council, subjected to analysis and a staff report, council committee meetings were held with hotel and B&B operators leading up to last time the tax proposal was brought before this council, and that no jurisdiction with a similar tourism profile of NOTL (entertainment, history, culture architecture, winery and waterfront) has ever been harmed by such a tax.

He also didn't mention the Shaw has been in a significant surplus financial position over the past years while continuing to accept grants from NOTL ratepayers whose taxes have increased significantly over the same time period.

Jennings said the Shaw

pays the town about "\$220,000 through a variety of means." But none of this "variety" is for tourist services or infrastructure; it is for use of town-owned facilities.

So for the Shaw, the ratepayers pay for tourism services and infrastructure and then Shaw accepts more money provided by ratepayers via grants. This is a sweetheart deal. He should have come to council to thank the ratepayers of NOTL.

NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue said the local tourism community creates value for the community (i.e. ratepayers) without actually saying what that value is or attempting to quantify it.

Nor did he mention that other Chambers of Commerce are funded by local businesses but here in NOTL ratepayers contrib-

ute to its operating costs. Another sweet deal paid for by NOTL ratepayers. Yet he didn't come to council to thank the ratepayers. He came to ask that they continue paying the freight for tourism services and infrastructure from which his members profit.

Last, but certainly not least, were the brazen actions of the Vintage Inn Hotels, which sent a lawyer to plead "poor us."

Since the lifting of travel restrictions, NOTL tourism is booming. I've driven past the Pillar & Post and Queen's Landing hotel and see full parking lots. It seems that recovery is well under way here as it is in Niagara Falls hotels, which has a hotel tax.

The lawyer, when it was pointed out that Vintage has just raised its unadvertised and non-negotiable daily resort fee to \$19.95 + tax (to cover parking, wifi and

other amenities) did not explain why that fee doesn't hurt their business but \$8 on a \$400 per night room rate will.

The hypocrisy of all the delegations was overwhelming. But, hey Councs. Clare Cameron, Wendy Chero-pita and Gary Burroughs bought it. Sometimes using the same talking points provided by the delegations. Sad! Luckily, six other councillors saw through it and approved the next step for the accommodation tax.

Let's hope that in 2022, NOTL ratepayers see some financial relief to the tourism services and infrastructure budget, and ask tourists to pay their fair share toward maintenance of services we provide so that these services and our wonderful town is here for their enjoyment for years to come.

*Joe Accardo  
NOTL*

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# 95% of short-term rentals won't be subject to same accommodation tax as hotels

Continued from Front Page

rentals in NOTL. Disero cited the Ontario Retail Sales Act as the reason for the five or more rooms stipulation.

"There's a distinction in the Retail Sales Tax Act" between accommodations with five or more rooms, she said in an interview on Sept. 7.

She pointed to a paragraph in section 1 which says transient accommodation "does not include the provision of lodging let for a continuous period of one month or more or lodging in a lodging house, rooming house or boarding house that has accommodation for fewer than four tenants."

Disero stressed that the stipulation is pending legal review from the town's lawyers.

"It will all be vetted by legal during the process and they will make a correction if necessary," she said.

The mayor wouldn't speculate on whether council might change the motion to include more short-term rentals, noting she didn't



An interior shot of a NOTL short-term rental that is charging \$1,120 per night on Airbnb. SOURCED

want to engage in "hypotheticals about what may or may not happen."

Some municipalities, such as Huntsville and Oakville, have no such stipulation and apply the tax to any and all short-term rentals regardless of the number of rooms, representatives from the respective towns confirmed.

Disero also said the distinction in the town's motion is to give short-term rentals a break since the town increased their licensing fees over the years.

"It seems to me we need to allow them to build in the increase in licence fees in-

stead of hitting them again with the municipal accommodation tax," Disero said.

Town council approved a 33 per cent reduction to short-term rental annual licensing fees in March to help the businesses through the pandemic. Fees are now \$117.25 per room.

Most short-term rentals also are exempt from paying commercial fees like hotels and other businesses since they exist in residentially zoned areas.

The full commercial tax fee in urban areas as listed on NOTL's website is \$23.08 per \$1,000 of a property's value.

The residential tax rate in an urban area is \$9.76 per \$1,000, less than half the commercial rate.

On a \$1 million residentially zoned home inside the urban boundary the owners are paying about \$9,700 in property taxes. If a \$1 million short-term rental was classified as commercial that figure would jump to more than \$23,000.

That means a short-term rental valued at \$1 million and operating as a business could save almost \$14,000 per year by being assessed at the residential rate.

Comparatively, a retail space on Queen Street valued at \$2 million could face a commercial tax of more than \$46,000.

As it stands, short-term rental owners generally need not fear paying commercial taxes and only visitors who book rooms at a major hotel or one of the 12 short-term rentals eligible will be paying the municipal accommodation tax once it comes into effect in 2022.

# VOTE

## On Sept. 20

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# PPC PEOPLE'S PARTY of CANADA

ELECT



Peter Taras,  
Candidate

**COVID POLICY: A RATIONAL APPROACH THAT RESPECTS OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**

**ISSUE**  
The unprecedented government response to the covid-19 pandemic has had massively negative repercussions on Canadians' physical and mental health, economic well-being, as well as their rights and freedoms. The standard approach to pandemic management had always been to protect the vulnerable and allow the rest of the healthy population to go about their regular lives while building herd immunity. Lockdowns of entire populations were never part of any pre-covid pandemic planning. This experiment was largely ineffective in reducing the spread of the virus, but caused significant collateral damage. The vast majority of covid victims were elderly patients with comorbidities in nursing homes that governments failed to protect. Lockdown measures will cause even more deaths in the longer term due to stress-related illnesses, depression, postponement of surgeries, drug overdose, suicide, domestic violence, etc. Governments don't want to admit that they were wrong and are imposing increasingly authoritarian measures on the population, including vaccine passports. Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated will suffer under a regime of segregation, constant control, and surveillance. It is illusory to believe that the virus can be eradicated. We have to learn to live with it, without destroying our way of life in the process.

**FACTS**  
Lockdowns, mask mandates, school closures, and other authoritarian sanitary measures have not had any noticeable effect on the course of the pandemic. Regions or countries that implemented strict measures have been as impacted as those that did not. Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated can get infected and transmit the virus, which negates the rationale for segregation and vaccine passports. Section 1 of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that reasonable limits to our rights and freedoms can only be imposed if it has been demonstrated that they are justified in a free and democratic society. Such a demonstration has not been made for covid restrictions, most of which are arguably unconstitutional.

**PLAN**  
Although most of the measures in response to the covid pandemic have been implemented by provincial governments, Ottawa has an important coordinating role to play at the national level and can influence provincial policies. The federal public health agency coordinates policies with provincial agencies. Ottawa also encouraged and supported lockdown policies through the transfer of tens of billions of dollars in financial aid to provinces and territories.

**A People's Party government will:**  
Promote a rational and scientifically based approach to the pandemic that focuses on the protection of the most vulnerable, guarantees the freedom of Canadians to make decisions based on informed consent, and rejects coercion and discrimination.  
Fire the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada Theresa Tam and replace her with someone who will work with provincial agencies to implement a rational approach to the pandemic, instead of following the recommendations of the World Health Organization.  
Repeal vaccine mandates and regular testing for federal civil servants and workers in federally regulated industries.  
Repeal vaccine passports for travellers.  
Oppose vaccine mandates, vaccine passports, and other authoritarian measures imposed by provincial governments, and support individuals and groups that challenge such measures in court.  
Support emergency provincial measures to protect the most vulnerable, but stop bailing out provinces that impose economically destructive lockdowns.  
Support medical research and development of therapies to treat covid-19 and other viral diseases.

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## Serving with the **Canadian military** in Europe

Steve Hardaker  
Special to The Lake Report

Where I was during the 9/11 crisis is a vivid memory that will never be forgotten.

I was attending NATO meetings in Prague, Czech Republic, as one of the Canadian delegates on the Meteorological Support to Operations Committee. On the Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, we were in day two of our four-day meetings at the Czech Military Mess facility.

Delegates had no idea what was transpiring back in North America as we tolled away on operational support issues in Europe. At the conclusion of our day, we returned to our hotel at about 4:30 p.m. Prague time.

Our hotel was a palatial structure built during the Warsaw Pact occupation of Czechoslovakia that started in 1968, overlooking central Prague and the Prague Castle. Delegates were greeted by their spouses with looks



Niagara-on-the-Lake's Steve Hardaker boards a Canadian military CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopter during a posting to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2000. He was attending NATO meetings in Prague when the 9/11 terror attacks happened. SGT. BEN UNDERHILL PHOTO

of shock and horror on their faces.

The spouses were gathered around a large-screen TV watching the terrorist attacks of 9/11 unfold. As we arrived, we witnessed the second jetliner fly into the World Trade Center tower. It was an unbelievable scene. No words were spoken. Only gasps and tears of shock. We witnessed the heroics and horrors of that day unfolding.

At this point, our United States Air Force colleagues and their spouses retired to

a private area of the hotel to discuss what was happening in their country, to contact family and to plan for their return to their bases in Europe. We did not see them again that week.

Our meetings continued the following days, however the relevant topic of continued NATO meteorological support to the Balkan Stabilization Force (SFOR) and the Standing NATO Fleet in the Mediterranean, quickly changed to what had unfolded the day before and what role NATO, and more precisely NATO meteoro-

logical support, might be called for in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

NATO doctrine stated that an attack on a NATO nation is considered an attack on NATO. So, NATO had been attacked.

