

The Lake Report

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Hovercraft piece of bigger plan | Page 16

Vol. 5, Issue 39

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

September 29, 2022



NOTL steps up for Newark Neighbours food drive

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake really stepped up on Saturday for the Newark Neighbours Porch Pick-up Food Drive.

“Last weekend, I was concerned ... because we only had 14 addresses” donating food, Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant said Saturday.

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NOTL hikers complete challenging trek through Swiss Alps

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Three Niagara-on-the-Lake hikers overcame extreme altitude, vertical climbs and even illness to traverse the famed Haute Route through the Swiss Alps in “epic” trip of a lifetime.

Margaret Northfield has had the Haute Route hike in her sights since 2016, when she first experienced hiking in the European Alps on the Tour du Mont Blanc.

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Candidates discuss top issues

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s incumbent lord mayor was critical of her two opponents during their first head-to-head encounter Tuesday night at the Royal

ELECTION '22

Canadian Legion, a meeting that focused on issues and candidate platforms.

Incumbent Lord Mayor Betty Disero questioned entrepreneur Vaughn Goettler’s contention that the town

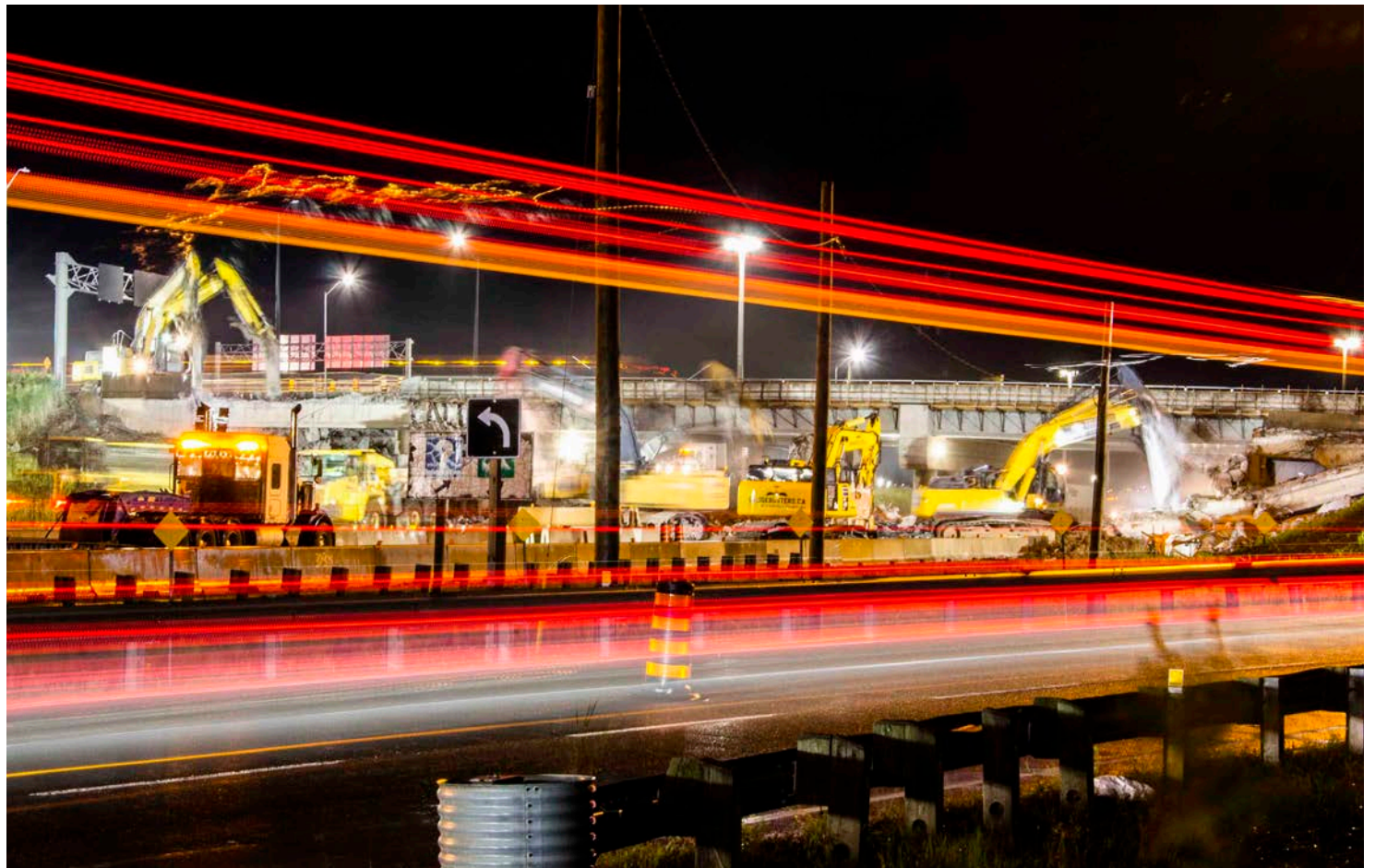
should be run like a business and contended that she seldom saw regional Coun. Gary Zalepa at regional development meetings.

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Mayoral candidates Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa answer questions at the Legion Tuesday.

Glendale interchange now open



Construction crews work Monday night to tear down the old Glendale overpass now that the new diverging diamond interchange is open. This long exposure shot captures the light of vehicles taking the off-ramp to go around the construction, which caused a big traffic back up. On York Road, vehicles and transport trucks were lined up from the highway to past the Husky truck stop. RICHARD HARLEY

St. Davids teacher faces discipline for using offensive handout

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The District School Board of Niagara is in the hot seat after a kindergarten teacher from St. Davids Public School shared a racist handout with her students.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Tracee Smith discovered the offensive handout

crumpled up in her four-year-old son Ekkian’s backpack when he came home from school on Monday, Sept. 19.

“You go through a little bit of emotions very quickly,” Smith said.

At first she rolled her eyes and then she wanted to throw up her hands.

“Like, this is for real?” she said.

The handout portrayed

stereotypically drawn Indigenous children and was titled “Two Little Indians are eating ice cream.”

The goal of the activity was to identify the letter “I” in each scoop of ice cream.

Smith is Oji-Cree and a member of the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

She is also the founder of a youth outreach program called Outside Looking In,

which encourages Indigenous students to stay in school by allowing them to participate in a dance program for high school credit.

“I know, in my work, teachers don’t get enough exposure to Indigenous issues,” she said in an interview.

She said she understands that people make mistakes, but the teacher presumably photocopied the paper almost

25 times, read it with her students and still didn’t realize how racist the handout was.

“It never should have happened in the first place,” said Karl Dockstader, director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre.