Skies around the world were closed to all air travel. The question on my and my colleagues' minds was how were we to return home to Canada? By the end of the week, the airways were slowly reopening, albeit with heightened and enduring changes to security. I

arrived safely back in Ottawa to my awaiting family Sunday evening.

Little did I know on that fateful day that the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center would change my career focus completely for the remaining nine years of my work with the Directorate of Meteorology and Oceanography at national defence headquarters. By the end of 2001, the U.S. had declared war on the Taliban in the quest to find Osama Bin Laden and Canada quickly joined that coalition. Full NATO involvement quickly followed.

My days following 9/11 were spent providing reach-back support to deployed Canadian meteorological technicians across the Afghan theatre. I arranged appropriate and dedicated meteorological telecommunications connection between Canada and Afghanistan, ensured the entire meteorological data base used by NATO was also available to the Canadian operations.

The U.S. was providing the forecast guidance using its model data and that also needed to be readily available so any forecasts generated in Canada followed that guidance through the one theatre, one forecast doctrine.

The U.S. eventually gave up command of Kandahar province to Canada and I managed the hand-over of the Kandahar Airfield Weather Detachment from the U.S. to NATO with staffing provided by Canada and the United Kingdom and the airfield aviation forecast produced by meteorologists at the Canadian Forecast Centre in Trenton.

During the time Canada was involved in Afghanistan, 140 Canadian meteorological technicians were deployed to support air operations, artillery, naval and various headquarters groups.

*Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for 11 years and is active in many community organizations.*



## Brian Barker

Niagara Falls—Fort Erie—Niagara-on-the-Lake

Ready for Better

- ✔ A father, local teacher, and community volunteer, Brian has been a champion for our community.
- ✔ Brian knows we can make life more affordable by reducing costs on prescription drugs, investing in healthcare, and making housing affordable for our kids and grandkids.
- ✔ Brian is standing up to ensure Canada's pandemic recovery works for you. He's committed to creating a sustainable recovery that tackles the climate crisis by investing in green jobs, setting bold emissions targets and acting urgently.

Ready for better? So are we - on September 20<sup>th</sup> vote Brian Barker and the NDP

**BrianBarker.ndp.ca**

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

## INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF ANDERSON LANE



**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an **all-way stop** at the intersection of Anderson Lane, nearby the Niagara-on-the-Lake Library and Community.

Currently, only southbound traffic on Anderson Lane is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers exiting the parking lot and travelling westbound on Anderson Lane from Simcoe Street are required to stop as well. Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on **September 20, 2021**, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing [mike.komljenovic@notl.com](mailto:mike.komljenovic@notl.com) or calling (905) 468-3266.

# 20 YEARS AFTER 9/11



## Fear and **trepidation** after the terror attacks

Elizabeth Masson  
Special to The Lake Report

After the 9/11 attacks, I, who read The Washington Post every day, did not read the paper, listen to the radio, or watch television for six days.

Finally, the next week I forced myself to do so and learned, for the first time, that the fire at the Pentagon had been caused by an airplane crashing into it. I had assumed a bomb had gone off there.

Three weeks later, I went to a conference in Virginia, south of the Pentagon and took the interstate that borders it. The gaping hole in the side of the largest building by square footage in the world was astonishing. The Post began publishing the biographies of the people killed, both inside the Pentagon and those on the plane that plowed into it. There was one each day for over 100 days.

I learned that our friend who had shown us the beautiful view from his office in the World Trade Center had survived but the son of one of my elementary school teachers, working for Cantor Fitzgerald on the top floors of the North Tower, had not. The fiancée of a friend's daughter had also perished. Vanessa, who was working as a lawyer in New York City, quit her job, and applied for a position with the FBI as her contribution in the fight against terrorism. She has never married and is a FBI agent in their New York office today.

My friend Pat, a freelance editor in Bethesda, who had edited a report saying



The Pentagon on 9/11. U.S. NAVY PHOTO

there would be a terrorist strike on the U.S. and who had stopped riding the Metro well before Sept. 11, moved back to the town in Pennsylvania where she was raised but hadn't lived for 40 years.

For several months after 9/11, I compared notes with friends on the times the fighter planes passed over our houses at night. They must have had a 45-minute route across the D.C. air space because I was awakened at 2:15, 3 a.m. etc. while Janet in Virginia would be awakened at 2:30, 3:15 and so forth.

The strange thing is that only women seemed to hear the planes. We were at a dinner party at the end of October when a woman commented on the planes. All the other women began talking about them while every man denied ever hearing a plane in the middle of the night.

Aside from the sleep disruptions, life seemed to be returning to some

normality although having one of Washington's two airports totally shut down did not make travelling easy. But after a four-month closure, flights at National Airport slowly resumed and passengers became used to the announcement saying that we couldn't leave our seats for the first 30 minutes after takeoff.

However, I wasn't prepared for the new pre-boarding routine that Air Canada had decided upon. I was leaving Montreal, after a conference the next spring, and found myself pulled over to a small room after showing my boarding pass to DCA when I reached security. Everyone on my flight was having their luggage searched by hand and then my purse was taken apart in minute detail with every compartment of my wallet searched.

We were all put into a guarded waiting room and then men with revolvers watched us board the plane. A flight attendant told me

that it was only Air Canada that put passengers through this procedure. If I had taken Delta or US Air, I would have boarded normally.

When I got back to Washington, Dianne who had flown back from Montreal on a different flight, said her plane, parked out on the runway instead of at the gate as usual, had been hit by another plane and they were delayed for hours while their plane was examined for damage; armed security guards watched the National Airport-bound passengers the entire time.

In March 2003, I went into the grocery store and found the shelves devoid of bread and milk, the usual sign in D.C. that a snowstorm had been predicted. However, the 6 o'clock news revealed a different reason for Washingtonians' panic.

The Bush administration's new Homeland Security Department had finally been established and had termed the current security threat to Washington to be

"Code Orange." The media urged people to stock up on supplies and prepare for an attack.

The Washington Post published a map explaining how the city was to evacuate if Code Red (a confirmed attack) was called and urged families to decide on a rendezvous point since it was likely that parents and children would be in different zones.

I noted that if I were at work, I would be evacuating on Wisconsin Avenue toward the north while my husband's workplace and our home's evacuation route would be MacArthur Avenue toward the west.

One Saturday afternoon, a few of my neighbours and I stood out in the street and talked about the situation. Kate told me that Tom Ridge, the head of Homeland Security, had just bought a house on the street behind ours and that's why we were seeing a limousine with Jeeps before and after it on the hilly street that led out of our neighbourhood.

We jokingly said that it would be nice of him to put a flagpole in front of his house and run up a coloured flag each day denoting the current security level. I recounted the story of someone who told me she had stocked her basement with precisely enough food and water to last 72 hours. Then she said, "But we only have a toilet and sink in our basement. What are people going to think of us when we emerge and haven't showered for three days?"

I had choked back my laughter at the naivete of anyone thinking that a

terrorist attack would last precisely 72 hours and was worried about not being able to bathe during the period.

Then a neighbour with two young sons described how her previously independent seven-year-old was now afraid to play in the park more than a few feet from her. "Mom, I don't want to get separated from you when the terrorists come," he explained to her. Helen then turned to me and said, "Do you think we're irresponsible parents because we're raising our children in Washington?"

I had arranged long in advance to meet a friend at the Smithsonian on March 17, 2003, to see a special exhibit. I confirmed our outing a few days ahead and was surprised when Robyn said she no longer wanted to go. Her reason was, "Thursday is the day when the war in Iraq starts. There's bound to be a terrorist attack that day and I don't want to be far from my family when it happens."

I pointed out that her two children would be "locked down" in their schools as would her husband, a teacher. "Robyn, you'll be all alone at home if there's a terrorist attack. You might as well meet me downtown and at least we'll be together."

She agreed to come to the museum. I was surprised at how few visitors were at the exhibit and as I sat in the nearly empty Metro car going home, I thought, "There is so much fear in the world today. The terrorists on 9/11 definitely succeeded."

## A song in the **aftermath**

Joe Vandelinde  
Special to The Lake Report

Our personal 9/11 story is probably no different than millions of other people's.

Both my wife and I watched in horror as the tower scenes were played over and over. I think our minds ran the gamut of

emotions – sadness, fear, bewilderment, pathos.

We felt a deep concern not only for our own safety but also for our many American friends.

On an even more personal level as I was working on a new CD at the time ("Songs and Seasons") and I thought that writing something about this

tragedy might be fitting.

In the days that followed, I listened to stories of those directly affected and I tried to capture that on a personal level with a song.

I called it "911 – In Memoriam" and I know some were touched by it.

I pray we never encounter anything like that again.



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The Pedal Pub cruises downtown NOTL as passengers sing songs. RICHARD HARLEY

# Council **steers clear** of changing Pedal Pub's downtown route

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

After 45 minutes of debate, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors decided they will do nothing about the route for the Pedal Pub.

At the end of July, council tasked town staff to work with the Pedal Pub to come up with alternative routes for the business after several councillors took issue with the mobile pub running down two of the busiest streets in the municipality, Queen and Mississauga.

During a two-part council meeting that concluded on Sept. 3, councillors

were chiefly worried about safety – and Lord Mayor Betty Disero wanted a route that would allow the Pedal Pub to go to wineries. The attraction is also not supposed to operate on residential streets.

Routes to wineries were incompatible with the business because it would make the trips too long, director of operations Sheldon Randall said after having discussions with the company.