Dockstader was shocked because “That school is a five-minute drive from the Native

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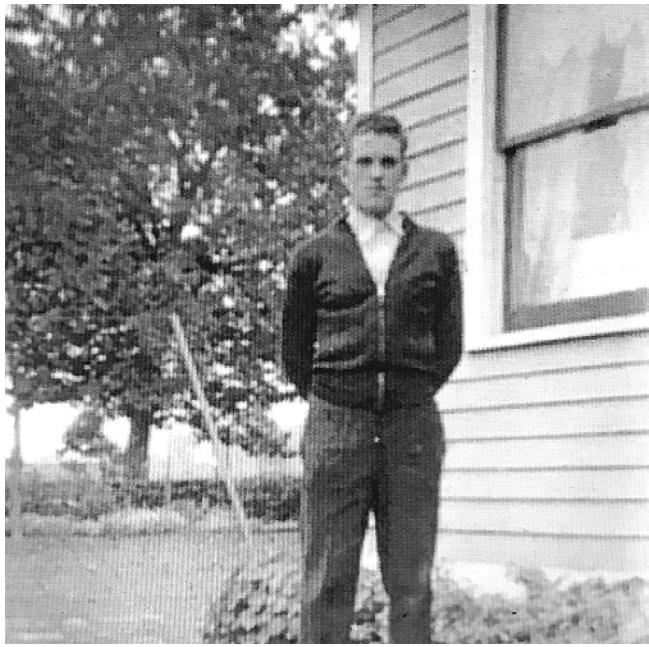
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Left: William Wraith Jr. was killed by German artillery fire on Sept. 4, 1944. CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL
 Right: Troop vehicles on the road near Misano, Italy. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA



Community rallies for Newark food bank

Continued from Front Page

In the days leading up to the porch pick-ups, her phone was on fire, she said. She's also received a lot of emails.

"We're up to around 115 addresses as of this morning," she said on Saturday.

By the end of the day, teams of NOTL Rotary Club volunteers had picked up donations from 117 homes.

Last year the food drive had contributions from 120 addresses.

The volunteers at Newark Neighbours were busy bees as they unloaded donations from vehicles and sorted through everything.

Each non-perishable would go into a specific tray, which was then brought to its proper shelving space inside.

"The response now is really good, and we're getting Thanksgiving (donations) but also stuff for our shelves, which is wonderful," said Mariitta Maavara, a volunteer with Newark Neighbours.

When Rotary Club members Bill Charnetski and his wife Emily arrived at the food bank from their pick-up in Garrison Village, their car almost overflowed with donations.

"These guys do amazing work. Absolutely amazing work," said Emily, referring to the volunteers.

A few of the houses in Garrison Village consolidated their donations, making it easier to collect them, said Emily.

"We had 10 stops, but we certainly covered more than that area," she said.

With the donations Newark received, the volunteers will be building about 60 Thanksgiving hampers

for Niagara-on-the-Lake families.

"We received more than enough for our Thanksgiving hampers plus our food room shelves are now full to bursting," Grant said in an email to The Lake Report.

The hampers will be filled with donated non-perishables, plus either a fresh turkey or ham, a five-pound bag of potatoes, onions and carrots and a fresh baked pie, said Grant.

The pies, which are also donated, are delivered to the families still warm from the oven.

"They get everything they need for a full holiday dinner," she said.

After Thanksgiving, the next big holiday to prepare for is Christmas.

"We'll see how much we get today. Because the Christmas hamper is very much the same as the Thanksgiving hamper. Except that we do Christmas presents and gifts for children," said Grant.

Christmas is a special time and the volunteers like to make it special for families.

"Thanksgiving, you know, we make sure that they've got food for a holiday meal. But at Christmas, we just go overboard," said Grant.

Newark Neighbours also closes for about two weeks around Christmas, so the agency gives families not only their holiday meal but their regular two-week supply, too.

"Christmas and Thanksgiving, as always, traditionally occur close together. So, yet again, we're going to have to come back out to the community (for donations)," said Grant.

"I know they won't fail us."



Volunteers help sort the donations. SOMER SLOBODIAN

THE MONUMENTS MEN

William Wraith, his son and the NOTL cenotaph

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

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

It was a clear, warm day in June 1922, when Lt. -Gov. Henry Cockshutt unveiled the memorial clock tower cenotaph on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The monument was built to commemorate the men from the town who had made the supreme sacrifice for King and Canada in the First World War.

Prominent among those participating in the ceremony were many veterans of the First World War. Some were missing arms or legs, or bore scars from serious wounds suffered in France or Belgium.

The cenotaph was rededicated in 1947 to honour 19

men who had given their lives in the Second World War.

A century ago, among those veterans who stood at attention as the clock tower was unveiled was William Wraith.

He was born in Yorkshire in 1884 and immigrated just before the First World War broke out. He was married, with a daughter born in February 1915, but nonetheless enlisted for active service in December of that year.

As a soldier of the 58th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, he was seriously wounded on Jan. 2, 1917. A shell explosion drove shrapnel into his right arm and right knee.

His kneecap was destroyed and surgically removed. The wound came close to killing Wraith and only chance kept his name off the cenotaph.

And yet, on the list of the local men killed in the wars is the name William Wraith.

On Aug. 12, 1922, two months after the cenotaph was unveiled, William and Mabel Wraith had a son, whom they named William.

Young William attended school in Niagara and when the Second World War broke out in 1939, he got a job as a civilian employee at Camp Niagara.

William Wraith followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Ontario

Regiment, or 11th (Reserve) Army Tank Regiment in Toronto on Aug. 18, 1941, just after his 19th birthday.

Trooper Wraith was sent to Camp Borden on Oct. 30 for tank training. He immediately got into trouble. Between Nov. 6 and 13, he was AWOL, "absent without leave," and was fined six days' pay and confined to barracks for two weeks.

In January 1942 he was again AWOL and this time given 168 hours detention and a loss of 11 days' pay. He did it again in February. He seems to have been a free soul with little regard for army routine and rules.

Wraith was shipped to England in June 1942 and again was penalized for being AWOL several times, overstaying his leave in some cases and seemingly simply absenting himself from his base without permission in other cases.

Wraith remained in England training and was transferred to the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, a reconnaissance regiment equipped with light tanks. In June 1943 he boarded ship in England and was sent to the Mediterranean, where the invasion of Sicily and then Italy was taking place.

On arrival in the Mediterranean, he was assigned to the Canadian Armoured Corps Reserve Unit until

being taken on again by the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards.

He fought with this regiment before he became ill and was hospitalized from March 28 to April 30, 1944, and again from June 23 to July 5. He was assigned to the Canadian Base Reinforcement Depot on discharge from hospital.

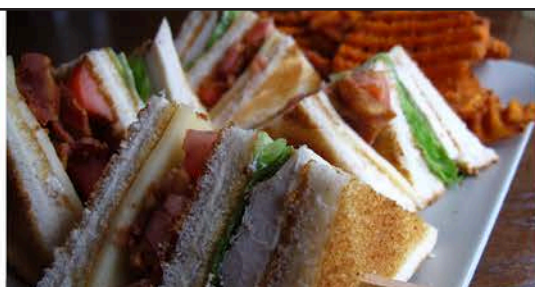
Wraith's last transfer was on July 22, this time to the 1st Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish.

In early September, the Lanark and Renfrew Regiment was advancing with the Canadian Army toward German defensive positions near Misano, Italy, part of the German Gothic Line, a 300-kilometre long, 16-kilometre wall of fortifications and artillery positions.

On Sept. 4, the regiment was consolidating its position while under sporadic German artillery fire. One officer and two gunners were killed that day. William Wraith was one of the men killed.

It is not known if William Wraith, the First World War wounded veteran, attended the rededication of the cenotaph in 1947, nor if he ever saw his son William's name engraved on the monument. He died in 1954.

His namesake lies buried at the war cemetery in Gradara, Italy.



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NOTL wears orange for survivors and victims of residential schools

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Phyllis Webstad (middle) stands with Jamie Consoli (Indigenous counsellor), Leah Hogan (associate director of Indigenous education), Aria D'alimonte (Indigenous education) and Deane McGeen (Indigenous education). SUPPLIED

Niagara-on-the-Lake will be a touch more orange this Friday for National Truth and Reconciliation Day as groups across town show their colours to raise awareness of the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

NOTL schools, the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Niagara Parks are among those working this week to raise awareness about the history of residential schools.

The founder of Orange Shirt Day, Phyllis Webstad, is staying in Niagara for two weeks and is scheduled to make a few stops across the region to share her story before returning to British Columbia.

With her remaining time, Webstad will be the guest of honour at the Niagara Regional Native Centre's eighth annual Powwow on Saturday, Oct. 1, and a speaker at Niagara Parks Power Station Plaza on Sept. 30 for National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

"We felt that we were responsible, as per the one dish one spoon agreement, to be welcoming as a territory," said Karl Dockstader, the director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Dockstader, paraphrasing Webstad, told The Lake Report that September was selected for Orange Shirt Day because people in her community used to cry that month because they were so afraid for their children.

"The visual sea of orange that we'll see in our territory" is very important, he said. "It means a lot."

The Niagara Parks Power Station will be hosting a concert Thursday at 6 p.m. Webstad will be speaking briefly there as well.

The concert, Treaty: A Reconciliation Revelry, has been directed and written by Tim Johnson, director of the Indigenous education initiative for Landscape of Nations 360°.

The performance will explore the contributions

of Indigenous people to Canada and their struggle to be recognized for those contributions.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day will kick off Friday at 7 a.m. with a sunrise ceremony at Niagara Parks Power Station.

Webstad and many other survivors being hosted by friendship centres across Niagara will be sharing their stories after the ceremony.

In the evening, the Horseshoe Falls will be lit orange every 15 minutes in memory of the almost 150,000 children and families affected by residential schools.

Drummers and singers from the Niagara Regional Native Centre will be present throughout the evening.

Brian Kon, Indigenous education lead for the Niagara Catholic District School Board, is one of many making events like these possible.

He recalled the first year the falls were turned orange in honour of residential school survivors and victims.

"At that moment, everybody stopped," Kon told The Lake Report at the Celebration of Nations earlier this month.

Kon's photos of the falls were shared over 10,000 times. This was also how he met Webstad.

Speaking at Niagara College's NOTL campus on Sept. 22, Webstad explained how Orange Shirt Day came to be.

A teacher stole an orange shirt from her when she was six years old and attending St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C.

Webstad was given no explanation for the theft and the emotional trauma of it was ignored.

"They didn't listen. This was the beginning of that feeling like I didn't matter," Webstad said.

That incident also inspired the slogan of the movement, "Every Child Matters."

The college also has established a new scholarship program in Webstad's name.

The new program recognizes the unprecedented work Webstad has done to raise awareness about residential schools.

"It was education that got us into this mess and education will get us out of it," Webstad said, paraphrasing former senator Murray Sinclair, who chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The college has raised \$41,000 for the scholarship so far, doubling its initial goal of \$20,000.

At NOTL schools, students and teachers will wear orange in the classrooms this Friday while learning about Indigenous culture and the impact of residential schools.

At St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, Moses Lunham from the Anishnabek First Nation in Kettle and Stony Point, Ipperwash will be teaching virtual art lessons to students.

"We are honoured that he will be providing separate lessons for both our primary and junior/intermediate students," said principal Emma Fara Massi.

The school's Grade 5 students will also get the chance to learn in an "Open Circle of Learning."

The students will sit fac-

ing each other in a communal circle as they learn about the oral storytelling traditions and communal learning in Indigenous communities.

Crossroads Public School has plans to integrate truth and reconciliation into the curriculum, but is trying to avoid making National Truth and Reconciliation Day a one-off event.

Students will still be wearing orange and their lessons will be centred around the theme of clean drinking water, an important issue on many reserves.

"I am reticent to do it on a large scale because I would prefer to ensure that we're being mindful of the students," principal Kate Fish said in an interview.

"We need to do it carefully and sensitively. And in order to do that, I feel like there needs to be dialogue," she added.

Crossroads acknowledges the land each morning with its students as part of its commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action.

At St. David's Public School, students will be focusing on "recognition and reflection," principal Carl Glauser told The Lake Report.

Each student will be cutting out an orange hand and writing something they learned on it. At the end of the day the orange hands will be added to the school's "Every Child Matters Tree."

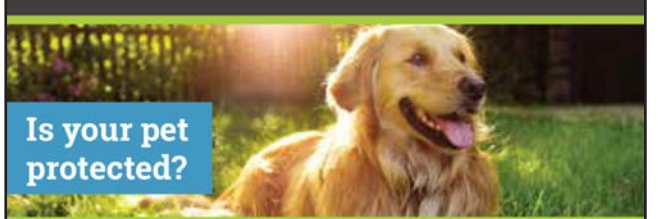
"Students and staff will be wearing something orange on this day to recognize the harm that the residential school system did to Indigenous children," Glauser added.

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Left: Betty Disero. Middle: Vaughn Goettler. Right: Gary Zalepa. The three mayoral candidates answered questions from residents and media during a meeting at the NOTL Legion on Tuesday. While it wasn't a traditional debate, candidates talked about their top election issues. Below: Joe Accardo hosts the question period. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

Mayoral candidates focused on **development, tourism and future**

Continued from Front Page

But that was the extent of the fireworks at the Meet & Greet mediated by Joe Accardo from FocusNOTL, as candidates answered a handful of questions submitted by the public.

The Glendale Niagara District Plan and expected huge growth in that community needs careful attention, Zalepa told the forum.

Council will need to figure out what the buildings will look like, what the height of the buildings will be and where the housing is. All of that will determine what the density is going to be in that area, he said.

"And if we do not get that right, then we're going to see pressure on the other villages in our town," he added.

Disero said the town is already "keeping a watchful eye that (it) is not overdeveloped, but it is developed in such a way that people can easily enjoy living and working in that area."

And Goettler admitted that as a political newcomer he's not well-versed in Glendale's issues but noted he has talked to many residents about development.

"I think we do need contextual development (in different neighbourhoods). There is a great concern that I think a lot of the old residents are expressing," he said.

Residents are worried that some see Glendale as a dumping ground for densification, he said.

Accardo noted that town residents now pay taxes to support about \$1 million in tourism operating costs and questioned how the candidates would spend the expected \$1 million in municipal accommodation tax revenue in 2023.

When the tax was implemented in July, Disero said the town would use half the money for municipal infrastructure repairs and the rest would go to tourism marketing.

Goettler described the tax as a "mixed bag."

"The question for me is whether it really should be in place," he said.

If so, he wondered if it should be in the hands of the government or handled by industry stakeholders, such as restaurants and hotels.