Staff presented their alternative routes to council on Aug. 30. The new routes had the Pedal Pub routing east on Mary Street, down King Street and pulling into the parking lot behind the old Court House, then

popping out on Queen Street for the journey home via Mississauga Street.

The staff-recommended option had the Pedal Pub embark and disembark behind the Court House when in Old Town. This was seen as the safest option for customers and is the same area where the Heritage shuttle stops.

But some councillors said this route was counterproductive.

“This looks to be worse than the (original route),” Coun. Norm Arsenault said.

Arsenault was unhappy that the new route had the pedal pub going down four major streets instead of the two it was previously on.

He presented an alternative route that would see it rolling down Mississauga Street and turning onto Centre Street before using Simcoe Street to get into the Queen-Picton area.

Arsenault thought this was a good compromise since it involved the pub spending less time on Mississauga.

It did not receive enough votes to pass.

Disero said she was worried about safety on Queen Street while the Pedal Pub operates, a concern Coun. Sandra O'Connor shared.

Coun. Erwin Wiens argued for fairness in treating the Pedal Pub like similar businesses.

“If the Pedal Pub isn't safe (on Queen Street) then neither is the horse and carriage and neither is the people who park in the middle of the road. I was just at the bank and there was a UPS truck parked right dead-centre in the road, unloading,” Wiens said.

“I didn't think it was unsafe for any of those people. There's no evidence of it not being safe.”

Arsenault agreed, saying the horse and carriage businesses, and crowding on Queen Street actually reduces traffic speed and makes it safer.

Coun. Allan Bisback was supportive of option 1, which would have seen the

Pedal Pub park behind the court building to disembark.

“We don't seem to want to interfere in the routing of cycle companies and carriage companies but we seem to want to do that here. So, I'm supportive of the staff recommendation,” Bisback said.

Approval of a new route was defeated in a 5-3 vote, with Wiens, Bisback and Coun. Clare Cameron voting in favour of the new route. This defeat meant Pedal Pub defaulted to its original route.

“That was my fear when I spoke and said, ‘We're going to end up with a dilemma,’” Disero said.

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Owner

# Simply Niagara at outlet mall gives visitors a taste of local businesses



Xavier Allard of Cheese Secrets prepares his mac' and cheese raclette at the Simply Niagara Market. JESSICA MAXWELL

Jessica Maxwell  
The Lake Report

Craft beer and cocktails, fresh sushi, tamales and handmade gourmet ice pops are some of the items that fill the booths each weekend at the Simply Niagara market.

From July to October this year, the Outlet Collection at Niagara is hosting a market from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays that features Niagara chefs, craft breweries, wineries and artisans.

"We wanted it to be a local market experience for visitors to the outlet mall," market co-ordinator and town councillor Wendy Cheropita said.

"There's many people who come here and don't

go anywhere else except the outlet mall, so it gives them a bit of a taste of Niagara."

Cheropita said that the market was developed by the Outlet Collection in hopes of supporting some of the vendors coming out of the pandemic and celebrating Niagara businesses.

"This could be a long-lasting partnership and could morph into many other wonderful opportunities for our local businesses and arts community," she said.

"I think what we have here is special because of the vendors," Cheropita said.

"Each one has a unique story to tell and all of their products are handmade, handcrafted and authentic, made by real people who are a part of the commu-

nity."

Vendors like Carolina Vizcaino, owner of Tamales Mexico, said that the market is a great way to connect local products to people who come from outside the region.

"We are getting a lot of positive comments about our product. We love to share with people the traditional recipes and this is also an opportunity to share that we use local products to make our food," Vizcaino said.

Most of the produce used by Tamales Mexico is sourced from local farmers markets and Vizcaino said it is just another way for these small businesses to support each other.

Jill Turner from Windsor said she came to Niagara

for some shopping and wine tasting, but most importantly, the raclette mac and cheese at the Cheese Secrets booth at Simply Niagara.

"My sister sent me a TikTok of this a month ago and she said I had to get this when I came down here. So, I'm finally here," Turner said.

The market is set up in the courtyard outside of the mall's food court and Cheropita said the nice weather draws large crowds for many of the food items and cold drinks, including wine, beer and cocktails, in the licensed market.

"On Sundays, PigOut roasts a whole pig and we have lineups of people because you can smell it and it looks so appealing," Cheropita said.

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I run around backyards, but I don't move. What am I?

Last issue: You can hold me in your left hand, but not in your right. What am I?

Answer: The right elbow or hand

Answered first by: Mary Drost

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Howard Jones, Terry Nord, Sylvia Wiens, Wade Durling, Win Laar, Margie Enns, Karunesh Makker, Pam Dowling, Charlotte and Gwendolyn Webber Mayeda, Nancy Broerse, Terrie Coirtlander, Jody Lemoine, Teresa Kaminski, Gary Davis, Ardeth Staz, Robert Wilms, Carl Nickel, Doug Bruce, Sheila Meloche, Joan Busbridge, Kevin Etherington, Steve Siansky, Elaine Landray

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# Virgil man spreads joy one basket of fruit at a time

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Wally Bogusat hates to see food go to waste – especially tree-ripened, Niagara-grown, delicious, healthy fruit.

So the retired grocer has taken it upon himself to spread a little “joy” around the community – and elsewhere – now and then, sharing peaches, grapes, nectarines or other delectables with friends, neighbours and even complete strangers.

“I call it joy fruit,” says the Virgil resident. He enjoys giving it away and the recipients get to enjoy tree-ripened fruit.

He has permission from a nearby farmer to pick leftover fruit from their orchard, items that the farm crews didn’t choose for shipping but left on the tree to continue ripening.

“I enjoy wandering through Mother Nature and getting the leftovers, which go to waste. I hate waste and here’s something that’s going to waste and someone



Wally Bogusat picks fresh nectarines that he will package up and give out to people around town. The fruit is excess that won’t be shipped to stores. Some of it was likely not yet ripe or too small to pick during the harvest. RICHARD HARLEY

else can enjoy it. So I’m the go-between. I’m the go-fer.”

It’s also great exercise and he likes being out in the fresh air.

“Some people play sports and have to go out and pay to play the game. I don’t have to pay anything. Sometimes I have to carry a

basket a few hundred feet when there’s not much to be picked. I go down the rows quite a ways and haul them all back.”

He’s been doing it for years, always with the farmer’s blessing.

Bogusat and his wife Alice get takeout pizza a

couple of times a month and the last few times he’s shared baskets of fresh fruit with staff at Domino’s in Virgil.

That prompted realtor Lita Hale to post on the NOTL 4 All Facebook page on Monday about Bogusat’s “joy fruit” excursions. It attract-

ed more than 500 reactions and comments from people in less than 24 hours.

Her teenaged daughter works at the pizzeria and Hale only knew that a guy named “Wally” periodically dropped off baskets of fruit for the staff.

She thanked him for his acts of kindness, which set a great example for the kids and exemplify “what it means to be kind and generous in these times where we as Canadians are swept away by the negativity all around us.”

For his part, Bogusat, who’s 80 and not on Facebook, was “overwhelmed” by the public recognition.

He doesn’t really want to be in the spotlight but if his altruistic actions can inspire other people to do kind deeds, he’s good with that.

Bogusat will be well-known to longtime Niagara-on-the-Lake residents as his family for many years operated the MB Foods grocery store in Virgil – beside where Valu-mart is now.

“Running a business is all about customer service,”

he said. And his joy fruit endeavours are just an extension of what he’s always done.

People occasionally are a bit surprised, even hesitant, “but they look and see, ‘This old guy, he’s gotta be harmless,’” when they see him with his baskets of fruit.

Sometimes people offer to pay for the fruit he collects so Bogusat said he collects donations and at the end of the year he’s able to return “a few hundred dollars” to the farmer.

He and Alice also keep busy helping out at their church, Grace Lutheran in St. Catharines, and Bogusat said he tries to bring along some fruit.

He said he always looks forward to sharing his pickings with the NOTL community, his cottage neighbours near Owen Sound or people he’s just met. Wherever he goes, if he can, he’ll bring along some fresh Niagara fruit to help spread some joy.

“Do something for other people, that’s my motto.”

# NOTL voters unhappy with long waits at some advance polls

*Continued from Front Page*

cast than during the same period for the previous election, she said.

Though she outlined several reasons for the delays during the early days of advance polling, Montigny did not use them as an excuse.

“We apologize. Elections Canada wants to apologize if there was waiting (and) long lines in some places,” she said.

The riding’s advance polls were busier than ever before, she said.

One problem was the snap election left the organization less time to prepare than for previous elections, she said.

NOTLers tend to arrive early or right on time for community events and the early part of the first day of advance polls is traditionally the busiest.

“I don’t know if people are eager to vote or they want to make sure they can cast their ballot. Whatever the reason

is, there seems to be more people showing up on the first day,” Montigny said in an interview Monday.

Montigny said some of the long wait times were simply a product of bad timing.

“We do not control the amount of people that are showing up and when they show up,” she said.

Montigny was reluctant to blame the long wait times on COVID-19 precautions but did say the process was slightly slowed down due to the extra steps required.

Elections Canada workers have had to gather names and phone numbers for every voter for contact tracing, she said.

It was also difficult for the organization to prepare for a snap election as opposed to a fixed date election. This election was given the shortest legally allowed time span to run – only 36 days.

One area where this affected Elections Canada was hiring workers.

“It’s been a particular challenge during this election because of the pandemic and because of the fact that it’s a short election,” Montigny said.

On voting day, Elections Canada becomes one of the biggest employers in the country, with roughly 250,000 Canadians working to oversee the democratic process, she said.