He described the government as a "black hole" into where money goes and it's hard to account for where it winds up, he said.

"With respect to tourism, I would have the hotels administer (the tax), and have to report to us what they're doing, but at least have them administer it," he said.

He doesn't see it as a tourist-friendly tax, he added.

Zalepa is supportive of the tax and isn't looking to pull it back.

"I just think what they've done wrong is they got the process wrong," he said.

Two things came to mind for Zalepa regarding the issue: what the government will do with any excess

money from the levy and he said the town needs to sit down with the stakeholders and get them more engaged.

Collecting the money without a plan in place is not the way to go, he said. Working on the governance and the criteria should be done first.

When Accardo asked about moving to a ward system from the present at-large election format, Goettler said when he first declared his candidacy, he was against implementing a ward system.

But, after speaking to more residents, especially in the farming community, his opinion shifted.

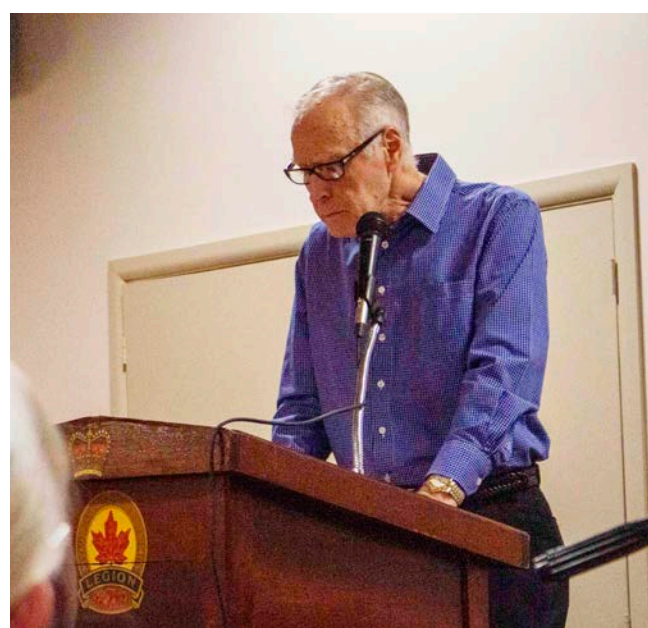
"I have moved to where I actually think now that a ward system would be very beneficial for our community," he said.

For example, with many councillors residents of Old Town, the other communities, like Virgil, need someone from their area to represent local interests.

Zalepa said he's not looking to move away from the current system but is open to learning and understanding how a ward system could benefit the community.

"I am worried about voter engagement (and) voter turnout," he said.

"I would be open to having a properly reviewed process that's well-informed, so that council can take a look at it, debate it, discuss it, and perhaps put it out to the community for their thoughts and feedback," he



added.

Disero said there's no doubt in her mind it would be more efficient and effective if someone knew exactly who the councillor for their area was.

However, she's worried about accountability and that councillors would only focus on how to please the residents they're representing and not be concerned about issues in the other communities.

If elected, she would like to work on designating council members to focus on specific areas.

"But having people not be accountable to everyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it worries me," she said.

For the last question of the night, Accardo asked the candidates how they would address developmental issues.

"I really strongly believe that we have not taken the opportunity to really tighten

the development guidelines for our community," said Zalepa.

He said that when he was still on town council in 2014, the town had prepared a process for the official plan, saying it would get started and done by the next term.

But that still hasn't happened, he noted.

Zalepa called the town's guidelines "wimpy" and said they need to be more specific.

"But we really need to set these guidelines and get closer to what developers need to bring to the table," he said.

While Goettler agreed with a lot of what Zalepa said, he wants to switch up the whole game, he said.

"I think that we need to have a delegation go to the provincial government led by the lord mayor," he said.

Adding that he wants to make the case that NOTL is

a special and unique town, and should be exempt from some provincial densification requirements.

He does, however, think NOTL can become a UNESCO heritage-designated community.

Disero was the last candidate to speak and used it to again criticize her opponents' stances.

"I want to tell my colleague, Coun. Zalepa, that in fact, you can't just come up with design guidelines and say, 'This is going to be good.' There are laws that we have to follow," she added.

Touching on Goettler's UNESCO comment, she reminded him that in 2017, the town tried to obtain the designation.

"So yeah, in about the next 18 to 20 years, we can go back and ask for UNESCO designation. There are rules that we have to follow," she said.

There are timelines that are not available to the town, she added.

• FocusNOTL will be hosting more sessions at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall. Next up, on Oct. 5, are council candidates Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis, Richard Mell and Nick Ruller. People can email questions to Accardo at notelection2022@cogeco.ca.

• Read more on the mayoral candidates meeting at NiagaraNow.com.

• Watch a YouTube video of Tuesday's meeting at youtu.be/3fkyK6iLMts.



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Indigenous motorcycle ride ends in NOTL

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Sovereign Motorcycle Club was at Queenston Memorial Park Saturday afternoon at the end of a long ride from Ohsweken on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nations reserve.

The motorcycle club from Six Nations has a history of charity, previously coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake to raise money and awareness for survivors of residential schools.

“We wanted to align our ride as close as we could to Orange Shirt Day,” club president Mike Player said.

Last weekend the Unity Ride was raising money for the Mohawk Village Memorial Park, a restoration project seeking to convert part of the old grounds of Brantford’s Mohawk Institute into a park to commemorate the survivors and victims of residential schools

Sovereign is a young club, only around for two years, but it already has made an impact.

Player estimated the club has raised about \$10,000 for the Mohawk Village Memorial Park with this ride alone.

He thinks they may change the date next year, though, as the weather was unexpectedly cold Saturday afternoon in Queenston Park.



President of Sovereign Motorcycle Club, Mike Player was at Queenston Heights after a long charity ride from Six Nations. EVAN LOREE

Last year, the club raised about \$3,800 for the Save The Evidence campaign put on by the Woodland Cultural Centre.

The memorial park project is sometimes mistakenly affiliated with the Woodland centre, but they are different entities, Mohawk Village board chair Roberta Hill told The Lake Report in an email.

Player said the restoration of the park has played second fiddle to the restoration of the residential school building and while it’s under construction, the park can’t move forward.

The grounds of the Mohawk Institute are also being inspected for the

remains of children who died there.

Player gets choked up talking about it.

“It hits close to home,” Player said.

“These are our grandparents or great-grandparents that suffered through this.”

The Ironworkers and the Canadian Association of Veterans motorcycle clubs also had members at the event.

Paul Kernen, president of the Upper Canada chapter of the veterans club, said the members of Sovereign have been instrumental in teaching them about the history and legacy of residential schools.

“Many of us weren’t aware until a couple years

ago when it started coming out,” he said in an interview.

“We ride together and we have a great time together. And people get educated.”

While Kernen still feels Canada is “the best country in the world,” he is troubled by this chapter of Canada’s history.

“I’m having trouble wrapping my head around the country that I’ve served in – the country that I’ve protected – but did this to our own Indigenous people,” he said.

After almost a year, the grounds of the old Mohawk Institute are still being investigated.

“The survivors know what they’re going to find,” Player said.

Mother concerned teachers need more training

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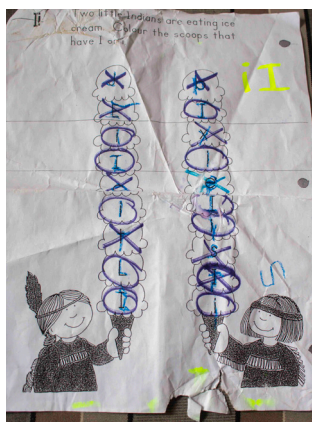
Centre,” and has access to resources.

“I’m sure I’ll be the only parent that brings this up, but I wish I wasn’t,” Smith said.

The handout was not an approved part of the school curriculum and was brought in as supplementary material by the teacher.

“Teachers have the professional judgment to bring in learning resources into their classroom,” the board’s communications co-ordinator Kim Sweeney told The Lake Report.

Georgie Groat, the leader of Indigenous education for the District School Board of Niagara, said many educa-



Left: The handout given to students. EVAN LOREE

tors “are doing some really fantastic things,” but it will “(take) time to filter down to all teachers.”

Smith was worried that it was “clearly not trickling down to the teachers.”

She was less interested in seeing her son’s teacher punished and instead wants the affair to be a learning opportunity.

“What are you going to do to support (the teacher) so that she doesn’t need to get disciplined again,” Smith asked.

Groat said the board provides personal and professional development sessions and courses for teachers, including one on teaching First Nation, Inuit and Metis children.

This course is always full, and always on a waiting list, he said.

“Staff at St. Davids will receive professional development that will focus on decolonizing their practice,” said Sweeney.

The training will help to “shed light” on implicit biases, stereotypes and Indigenous issues, she said.

Dockstader said the Indigenous education team in Niagara is “small” and can’t get into the “hundreds of schools” to help support the “thousands of students in the region.”

He agrees with the need for mandatory training in Indigenous education and said, “If you’re going to be teaching in a classroom, then you need to have exhaustive Indigenous sensitivity.”

Sweeney would not disclose the disciplinary procedures the teacher is facing, but she has been absent from school since Wednesday.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR DARTNERS!

The NOTL Dart League is looking for **teams or individual players** to join our fun organization! Currently a multi-team beer league, we've been playing darts Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at various NOTL venues since the mid-1980s.

Must live or work in NOTL to join. Cost of membership is \$20 per player and includes an end of year banquet and awards. All extra funds raised go to community needs and support. **Starts Oct. 18.**

Contact Geoff at 289-213-9308 or our **Niagara-on-the-Lake Dart League Facebook page.**

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 63
Region active cases: 720
Region deaths: 614
Region total cases: 46,114

**Sept. 28 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"What do happy people have in common? They appreciate what they have."
 - Chris Woodward

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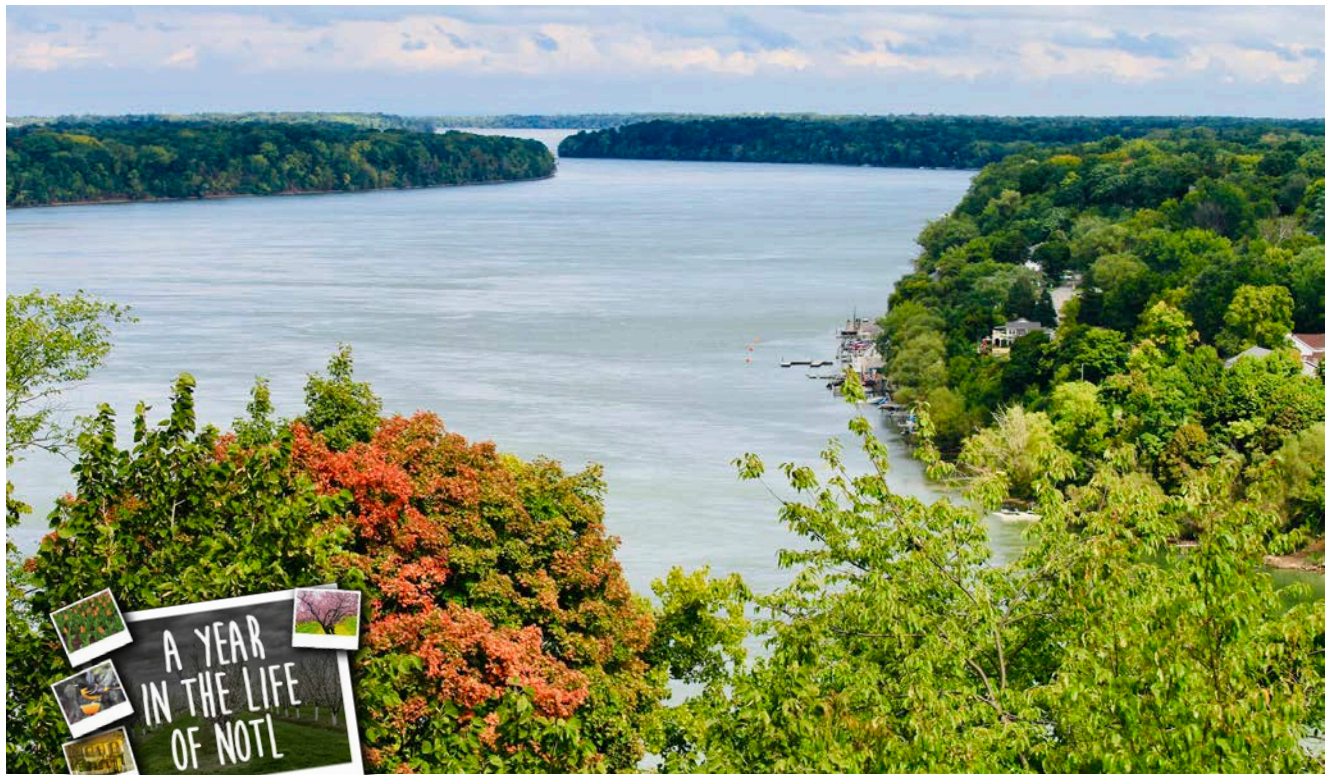
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Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Here come the colours



Linda Hardaker captured this photo of leaves starting to change to colour along the Niagara River on Tuesday.

Editorial

The community delivers, again

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Build it and they will come.

Ask for it and they will deliver.

A week ago, desperate to fill empty and near-empty shelves in time for Thanksgiving, we wrote about how the Newark Neighbours Food Bank needed the community to step up and help.

They asked for help and the community delivered.

It was crucial that the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake come together quickly to help restock the shelves at the town's food

bank.

Literally, there was only about 48 hours between the time of Newark Neighbours' published plea and the planned Porch Pick-up Food Drive that was led by volunteers from the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We told you that helping out was essential so that the food bank's volunteers would have time to assemble dozens of Thanksgiving food hampers to be distributed to needy families around town on Thursday, Oct. 6.

As a community you listened, you acted and you came through. Again.

We had no doubt you would, but as everyone knows, a lot is asked of people in the community when it comes to helping others.

We're proud of how the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake came together in such a big way.

As Cindy Grant, the chair of Newark Neighbours, says in our news story this week, the next big food drive for the organization is not far off. Christmas is coming.