NOTL resident Steve Hardaker voted in Glendale at the Holiday Inn Express. He said he had no issues.

“We waited for about 15 minutes. One lady who voted before us said she waited 35 minutes. People in our neighbourhood who voted Saturday morning said there was no wait,” Hardaker told The Lake Report.

Kaspar Pold, 80, left his advance poll in Virgil due to the long wait and said the polling station was not accommodating for seniors.

“My wait out in the sun was about 20 minutes and

had to be standing. There were no chairs for older people,” Pold said in an email.

When he got to the front doors he was told the wait inside was about another hour.

“I couldn’t believe that so I asked some questions and became quite agitated,” Pold said.

He said an Elections Canada worker told him the wait was because there was only one polling station set up inside the arena due to COVID-19 safety precautions.

Pold said he and others left instead of waiting in the long line.

Hardaker saw the Friday crowds as a good thing.

“I think it’s great that people want to vote early. If that means extra wait time then that is OK. COVID restrictions do happen,” he said.

Montigny shared a similar sentiment, saying, “In a way, it is good news that people wanted to get out and vote.”

Ian and Sharon Gillespie

were likewise happy to see the community centre brimming with eager voters.

“That’s what we want, a good turnout,” Sharon said in an interview.

“The population will speak and we’ll have to see what they say.”

The Gillespies both said their biggest concerns this election were the environment and childcare.

“We have to provide for the future,” Ian said.

NOTL resident Paul Boudreau said his biggest concern this election is COVID-19.

Boudreau wanted a strong response to the pandemic and lamented his frustrations with those who refuse to get the vaccine.

“I was a firefighter, so this not getting vaccinated I do not understand whatsoever,” he said in an interview on Friday.

“I mean, it’s the only way to stop (the pandemic).”

He was also frustrated

with the Liberals calling an election during the pandemic and that it is costing roughly \$600 million of taxpayer money to run.

“(Liberals) are screaming about no housing, they’re screaming about no nurses, they’re screaming about no doctors, they’re screaming about old age homes they can’t pay for – and we’re spending (\$600 million on the election),” Boudreau said.

Boudreau said he would be supporting the Conservatives.

Over the weekend, and on Monday, Sept. 13, the lines had all but abated. There was a small lineup outside of the community centre around noon Monday, but everyone said they had been waiting no more than five minutes before entering the community centre.

Darrell Boer was waiting in line and said his biggest election issue has always been government spending.

“I’m afraid for the future for my kids,” Boer said.



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## Future Vision: Part 4

# Hospital plan could include parking garage, retail, residential



The old NOTL hospital. FILE/JESSICA MAXWELL

Jo Holden  
Special to The Lake Report

To assist with the parking dilemma in Old Town, let's consider a couple of ideas regarding future use of the old Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital.

Excavate the site so that the edifice will have at least two tiers of parking below ground.

Keep the design of the new structure low so that the building will retain the same profile as the rest of Old Town. Another area of parking could be located

behind the retrofitted hospital, behind a brick wall for bus groups to be parked.

In constructing any new structure on the site, use as much bricking from the former hospital as possible in order to keep the patina of the facade looking "older."

It is important to preserve as many of the trees that currently surround the old hospital as possible. This will help give the area a "soft" look.

And here's a totally off-the-wall idea: allow no parking downtown at all unless one has a Town of

NOTL parking sticker.

Like Banff, Alta., upon entrance to our area, decide where the "entrance" into Old Town will be, direct the visitors to parking areas at that site, charge for parking, then bus the visitors into Old Town. The grounds of the old hospital could be the drop-off and pick-up point.

Then the old hospital can be redeveloped with a facade that is no higher than the rest of the buildings in Old Town.

A structure can be created with a combination of

storefronts and residences, with underground parking for the retailers and people who would live there.

And, once again, keep as much of the original brickwork as possible, as well as the mature trees that ring the property right now.

Besides storefront, residences and parking amenities, it would be ideal to include the same health care options the NOTL community has right now in the old hospital: availability for lab and blood work, plus a walk-in medical clinic.

# Shaw Garden Tour is a meticulously planned late-summer dream

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Shaw Garden Tour isn't just a matter of finding nice gardens and bringing people in to ooh and ah. It's a comprehensive event that provides real, expert-reviewed information about plants and gardens.

And this year was a bit special, being the first time the tour has taken place at the end of the summer.

On Saturday, hundreds of people strolled through Niagara-on-the-Lake gardens, taking in some of the late summer plants.

Cheryl Morris, communications chair for the Shaw Guild, which puts on the event, said everyone was enthusiastic about the "fall" event, since there was uncertainty about hosting it in the summer due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and last year's event had to be cancelled.

"Gardens are still beautiful, a little different than in June," she said.

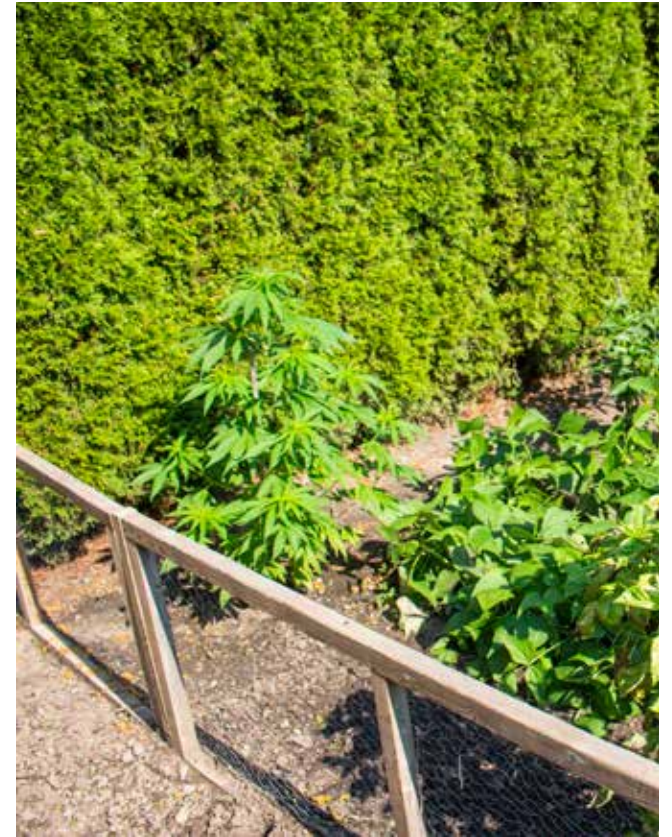
She said the guild sold more than 700 tickets to the tour.

Garden manager Nora Cassidy said she thinks the numbers show a lot of people missed the event last year and were itching to get back out.

"People are so thrilled this morning. They're just beside themselves with the garden tour and the sun-



Left: Carol Tuck-Riggs, co-ordinator of the garden experts from Master Gardeners Niagara, oversees things at 83 Gage St. on Saturday morning. Right: Some new plants are popping up on the tour, including a cannabis plant and some fall vegetables. RICHARD HARLEY



shine," she said.

Everyone who attended the event was asked to wear a mask while in the gardens. Morris said it was nice to hold it before provincial rules for vaccine mandates take effect, which likely would have caused some confusion.

Anyone who attended received a book listing all the plants along the tour, which are identified by experts from Master Gardeners Niagara.

"There's a lot (of plants), and they're identified by

stakes with the name of the plant on them," Morris said.

There was also a master gardener, or two, on-site at all of the gardens along the tour. "They're real experts, so they're great to be on our team."

Carol Tuck-Riggs, of Master Gardeners Niagara, was the co-ordinator of all the garden experts this year.

She said when the experts go through the gardens, they look for plants that are a bit more "rare" or special

to label. For the other more common plants, the on-site experts can tell people about them if they ask.

"We put the little labels on, as well as we put them in the brochure that the tour has," she said.

Some of the plants people have in the garden in the fall are perennials, like trees and bushes, which have different blooms and foliage in the fall than in June.

"For instance, chrysanthemums, which are normal plants, everybody

knows what they are, they would bloom now but wouldn't be blooming in the spring. Tulips and daffodils might still be blooming depending on temperature in June, but they're not here now. Roses, as well, coming a little bit better now. So it's a different foliage, a different bloom."

Tuck-Riggs spent the day travelling among gardens on the tour, making sure all the experts had what they needed.

"This is a beautiful tour, and the people are most

gracious in their homes in letting people come in," she said.

Morris also commended the 14 Shaw Guild volunteers it takes to arrange the event.

"They were all great. Everybody has their own area of expertise. Some people looked after sponsorship, the day-of logistics, which is quite extensive, especially with COVID, but other things too like all the kits for the gardens, that the people need. They did a great job."



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# NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

## A memorial to Canada's victims of 9/11 terror attacks

Elizabeth Masson  
Special to The Lake Report

Tucked away off Read Road on the western fringe of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the 9/11 Memorial Park, one of the only parks in the country dedicated to the Canadian victims of the terrorist attack in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

A St. Catharines man named Rudy Behring was the impetus behind the park's creation.

He was a rhododendron specialist who is credited with providing the rhododendrons for a garden on the Brock University campus and for establishing the rhododendron garden on the grounds of Happy Rolph's Bird Sanctuary in 1978.

In March 2002, he approached St. Catharines city council with the idea of turning the area of the bird sanctuary, which fronts on Lake Ontario, into a memorial to Canadian victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



Flowers adorn one of the park's memorial plaques, honouring Cynthia Connolly, of Montreal. ELIZABETH MASSON

On Feb. 24, 2003, council was informed Behring had already found numerous financial contributors to the project and it approved a design that called for a tree to be planted beside a brass plaque bearing each victim's name, age and a short account of where they were that day.