"Christmas and Thanksgiving, as always, traditionally occur close together," she said.

"So, yet again, we're go-

ing to have to come back out to the community (for donations)."

"I know they won't fail us."

She's right. You've shown that again and again.

Learn more about how you can volunteer at Newark Neighbours or make a monetary donation (always welcome) or help with a future food drive.

Contact them by calling 905-468-7498 or emailing newarkneighbours1@gmail.com. And see the agency's website, newarkneighbours.ca, for more information.

editor@niagaranow.com

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 or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.

Have an opinion you want heard?



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Election issues are **mounting** in St. Davids

Dear editor:

Virgil resident James Webber, in his letter addressing the need for a ward system for our municipal elections (“Anti-ward argument shows why wards are needed,”) closed by offering his support to the “woman from St. Davids” running for council in the Oct. 24 election.

Thank you Mr. Webber for sharing your views and for this endorsement.

My name is Adriana Cater Vizzari and I look forward

to representing you and all of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a member of town council.

Slowly but steadily the issues continue to mount in St. Davids. Being reactive rather than creating a long-term plan by listening to the residents is not an effective strategy.

The roundabout, pool, no parking signs and now the safety bollards on Four Mile Creek Road are some top election concerns, most unresolved from the last election.

No matter where you stand on these topics it is clear St. Davids needs a strong voice on council this term.

NOTL is an incredibly desirable place to live and I am grateful to be raising my family here. With its desirability comes growth and change, and our town’s council must reflect that.

The areas surrounding Old Town have exploded in recent years. We are no longer just a retirement community; young families

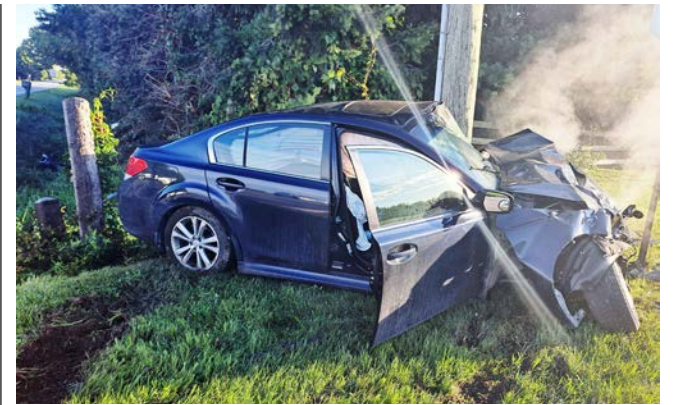
are pouring in.

The growth and development in St. Davids alone is astonishing and there’s no end in sight.

With all that’s happening it’s imperative that St. Davids be represented on council. And this doesn’t mean I care less about issues outside of St. Davids. Far from it.

But I want to ensure that the St. Davids perspective is accounted for.

*Adriana Cater Vizzari
St. Davids*



A Sept. 13 crash at Line 5 and Concession 2. SUPPLIED

Stop signs not enough at **dangerous** rural intersections

Dear editor:

On the bright sunny morning of Sept. 13 at about 8 a.m. while driving to work, I needed to lower my visor due to the bright rising sun obstructing my view.

I was eastbound on Line 5 coming up to Concession 2.

When I stopped at the intersection, to my shock and horror, I was the second person at a crash scene where someone had driven the same route moments before me but obviously did not see the stop sign at the intersection.

They drove full speed across Concession 2, T-boning a northbound vehicle.

The homeowner at the corner was already on the scene checking on the two drivers.

One driver was standing beside the road and appeared fine but the other was painfully crawling out of his overturned vehicle.

There was debris strewn all over the road. I quickly called 911 and stayed to warn oncoming traffic to slow down. I remained there until the police and paramedics arrived.

Concession 2 is busy in the morning and is a popular a shortcut between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

I stood on the edge of the road and waved my arms at passing cars, hoping to warn on-coming traffic to slow down.

I almost become a victim as well as a young woman completely ignored my warning and drove full speed through the debris, sending pieces flying in all directions.

I had stepped way back and was lucky to not have been hit by anything. I can’t be sympathetic if her car sustained some damage.

My husband and I have lived in the area all of our lives and know the dangers of speeding cars on the concessions and people not stopping at the crossroads.

We have lost a best friend and an extended family member this way. Before it was a four-way stop, I was T-boned at Creek Road and Line 3 by a driver who drove through the Line 3 stop sign.

Fortunately, we were not seriously hurt but our vehicle was a write-off.

I have witnessed cars driving right through these rural stop signs and luckily not hit anyone – but wonder if they were even aware of what they just did?

When driving on any of the concessions and even Creek Road, I always slow down and watch for other cars when nearing an intersection, wondering if those cars will stop.

I advocate and suggest that on each crossroad we need to:

Install larger stop signs with flashing red lights.

Add four-way stops.

Add rumble strips to warn drivers they are approaching a stop sign.

I know I have read about these suggestions in newspapers many times before and with more traffic due to increases in population, wine-tasting tourists and bike riders can we revisit the problem and make it a municipal election issue?

*Karen Ediger
NOTL*

Yes, short-term rentals need to be **controlled**

Dear editor:

In principle, I am in favour of short-term rentals.

We ran one a year back. Done properly, they don’t offend a sense of community and they can actually help those budget-conscious families who want to visit our wonderful community. Done properly.

Nevertheless, the readers who supported and wrote last week’s Lake Report advertisement “short-term rentals

are destroying communities” deserve an audience.

They do have legitimate complaints. Rentals should not trump the enjoyable lifestyle of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents. Ever.

I do presently have the unfortunate experience of being adjacent to the more ugly side of the industry.

This would be the short-term rentals that cater to large groups of people ... and have a pool. The pool is the

killer.

Those short-term rentals become short-term resorts cater to partiers and multiple families for reunions and celebrations — much the same way you would at Great Wolf Lodge ... only a lot more cheaply.

We have one of these behind our backyard and this summer was one long outdoor party. We have been unable to enjoy our backyard patio and have been forced

to leave our premises or hide inside.

This is not how I wanted to “enjoy” my retirement. This is just wrong.

And we have no real recourse. This short-term rental owner sits in Mississauga, collecting his money from the multiple NOTL rentals he owns while we, the actual neighbourhood residents, suffer.

*Murray Weaver
Old Town*

Marotta defender **ignores** basic facts in conflict

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to Sil Ranucci’s letter in your Sept 22 edition, “Town leaders give in to SORE tactics.”

Mr. Ranucci discloses his conflict of interest as a consultant for the Marotta group and then goes on to say that he “finds SORE’s tactics terrifying.”

With respect, if he or anyone else really wants to be terrified, they should read the “Benny Marotta media archive” section of the SORE website.

There you will find numerous stories from various media sources concerning the past exploits of Mr. Marotta and his associates. Mr. Ranucci should acquaint himself with that history.

Mr. Ranucci also refers to “the town’s expensive legal battles with the Marotta family.”

He appears not to understand some basic facts. All of the “legal battles” to which he refers have been

initiated by the Marotta group, not the town:

An appeal to the Conservation Review Board of the previous council’s decision to designate the Rand Estate under the Heritage Act.

An application to the Superior Court to declare that council decision illegal.

An appeal from an unfavourable decision of the Superior Court to the Ontario Court of Appeal.

An appeal to Local Planning Appeal Tribunal seeking approval of the Marotta convention centre on the front half of the Rand Estate.

An appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal seeking approval of a high-density subdivision on the back half of the Rand Estate.

This is apparently the way Mr. Marotta operates: using the legal system to try to bully small municipalities into submission.

Mr. Ranucci would apparently prefer council just roll over when Mr. Marotta

sends his lawyers in.

He also fails to mention that the Marotta group had to pay the town and SORE legal costs of almost \$200,000 when the spurious court challenge to the legality of the previous council’s heritage designation decision was finally abandoned.

The sole exception is the prosecution initiated by the town under the Heritage Act for the outrageous clear-cutting on the back half of the Rand Estate right after the last municipal election and before the current council was seated.

The town alleges in that prosecution that landscape features designed by the renowned Dunington Grubb firm on the Randwood Estate were illegally destroyed.

Mr. Ranucci would evidently prefer the town turn a blind eye to such wanton and deliberate conduct.

And even here, he fails to mention the Marotta

Lolita Hale knows NOTL.

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Columnist offers insightful view on approach to development

Dear editor:
I seldom write letters to the editor, however I could not resist complimenting Arch-i-Text columnist Brian Marshall on his insightful and practical application of development, "Breaking a development paradigm: We need to trade 'developer models' for community designs that worked in past"

We all know it is required and it was refreshing to see someone with a forward-looking solution, while basing it on practical, historic concepts.
As someone once said: "...not so much bound by tradition as inspired by it."
Donald Ziraldo
NOTL

Brian Marshall
Columnist

As we move toward the municipal election in October, some of the candidate platforms include short forms and abbreviations that leave folks scratching their heads while trying to figure out just what is being referred to.

So, this week I thought it might be worthwhile to provide some context for a few of these terms.

Let's start off with "OLT," the abbreviation commonly used for the Ontario Land Tribunal.

This tribunal was established by government legislation in 2021 with a mandate to "fairly, effectively and efficiently resolve disputes related to land use planning, environmental and natural features and heritage protection, land valuation, land compensation, municipal finance, and related other matters as authorized by statute and regulation."

In short, and keeping within the primary focus of this column, the Ontario Land Tribunal serves to adjudicate in cases where there is a dispute (impasse) between a municipality and the owner of a property with respect to intended or planned use of that property.

This can be as simple as a municipal decision to deny a permit for an addition on a house to, at the other extreme, denying a proposed plan of development for a subdivision. Typically, the property owner/developer will choose to appeal the municipal decision to the tribunal.

While the tribunal is purported to be fair and

Just what is that?

Abbreviations and jargon of development process



This build is sadly out of place in the neighbourhood. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL.

impartial, its track record indicates that governmental policy exerts a massive influence on proceedings.

To date in 2022, of 178 decisions rendered by the Ontario Land Tribunal, 172 (or 97 per cent) have been found in favour of the property developers. Clearly, this lopsided record is more than indicative of where the bias lies.

Another contraction, CPPS, stands for Community Planning Permit System. This system can have a major impact on how citizens are able to intervene in development decisions in specifically defined areas of their municipalities.

A municipality that uses a Community Planning Permit System can pre-approve development in a whole district by passing a single bylaw that lays out not just the land use, height and density that will be accepted, but also zoning and site plan requirements such as landscaping, parking and exterior design.

As well, it can mandate conditions of development such as affordable housing requirements and other community-based facilities.

In a district subject to a Community Planning Permit bylaw (which must be passed by council), the normal consultation process on development is suspended.

This means developers do not have to go through

a rezoning application on each parcel, provided the development proposed is consistent with the official plan and the CPP bylaw for that area the application cannot be turned down by the municipality.

Conversely, a developer cannot apply to amend a CPP bylaw for two years and even then it would have to review the entire bylaw and not just its own site.

So, how does this impact any public consultation vis-à-vis development?

Well, there isn't any during the application process. Once the official plan policies and Community Planning Permit bylaw are adopted for a specified district, it is assumed that the citizens have been consulted on and agreed to the common community vision up front (prior to official plan policies and CPP bylaw being passed).

There is typically a process of notification to the citizenry of the applications made and in process, but that is pretty much it.

And keep in mind that the outcome of an application in a Community Planning Permit area is not appealable by citizens to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (a part of the OLT) if that application is approved by the municipality. Conversely, a developer can appeal should the application be turned down.

All that said, on the face of it, a Community Planning Permit System should introduce significant efficiencies and predictability into a municipality's permitting system while ensuring a reasonable level of contextually appropriate development.

But, like anything else, the quality of the upfront work (criteria, guidelines, etc.) that is incorporated within the Community Planning Permit will determine the level of its success.

Now, contextual zoning is not an abbreviation, but rather a label referring to a methodology that generally regulates the height, placement and scale of new buildings so they fit the character of the streetscape and neighbourhood in which they will be located.

For example, the height of a new building would typically be the average derived from the heights of abutting houses. Any variance from this average would be limited to the maximum and minimum heights of abutting houses.

Note that in jurisdictions where contextual zoning has worked successfully the data development costs have been shared between government and land owner, with the resultant information being archived for future use.

Hope this helps as you listen to the electoral candidates.

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St. Davids bike bollards **do not** make cycling safer

Dear editor:

On Sept. 11, just three days after installation of the new bike lane bollards on Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids, I did a count of detectable “hits” on the plastic barriers.

I counted 25 hits on separate bollards and many had been struck multiple times.

The first bollard on the northbound side was already tilted off centre by five to 10 degrees from multiple strikes and two weeks later it is now more like 15 to 20 degrees off centre.

Based on the current evidence it has clearly been hit hard many times.

The volume of large trucks/trailers travelling this road is high, meaning a collision due to lane restrictions for opposing traffic now seems inevitable.

School buses have been observed randomly stopping just to allow opposing traffic to pass safely. This road is just too narrow to sacrifice shoulder width for an unsafe bike lane.

On Sept. 26 I measured the width of the bike lane to see how it stacks up against the published regional bike



Left: Vehicles have been hitting the new bike bollards in St. Davids. DOW WRIGHT Right: Vehicles have little room to pass.



lane (desired) standard of about five to six feet (1.5 to 1.8 metres). The results: This paved bike lane is not even close to being near the standards.

On the northbound side, beyond the 10 to 11 foot (3 to 3.3m) wide segment in front of Creekside Senior Estates the bike lane rapidly narrows to an average of 3.5 to 4.5 feet (1.1 to 1.3m). And it gets worse: one spot is just under three feet (0.9m) wide.

On the southbound side

there are similar, although slightly less dramatic variances. The north end generally ranges between 3.75 to 4.5 feet (1.1 to 1.3m).

There is a slight bump-out near Petrullo’s Market to 10.5 feet (3.2m) and then it quickly narrows back to roughly four feet (1.2m) for the duration to the south end at Creekside Senior Estates.

Excluding the two wide sections, which are not representative, the average width of the bike lane

is far below the expected standard.

As an avid cyclist, I appreciate the sentiment of improving conditions for bike safety.