The park was dedicated on June 6, 2006, and a plaque beneath a flagpole where the Canadian flag is permanently at half-staff lists the many entities which contributed to its construction.

Among them are Al-goma Central, the Bank of Montreal, Bell Canada,

Enbridge, Fairview Mall, Mori Nurseries, as well as Rudy Behring.

Flanking the plaque are benches and behind it is a tree with the label "Tree of Peace." On either side of the gravel walkway are the 27 plaques and next to them are the trees, each labelled with its Latin name and its age when planted.

Three of the people commemorated were on airplanes that day. LeRoy Home was the co-pilot on United Airlines flight 93, which crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pa. Alex Filipou was on American Airlines flight 11, which hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center, while Garnet (Ace) Baley was on United Airlines flight 175, which crashed into the South Tower.

The plaques for Christine Egan, aged 55, and for her brother Michael, four years younger, are near each other on opposite sides of the walkway. Christine was visiting her brother, who worked

on the 100th floor of the South Tower.

Also near each other are plaques for Meredith Ewart, 29, born in Montreal, and her husband Peter Feidelberg, 34, also born in Montreal. They both worked on the 104th floor of the South Tower.

When I visited the 9/11 Memorial Park on a sunny day in September 2021, the sky was a crystal clear blue like that of Sept. 11, 2001.

People were sitting on the benches, basking in the sun, contemplating the beautiful view across Lake Ontario at the skyline of Toronto. Sailboats were sweeping by in the Port Weller Cove.

Family groups with children chattering were entering the park but as soon as their parents hushed them, they became quiet.

The school-age children showed off their prowess by slowly reading aloud the names and ages on the plaques to their younger siblings.

One plaque, honour-

ing Cynthia Connolly, who was born in Montreal and worked on the 104th floor of the South Tower, had a bouquet of flowers by it.

I cannot help but think that the families of the Canadians who lost their lives on that sad day are pleased that their loved ones have been remembered in a beautifully designed and well cared for park on the edge of Lake Ontario.

### HOW TO GET THERE:

Turn north off Lakeshore Road onto Read Road and park in the lot beside Happy Rolph's Animal Farm. Walk north along Read toward Lake Ontario. Read Road is the boundary between Niagara-on-the-Lake on your right and St. Catharines to your left.

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# NOTL Palliative Care raising money for **feel-good** medicine

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Bonnie Bagnulo, Trish Anthony and Courtney MacGregor of NOTL Palliative Care. The organization has been participating in the Healing Cycle Foundation's charity ride for nine years. A big fundraiser is planned in town on Saturday, Sept. 25. EVAN SAUNDERS

Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care will be raising money through the Healing Cycle Foundation to hire a registered massage therapist for palliative care patients, a first for the end-of-life care program and long-term care homes in NOTL, executive director Bonnie Bagnulo says.

And a group of local health care practitioners along with Lord Mayor Betty Disero and MPP Wayne Gates will be riding on the Pedal Pub to raise money for the organization.

On Sept. 25, the group will leave the Pedal Pub's headquarters at 319 Mary St. and go on a 10-kilometre route to raise awareness and money for palliative care.

Sharla-Rae Wiens of the Ukesters will be riding on the Pedal Pub and playing ukulele at the same time.

The mobile pub will be stopping at Upper Canada Lodge during the ride where the full Ukesters will put on a show for the residents, Bagnulo said in an interview Wednesday.

The Healing Cycle Foundation is a virtual non-profit volunteer-based organization in Ontario focused on raising funds to increase access to palliative care.

In the past, it has hosted a single-day ride in September to raise money for all palliative care centres in Ontario.

This year the ride will be virtual. Instead of focusing on a single day volunteers

are encouraged to ride throughout the month to raise money within their own municipalities.

Another change this year is that all the money raised within a municipality will go to the palliative care centres there.

Bagnulo is incredibly grateful for the community support the ride has received over the past nine years, she said.

"I'm glad this small town has this service and has supported this service the way they have," she said.

She expressed particular gratitude to fundraiser and cyclist extraordinaire Tim Taylor and his Santa for Palliative Care program.

"I mean, that man is a machine," she said.

"He's our gift, we are so blessed by him. He single-handedly puts in so many

kilometres and has raised so much money."

Taylor has been riding throughout September for the cause.

"He put us past \$5,000 in the first week of donating," Bagnulo said.

The local funds will help palliative care pay for a registered massage therapist wellness program.

Bagnulo said it will be "feel-good medicine."

Services like massage help to increase quality of life for patients in palliative care beyond standard medical treatments, she said.

"None of us are getting out of this alive. So, if we can make the end stages as best as humanly possible then we've provided something that could sometimes be even more valuable than medicine," she said.

Margaret Lambert, director of care at Upper Canada Lodge, told Bagnulo the service had never been available for residents before.

"If somebody ever wanted a massage they'd have to pay for it and get somebody private in," Bagnulo said.

She recalled when her father was in the hospital and how much it meant to

him to have her there, holding his hand and massaging his feet.

"It's so hard for me to do this through tears," she remembered thinking, "because these are feet that aren't going to be here forever."

"You see them take a deep breath and close their eyes and you know that you've brought some comfort to this life and that's all that matters," Bagnulo said.

Being able to provide that service to patients in palliative care thus has special significance for Bagnulo.

"I thought, 'Oh God, if I could just make this happen.' So, I couldn't be happier right now," she said.

Residents can donate with a cheque made out to the Healing Cycle Foundation but given to Bagnulo so they can be submitted with the NOTL package.

Cash donations can be brought to the Pedal Pub on Sept. 25, between 9 and 11 a.m.

Donations also can be made online directly to NOTL palliative care at <http://www.notlpc.com/>. Scroll down and click the "donate now" link.



The NOTL Museum is hosting a tea party Sept. 24. SOURCED/PIXABAY

## Museum tea party **raises a cup** to celebrate book on NOTL women who made their mark

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is hosting a festive tea party to celebrate its new publication, "Making Her Mark," which showcases the historical accomplishments of the women of NOTL.

The Friday, Sept. 24, event will include a presentation on some of the women highlighted in the book, tea, scones from McFarland House, and cookies from the Fort George Bill of Fare.

The tea party, under the tent in the museum's courtyard, is being organized

in partnership with the Friends of Fort George.

Cost is \$20 per person and two seatings are available, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Maximum capacity is 20 people for each time slot.

Call Fort George at 905-468-6621 or the museum at 905-468-3912 for a reservation.

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Please Note: COVID-19 Protocols will be in effect and should be followed by all attendants



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# Yamamotos win annual Matrimonial Cup

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

They faced pressure akin to playing the back nine of the Master's on a Sunday but 35 couples happily duelled it out in the Matrimonial Cup tournament at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

For the participants, Friday's competition was perhaps their toughest test on the links: The alternate shot format ensured that many of the partners got to play from parts of the course to which they'd never before ventured.

Women tend to hit the ball up the middle of the fairway, while gentlemen have been known to travel all over the acreage following their errant shots.

But it was all in fun (mostly) and despite the jokes about the "Divorce Cup" being the logical followup, everyone was still on speaking terms at the al fresco luncheon and trophy presentation near the 18th hole.

Cheryl and Robert Yamamoto were crowned the 2021 champions, combining



The Matrimonial Cup winners Cheryl and Robert Yamamoto, with Cal Cochrane, one of the organizers.

for a score of 90 and net of 67 – which gave them a three-shot victory over Janice and Jim McMacken.

Carolyn and Drew Porter were third with net 72, closely followed by Sue and David Gagne and Jennifer and Jim Meszaros (both 73).

The Yamamotos could also have won a prize for best decor, as their power cart was festooned with "Mrs. & Mrs." signage and

Cheryl sported a bridal veil and all-white attire. The groom was dashing in formal black from head to toe.

A second flight, for couples with one partner either a social member or without an official handicap, was won by Jo Holden and Rai Lauge (73). Runners-up were John and Michelle Scott, and Diana Dimmer and Sharmini Mahadevan,

and Sean and Stephanie Simpson (all net 75).

### WOMEN'S RESULTS:

Club champ Yolanda Henry had the best low gross in 18 hole women's league play last Tuesday. She shot 91.

Susan Gagne, Brenda Bell and Margot Richardson were next with 93.

Low net winner was Shelley Samson (70) followed by Bell (72) and Gagne (73). Gagne also finished with a birdie on #18.

### MEN'S RESULTS:

Kurt Hamm's 22 points were tops under the modified Stableford scoring system in men's league play last Thursday.

Hamm also scooped a \$65 gross skin with a birdie on the par-3 fourth hole.

Other top point-getters were David Jackson (21) and Peter Chilibeck, Ted Wiens, Ian Rutherford and John Gursky with 20 each.

Chilibeck also won \$200 for the lone net skin (#1).

Jim McMacken had the lowest gross score, a 1-under 35. He also won a \$65 gross skin for a birdie on #2. Closest to the pin winners were Paul Jacot (#4) and A.J. Harlund (#9).



The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. FILE PHOTO

# Pumphouse's 'Tailgate' features great treasures

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is hosting "Tailgate Treasures" on Saturday, Sept. 18, a fundraiser to support youth and seniors' programming.

It's free and will be held outdoors, rain or shine from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. COVID-19 protocols will be in place.

Deal-hunters can expect to find sports equipment, antiques, patio furniture, frames, art supplies, crafts, small kitchen appliances and more.

With more than 30 vendor spots allocated in the

facility's parking lot and lawn, some spaces are still available. A \$25 reservation fee gets a seller a spot with one table and one chair.

"With so much time spent in our homes this past year, I know many of us have decluttered," said arts centre director Rima Boles.

"Tailgate Treasures is the perfect opportunity to sell your pre-loved items or stuff you no longer need and support for a great cause."

She also invited vendors to donate some proceeds to the Pumphouse. All donations over \$25 receive a charitable tax receipt, she said.

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# Women spend countless hours on museum's **Poppy Project**

Jessica Maxwell  
The Lake Report

A group of Niagara-on-the-Lake volunteers known as "The Poppy Brigade" are working to create an art installation that will feature more than 2,000 knit and crocheted poppies.

The NOTL Museum was looking for a special way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and found inspiration from a nationwide "Poppy Project" featuring exterior poppy displays on museums across Canada.

The large art piece will be displayed outside the NOTL Museum from Nov. 1 to 12, and visitors are encouraged to come and visit the display created by members of the community.

"Every Wednesday morning, we have a workshop here. Everyone gets together to knit and crochet together," said museum office manager Barbara Worthy.

"The Poppy Brigade" includes more than 20 volunteers who have come



From left, Judy Thornton, Terry Mactaggart, Dee Steele and Nancy Macri work to fasten the handmade poppies to bird netting with zip ties. JESSICA MAXWELL PHOTOS

together to design, collaborate and create the tribute in honour of Remembrance Day and the poppy.

"Everyone's committed to making the design themselves," Worthy said.

"We all stood outside and looked up at the building, looked at the grounds and everyone had their idea. So, it wasn't just one person, it's a real community."

The design will feature

the handmade poppies attached to bird netting and draped from the top of the bell tower at the museum down toward the flagpole. There will also be a poppy garden with poppies attached to bamboo sticks.

The name for the group of volunteers was very intentional, picked to give a sense of nostalgia and "feeling of a mission to accomplish and be proud of," said Worthy.

The group of women gathering to put so much time into this tribute piece is reminiscent of what it must have been like in this community when they were knitting socks and they sent off those packages to the men fighting in the war, Worthy said.

"Socks were a big thing. We just don't realize how important that was to those boys. What it must have felt



Top: Margaret Teare checks a box of knit and crocheted poppies to remove any extra string. Bottom: The Poppy Brigade meets every Wednesday morning at the NOTL museum to collaborate on the project.

like, how much love, how much care would have gone into it," she said.

"It's just in honour of that and not to forget that we as a community

can work together even if we're in the depths of a pandemic. We can still find things to work together to make ourselves feel like a community."

# Fort George **Officers' Day** gives glimpse into lives of 1800s elite

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Fort George had a lot of different classes of people. Some were soldiers, some servants, while some were wealthy officers who enjoyed nights of music and food.

On Saturday, the historic site gave a bit of insight into what life was like for the wealthy elite at the time.

Peter Martin, special events co-ordinator for Parks Canada, said while this year's Officers' Day gathering was a bit smaller than usual — it was the first year back at the annual event in two summers due to COVID-19 — it was still filled with educational talks about life during the War of 1812.

Martin was dressed as a major in the 41st Regiment, which was stationed at Fort George.

To be a major, Martin said, people had to pay a hefty sum, sometimes thousands of pounds — and that's not adjusted for inflation.

So majors were from wealthy families and had been well-educated.

"They were always upper class. That ensured they could read, they could write, they've gone to school — because there was no public school system then. It was just, you want to go to school, you paid for it," he said.

"And once you got in, you had to pay for everything."

Most soldiers couldn't even write their own names, he said.

Others, like officers, sometimes were allowed to go to school as a part of their service.

Each officer had their own personal servant, called a batman, who would do various things such as help them dress in the morn-

ing, or set up dinner tables, with each plate having to be measured the exact distance from others.

Wealthy civilians often would attend the dinners as well.

"It was all very prim and proper to a certain degree," Martin said, adding the servants were paid and often treated quite well.

Martin sang the praises of the reenactors who help put the Fort George event together.

"Reenactors are wonderful people. They have a ton of passion for this," he said. "They have real jobs, this is what they love to do."

He said it's nice to be able to resume special events, which the fort normally puts on many times during the summer. He looks forward to more in the future.

"It's just a little bit of fun and something different for people to see."



Top: Reenactors gave musket demonstrations as part of the day. Left: A lecture on servants explained their roles at the fort. Right: Peter Martin, special events co-ordinator for Parks Canada, as a major in the 41st Regiment. RICHARD HARLEY



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
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# GAMES



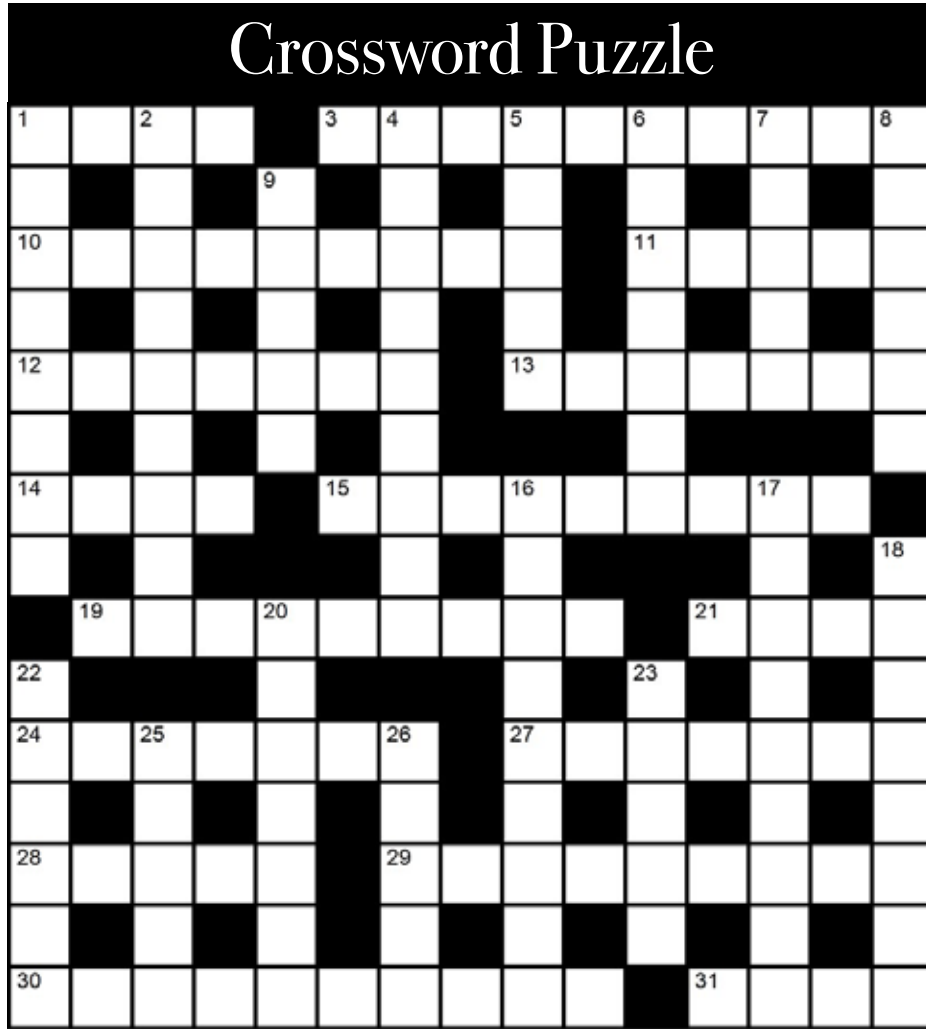
*Have some fun*

**Across**

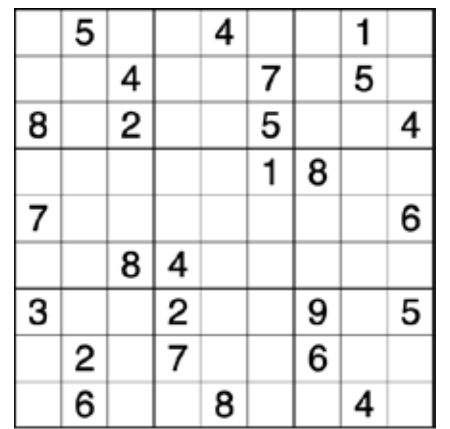
- 1. U S space group (1,1,1,1)
- 3. Court game (10)
- 10. Consequently (9)
- 11. Female sovereign (5)
- 12. Survive (7)
- 13. Bowling pin (7)
- 14. Skin eruption (4)
- 15. Pachyderms (9)
- 19. Sue (9)
- 21. German Mrs (4)
- 24. Passage (7)
- 27. Surrey commuter village (7)
- 28. Trembling poplar (5)
- 29. Mouth organ (9)
- 30. Science of numbers (10)
- 31. Undiluted (4)

**Down**

- 1. Belonging to a country (8)
- 2. Enticement (9)
- 4. Papal (9)
- 5. Leg joints (5)
- 6. Mexican liquor (7)
- 7. Proficient (5)
- 8. Beam over a door (6)
- 9. Started (5)
- 16. Medley (3-6)
- 17. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
- 18. Take away (8)
- 20. Squeeze together (7)
- 22. Las Vegas setting (6)
- 23. Racecourse (5)
- 25. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
- 26. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)



Last issue's answers



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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MARKET REPORT AUGUST 2021 RESIDENTIAL OVERVIEW

50

NUMBER OF NEW LISTINGS

38

NUMBER OF SALES

\$1,079,800

HPI BENCHMARK PRICE

27

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

Note: Number of sales represents sales reported for the month of August on or before 09/02/2021 as reported by the Niagara Association of Realtors



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# 3,300 butts picked up in blitz, so far



Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

A team of volunteers is conducting a “Butt Blitz” smoking litter cleanup during the month of September as noted in the last “Keeping it Green” column.

In the past two weeks, I have picked up more than 3,300 cigarette butts in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It feels great to remove these sources of microplastics and toxins from the environment. At the same time, it has really put into perspective the sheer scale of the cigarette litter problem.

So far, I have tried to do cleanups while I’m already



Cleanup kit. KYRA SIMONE

out around town, on walks with family or running errands. So, I still haven’t cleaned up some of the areas that I think would be true “hot spots” for cigarette litter, like parking lots in busy plazas.

That said, here are some cleanup tallies so far: Fort George parking lot (455 butts), Memorial Park lot (465), Shopper Drug Mart plaza (545), the Commons loop (450), Home Hardware

and LCBO (130), Old Lakeshore Road (710) and streets in the Village (515).

At the Shoppers plaza, there were many cigarette butts around one front picnic table and behind the restaurant. I also only spent 15 minutes at the Home Hardware and LCBO parking lots, so I intend to return for more thorough cleanups later.

On Garrison Village and the Village neighbourhood streets, most cigarette butts

were concentrated around construction sites. On the Commons, the largest number of butts were found along the gravel strip next to Paradise Grove.

There are about two more weeks left in the Butt Blitz. I’m excited to see the Niagara team’s results at the end of the month.

Once we’ve finished collecting this data on smoking litter hotspots in town, I will reach out to local businesses. Hopefully, they will be open to implementing signage and ashtrays for visitors and employees to put their waste in the right place, and maybe even go the extra step to recycle these cigarette butts.

*Kyra Simone is a NOTL-born nature lover with a master’s degree in biology. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up garbage, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.*

## Good clean fun planned for World Cleanup Day

This Saturday, Sept. 18 is World Cleanup Day and a community litter cleanup is the perfect way to enjoy some fresh air.

Volunteers are encouraged to take part in a “pick-me-up” along the Niagara Parkway on Saturday morning with members of the town’s environmental advisory committee.

For some good clean fun, head out to either the Brown’s Point or Smuggler’s Cove parking lots (15176 or 16001 Niagara River Parkway). The event will run from 9 to 11 a.m.

Of course, no one is expected to pick up anything that they are uncomfortable handling. Gloves will be provided, as well as bags for garbage and recycling. At cleanups, I often collect recyclables separately, like

pop bottles or takeout coffee lids.

To keep everyone safe, participants will stay at least two metres from anyone outside of their household and wear a facial covering if they cannot socially distance.

Because this is an environmental project, we encourage participants to carpool or walk, run or cycle to the event.

More information is on the event’s Facebook page, “Niagara Parkway Litter Cleanup.” If you plan on attending, please indicate that you are “Going” on the event page.

This cleanup is a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful path and greenspace by the Niagara River – and a sense of satisfaction is guaranteed.



## Food bank, Rotary team up for community porch donations

Staff  
The Lake Report

Newark Neighbours and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club are teaming up again for a porch pick-up food drive.

We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held last May – it was overwhelming. Thank you all very much.

After a successful food drive in May, “We’re asking for your support once again, this time to assist us in filling our Thanksgiving hampers for our clients,” said food bank manager Cindy Grant.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, teams of volunteers will pick up food dona-

tions between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Everyone will wear masks and gloves, and will respect all physical distancing restrictions, including contactless pick-up, Grant said.

To arrange a donation, call the food bank at 905-468-7498 or email newark-neighbours1@gmail.com to register your address for pick-up.

Items required for the Thanksgiving hampers include stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned ham, gravy, corn, green beans, fruit, peas, salmon, baked beans, chili, spaghetti or ravioli, oatmeal, granola bars, Kraft Dinner and Mr. Noodle, cookies ketchup and other condiments, paper towels and tissues.

## June’s Dream Team a tribute to friend

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Terry Fox Run has a special place in Donna Seymour’s heart.

She’s a two-time cancer survivor and runs every year in honour of her friend June Huyck, who died of ovarian cancer.

Over the years, the team, called June’s Dream Team, has raised about \$250,000 for cancer research.

Seymour said Huyck was a friend from school, who she ran into in 1993 during treatment for Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Seymour’s first bout with cancer.

“We hadn’t seen each other since high school. But we recognized each other right away and June was well into her treatment. And I was just starting mine,” Seymour said.

They decided they would get together when they felt up to it – and they did.

A year earlier, in 1992, fundraising organizations had established “dream teams” as a way to



Donna Seymour. RICHARD HARLEY

boost donations and each team had to raise at least \$1,000.

“June decided that she would do this. She had investigated cancer charities and decided that Terry Fox was the one because it had so little administration and other fees attached. Most of the money actually went to cancer research,” Seymour said.

“So, after we met in ‘93, I was able to support her with a donation. But at that point in time in my treatment I wasn’t able to walk. So in ‘94, I started walking. And

I’ve been walking every year since, even through my second cancer.”

June died in 1996 and Seymour has been helping to keep her dream team alive ever since.

“Prior to that, when she knew she wasn’t going to survive she asked me if I would keep the team going. And, of course, I said I would. So, at her funeral, her friend Nina (Ruza) spoke, and she said that the team was going to keep going. And we decided we would co-captain the team, which we have been doing

since 1996.”

These days Ruza isn’t able to join the walks because of her own health, but helps fundraise for the event.

“She’s still an amazing fundraiser,” Seymour said.

Last year because there was no community run due to the pandemic, the June’s Dream Team members who usually walk went to Seymour’s house, masked, for a walk there.

“I set up a walk around our home in Virgil, a five-kilometre walk – none of us run, we’re all getting a little old for running now. So we did our walk from here. And then we came back and had a little social time.”

This year will be similar, Seymour said, with a distanced walk for team members around her Virgil neighbourhood. So far Seymour said the team has raised \$10,000 and expects to raise more.

Anyone wishing to donate to June’s Dream Team can do so at [www.terryfox.ca/junesdreamteam](http://www.terryfox.ca/junesdreamteam).

# FISH FRY

## THURSDAYS

### FROM 4PM - 7PM

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# EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Black Swamp Road

This interesting photo illustrates how much our community has grown over the years. This Virgil photo is looking east down Field Road. The home at the end was known as the Field House (not to be confused with a home of the same name along the Parkway) and was built in 1886 by Jacob Murray Field on the Black Swamp Road (known as Niagara Stone Road today). The farm had livestock, nut trees, garden vegetables and fruit. Jacob Field was part of the township government and was known to deal with local disputes on the upper floor. If you were to look at this perspective today, the home, torn down around 2001, would be the Meridien Credit Union, and to the right would be the LCBO complex and Valu-mart. To the left would be the TD Bank and, of course, there are now several homes and a church along Field Road today.

### ARCHITEXT

## How we got here

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Towns evolve over time and their architecture (both residential and commercial) tends to reflect, in part, the cycles of changing economic conditions.

During boom periods, larger, more impressive buildings were constructed. But when the economy was in the doldrums, any build was simple, an existing building might be repurposed, or no construction at all was undertaken.

Then, there is the reality of changing tastes and the exercise of individual preferences. Dependent on the decade, two buildings of the same period in proximity to one another might be quite similar or of divergent appearance. Further, an older building in a style of its time, may be remodelled to reflect the “newest” trend in design.



A townhouse without its terrace. SUPPLIED

Finally, individual plans and circumstances could and often did change from one year to the next (and even more quickly in the unregulated economy of the 19th century).

This could, for example, result in the requirement to section and sell land upon which a larger building had been planned, forcing a smaller structure to be constructed or a shortage of money effectively could cause a shrink in the build, thereby leaving a small portion of the property undeveloped.

These relatively small gaps between two larger buildings would later be sold and more modest infills constructed in the space.

So, let’s take a quick walk

in Old Town to pick out a few scattered illustrations of some of these points. The building at 23-27 Queen Street (ca. 1895) and, of course, the Court House (ca. 1840) directly across the road represent good economic times.

Then, pop over to Prideaux between Regent and Victoria where you will find three brick Georgian homes of the early 1800s which are distinctly similar.

Both the Prince of Wales Hotel and Randwood got a full Second Empire remodel in the latter part of the 19th century to present those wonderful mansard roofs.

Ever wonder why the end parapet walls of the McDougal House at 165 Queen St. have no window openings?

Well, it was designed and constructed as the first Neo-classical townhouse in what was planned to be multi-unit terrace. A terrace that was never built.

But, returning to the “High Street” portion of Queen, one needs to ask just how many of those buildings and how much of the iconic streetscape presented are actual historic. In other words, did the street look like that in 1950 or 1900? The short answer is “Sort of.”

Nostalgia is something that small towns across North America have been addicted to for decades. This inclination coalesced into a movement during the 1970s with the objective of revitalizing the commercial viability of small-town main streets by developing a “tourist” economy utilizing existing historic buildings and augmenting those with structures of a nostalgic flavour as a platform for a c-ordinated set of leisure based businesses. And it worked.

Not a bad thing provided we recognize what it is and do not let the result override good architecture.

## Looking to the Stars



## New ideas can bring good fortune

Bill Auchterlonie  
Special to The Lake Report

This week we see Venus in difficulty, a full moon on Monday and the start of Libra on Tuesday.

Thursday, Sept. 16: In olden times, Jupiter was the god of all things good. Today, in astrology, he is the bearer of good fortune. On this Thursday (today) Jupiter is in Aquarius perfectly aligned with the sun in Virgo to make for stress. But this stress brings a gift that opens doors to better health. Henry Fonda was once married to a Canadian. Her name was Frances Ford Seymour. They had two children, Jane and Peter. While their marriage was difficult, it began with a wedding on Sept. 16, 1936.

Friday, Sept. 17: From today until Sept. 23, Venus gets entangled with Saturn and Uranus. This is a deja vu of the fixed T-square we had in July when Venus was in Leo. If back in July, Venus in Leo’s dramatic displays of emotions aired out the tension, Venus in Scorpio will deal with it (the tension) all by herself. Sometimes we need an implosion-like intensity to gain clarity on what really matters. On Sept. 17, 1937, famous Canadian economist John Kenneth Galbraith married Catherine Atwater. He went on to write several bestsellers on – economics and served in John F. Kennedy’s cabinet.

Saturday, Sept. 18: Sweet dreams can be somewhat disturbing, but by paying attention, new ideas bring good fortune. Happy birthday #45 to one of soccer’s all-time great players, the Brazilian phenom Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima, who like his Portuguese counterpart today was known simply as Ronaldo.

Sunday, Sept. 19: With the moon in Pisces on the day before the full moon, we enjoy deep feelings connecting to our creative and imaginative selves. It’s a fine day for making things. The “Raging Bull,” middle-heavyweight boxer Jake LaMotta, the inspiration behind

Martin Scorsese’s film died Sept. 19, 2017.

Monday, Sept. 20: Today, we have a full moon in Pisces conjunct with Neptune and opposite Mars. The full moon in Pisces will aim to reconcile the complementary energies of the two signs on the axis, i.e., the “floating in space,” otherworldliness of the moon/ Neptune in Pisces, with the “let’s do it, let’s do it now, let’s get it done” sun/Mars in Virgo. Today, “The Flower,” Guy Lafleur, turns 70. He scored 50 goals and 100 points in six consecutive seasons.

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Sometimes impulsive behaviour is surprising and fun. Not today. It’s a good day to stop and pause, then act. Were he still here, brilliant poet and musician, Leonard Cohen, would be 87 today. His recording career began with “Suzanne” and endured for 50+ years, including his beautiful anthem, “Hallelujah.”

Wednesday, Sept. 22: Today the Sun enters Libra and we have the Autumn Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the Spring Equinox in the Southern Hemisphere. No matter where you live on Earth, the day is equal to the night. Equality is a key Libra word. We can find equality, balance and peace (Libra’s highest goals) when we begin to love (not only to accept) personal differences. When we see others, not as a reflection of ourselves, but as individuals in their own right. In Libra, it will just come easier than usual to open up to other people, put the “we” before “me”, and reach Win-Win outcomes. New York Yankee great, Yogi Berra, passed to spirit on Sept. 22, 2015. He was famous for malapropisms like: “I didn’t really say everything I said.”

Next week, among other things, Mercury goes retrograde.

Please check out the brand new website [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca) as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my free horoscope with interpretation emailed to you.

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*



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## Obituaries

### Catherine Edwards



#### CATHERINE EDWARDS

It is with deep sorrow but gratitude for a long life well-lived, that we announce the passing of our mother, Catherine Irene Edwards (nee Duggan), on September 4th, 2021, at St. Davids in her 86th year. She will be lovingly remembered by her beloved husband of 66 years, Marvin Edwards, by her children: Mark Edwards (Wendy), Pam Edwards (Bruce), Kevin Edwards (Lorraine), Paula Wilson (Rob), Pandora Marsh (Brad), and grandchildren Spencer Edwards, Tamara Edwards, Connor Marsh, Logan Marsh, and Cooper Marsh. She will also be missed by

her brother Greg Duggan, and sister Theresa Crosgrey.

Catherine was born and raised in St. Catharines. She lived in Winnipeg for a short period of time before returning to Niagara to finish her schooling. She met her husband, Marvin at the Garden City Arena and never looked back. Catherine persevered throughout the years packing up the children with pets in tow, to wherever her husband was playing hockey. The family moved 32 times while following his hockey career. Dad has always said "Catherine was the BEST COACH I ever had"!

Catherine was instrumental in starting several chapters of the Red Hat Society, enjoying many outings up until recently. The family is very grateful for their support over these last few days, also to their friends and residents of Creekside Estates.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to Essentials Cremation and Burial Services (905-354-2133). As per her wishes cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Donations to Juravinski Cancer Centre or the Alzheimer Society of Niagara in remembrance of Catherine would be appreciated. Online condolences may be made on Catherine's tribute page found at EssentialsNiagara.com.

### Maria Van Leeuwen



VAN LEEUWEN, Maria (Mary) Theresia Van Leeuwen passed away peacefully in Hospital, on September 8th, 2021 in her 85th year. Predeceased by her husband Andrew Van Leeuwen (2013). Devoted mother of Wendy Oickle (Wayne), Sandra McDougall (Luc), Audrey Barclay (Todd), Kevin Van Leeuwen (Donna). Loving Grandmother to Chantal (Paul), Brandon (Ashley), Ian (Tasha), Bruce (Stephanie), Sarah, Matthew, and Dylan. Loving sister of Jack DeVreede (Rita), Jan (Janny), Corrie (Hans), Joop (Toos), Kees (Gerda), Bert (Gerda), Hans (Els), and Sjanette (Piet). Mary grew up in the Netherlands in Den Hoorn near Delft and lived through WWII as a young child. She loved gymnastics coaching children for many years and was very involved with the Girl Guide organization while in Holland. She followed her older brother to Canada, marrying Andrew in Holland and emigrating in 1963. They lived in several places until they settled on Charlotte Street where she lived for over 50 years.

Mary dedicated her time to raising her four children and taking care of the household. She also made time to participate and volunteer with the Catholic Women's League including helping organize the annual Dutch Dances at the Parish Hall. She also continued to work with Guiding in Canada and was the Brown Owl of the 24th Niagara Brownies for several years. Mary enjoyed vacationing with family and friends at Sherston Beach on Lake Erie where they owned a trailer for many years. Mary was an active and competitive card player right up until her passing. She played Klaverjas for many years with the Pioneers Card Club and also enjoyed playing Bridge with several groups. Mary also enjoyed her 30+ years working as an usher at the Shaw Festival. Many thanks to the PSWs at Radiant Care Pleasant Manor, Arbour View who helped her to be more comfortable in these past months. Also, thanks to the LHIN and Palliative Care team for all their support these past few weeks.

Visitation was held at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Sunday, September 12th from 11:30am-1:30pm. Funeral service followed at the funeral home at 2 o'clock. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Niagara Health Foundation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com).



## Growing Together: September a busy time for harvesting vegetables



Joanne Young  
Special to The Lake Report

I just love this time of year! There is less humidity, lower temperatures and fresher air.

There are also many chores in the garden to get done. September can be a busy time in the garden for harvesting vegetables, with many crops just reaching their peak in the coming weeks. Here are just a few of the vegetables that are commonly harvested in September and October and how best to tackle it.

#### Spanish Onions

The proper time to har-



Squash. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

vest Spanish onions is after the leaves turn yellow and the stems bend over. I am reminded of my childhood when helping out in my Grandpa's garden and our family's large vegetable garden.

We were often asked to walk down the rows of onions, and using our feet, we would go along and bend over the onion leaves. I never understood at that

time why we did this, but now, knowing the science behind how plants function, it all makes sense.

When the leaves of the onions are still green, all the food that the plants have created from the sunlight during the summer months is still in the leaves. When the leaves begin to yellow, this is the time that the stored food in the leaves begins to travel down into

the bulb. This means that by waiting for the leaves to yellow, you will have larger, and more solid onions.

Carefully lift the bulbs out of the soil using a garden fork, and leave them to dry in a warm, dry spot for two weeks before storing them in a cool, dry location such as a cold cellar.

#### Potatoes

This year seemed to be a bumper year for potatoes. If you still have potatoes left on the plants that haven't ripened up yet, it is best to remove some of the leaves so that the sunlight can hit the fruit and help them ripen quicker. If your potatoes haven't ripened by the first frost, you can pick them green and place them in a warm spot out of direct sunlight and they will slowly ripen.

#### Potatoes

Potatoes can be ready to

harvest anytime from late August into October. To know when your crop is ready, wait until the foliage starts to turn yellow and wither. It is then that the tubers will be full-grown. Carefully dig them using a garden fork, trying not to damage the potatoes. Potatoes that are nicked and bruised before storing will not store well, so make sure that you use those ones first. Once dug, remove as much dirt as possible and leave to dry for a few hours before storing in a cool (5-10 Celsius), dark place over winter. A cold cellar is an ideal place.

#### Squash and Pumpkins

Winter squash, such as butternut, spaghetti and acorn squash, can taste bland and watery and will not store well unless you allow them to fully ripen on the vines. It is best to

wait until the plants die back and the shells become hard. If the plants receive a light frost, this can improve the flavour of the squash because it will turn some of the starch into sugars. This is also true for pumpkins. Store in a cool place.

#### Cabbage and Cauliflower

When the cabbage heads are firm, take a sharp knife and cut the stalk just below the head. Fresh cabbage always has the best flavour, but late season varieties will keep well in a moist, cool place (like the refrigerator) for five or six months. When harvesting cauliflower, cut just below the heads but include the first couple of whorled leaves to help protect the florets.

Happy harvesting!

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).



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