This is especially concerning in light of the tragedy this week in Niagara Falls, in which NOTL resident Keith Simmonds, general manager of Great Wolf Lodge, killed while cycling on the Niagara Parkway.

However, within the new bike lane I feel less safe than ever.

Now a rider is faced with having to slalom along a crumbling asphalt shoulder that drops as much as seven inches into potholes while also avoiding gravel piles and now having significantly less room to manoeuvre.

On a mountain bike with wide knobby tires you have a chance. On a road bike with skinny tires you constantly risk being dumped in the blink of an eye.

Very little of the roadway from Mountain Road to York Road, in its cur-

rent configuration, will even allow for a true bike lane. Very little of this trial bike lane is even remotely close to the regional standards.

What is the point of a mere 500-metre unsafe section of bike lane? Perhaps the main purpose of the trial is not bike safety, but speed control, which has been an ongoing battle on this section of the road for several years.

Maybe this is a “political offering” – convenient during an election.

Hopefully, following removal of the bollards in the late fall, like most political promises, this trial bike lane will disappear into the abyss never to again raise its ugly head (and I do mean ugly).

A few well-placed speed bumps would be safer, cheaper, more effective and far better looking.

Anyone wishing to provide feedback on the bollards is encouraged to view the Region of Niagara’s website under Bicycle Bollards Pilot Project- Niagara Region, Ontario.

Dow Wright
St. Davids



Let’s talk facts about Niagara-on-the-Lake!

Planning and Development:

The vision we approve today, determines what is built tomorrow.

Our vision, our mission, our goal... is to protect both our natural and built form heritage, maintain the village feel in each of our settlement areas and protect our vibrant farmlands. Here are the tools we will use to do that:

1. We are very close to completing our vision on the **New Official Plan**. We have resolved the environmental versus agriculture mapping for our farming community and the regional government has agreed that local government will have more control over the amount of density within each of the settlement areas, so we will be able to shift densities for sensitive areas.
2. We have started a review of our **zoning bylaw**, or “building law”, including: expanded Heritage areas and neighbourhood character studies, streetscapes, size and compatibility of neighbourhood blocks, future institutional requirements, and better compatibility within neighbourhoods. We will also be introducing secondary suites which are apartments in existing homes that will allow us to increase housing stock within existing homes.
3. This Council approved the **Glendale District Plan**. This is an exciting area that will be built out over the next 10 to 20 years for residents, employment, green spaces and services. In collaboration with the community, we will be starting the next phase of the planning process.
4. Council started a process to determine what should be built on the **old hospital site**. It is a significant piece of land and will have a great impact for and in our community. We will be engaging with the community on the proposals.
5. The Tourism Master Plan is long overdue. We need to better manage tourism and build the infrastructure necessary to ease the impact on residents, particularly traffic and parking. We started this work about a year ago, however in the meantime, I was pleased to join forces with Hoverlink in their new venture of creating an eco-friendly cross-lake commuter service. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove thousands of cars from major highways.

Finances:

We are in better shape now than when we started:

1. Increased the Capital Reserve Fund from approx. \$24.7 mil in 2017 to approx. \$26 mil in 2020; it sits at approx. \$27 mil today. The Capital Reserve Fund helps protect the taxpayers of Niagara-on-the-Lake from unforeseen expenses in the future.
2. Created new revenue streams through increased grant applications (\$3.5 mil received in 2022) and the introduction of a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT). MAT will contribute 2 per cent of accommodation costs in 2022 and will add 3 per cent in 2024 and 4 per cent in 2025 to the town revenues. This will generate savings for taxpayers. Overnight stays will be contributing to required capital costs. TO DO next term: Complete implementation.
3. Required business cases from all 4 departments for all new Capital and Operating requests for any expenditures over \$50,000; purchased new budgeting software for \$60,000 which allowed Council to see trends in spending by department. TO DO next term: get to zero based budget.
4. Froze all Operations Department fleet purchases over the last two years until a Needs Review is completed. Utilizing a Provincial Grant, this Council reviewed all departments for process and savings. TO DO next term: continue to revise performance indicators for service improvement.
5. The town’s total legal expenses are approximately one percent of our total budget but the town has been awarded costs by the courts on both major cases thus far. TO DO next term: Remain determined to defend town against overdevelopment.

Together we are on a good path. Continue on this journey with me. I am asking for your support on October 24th. I will continue to be your full-time Lord Mayor!



www.bettydisero.com paid for by the campaign to re-elect Betty Disero 2022

Effective Honest Leadership



Willowbank school celebrates 15 years

John Scott
Special to The Lake Report

Queenston's Willowbank School of Restoration Arts last week celebrated 15 years of providing excellence in education to those studying heritage restoration.

The school's board, staff and students held a reception Sept. 21 to mark the occasion.

As the only school of its kind in Canada, Willowbank offers hands-on experiential learning in restoration disciplines.

One of its most compelling aspects is the gradual restoration of the historic Willowbank mansion through its use as a "living lab."

Graduates of the program have moved on to successful careers in various aspects of heritage restoration. In fact, a number of grads are working now on the restoration of the Parliament Buildings.

Earlier this year, following a tour of Willowbank, renowned Niagara-on-the-



Willowbank chair Patrick Little, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Willowbank benefactor and director Victoria Broer, artist Marilyn Cochrane and vice-chair John Scott with Cochrane's painting of Willowbank. MACKENZIE CAMPBELL

Lake artist Marilyn Cochrane offered to develop a painting of the mansion highlighting its 200-year history.

After immersing herself in the Willowbank archives, Cochrane worked through the summer and emerged with an exceptional impression of the mansion and its living history.

In her remarks at the reception, she underscored how she had been "captivated" by Willowbank and

all that it represents.

Her stunning work was presented to Victoria Broer, who represents the Bright-Urban family on the board of directors and whose family foundation facilitated the original purchase of the estate and has continued to provide operational support.

In accepting the painting, Broer noted, "This is an incredible piece of work and my family is honoured to have played a role in Willowbank," adding that "this

amazing work belongs here at the mansion."

As a result of her generosity, Willowbank visitors will be able to enjoy the painting as it will be prominently displayed in the Bright Parlour.

The first and only full-sized print of Cochrane's work was presented to Dr. Elizabeth Oliver-Malone, who has been steadfast in her volunteer and financial support of Willowbank since its origin.

A NOTL resident, Oliver-Malone still serves as the archivist and librarian for the facility. She remarked that it was the pleasure of her and her late husband to assist in assisting with both the school and the preservation of the mansion.

The final word goes to Cochrane, who remarked that she is "honoured to be a part of Willowbank."

And, indeed Marilyn, we are honoured to have you.

John Scott is vice-chair of the Willowbank board of directors.

New NOTL medical centre could be open by Christmas

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake council narrowly avoided a potential four-month delay in the completion of the new medical centre on Garrison Drive by giving the clinic's parking lot the stamp of approval.

The medical centre, behind the Shoppers Drug Mart plaza, is nearly completed but it needed approval for its parking lot as soon as possible so the doctors can move in by Christmas.

Project developer John Hawley appeared before the committee of the whole to seek approval of the site plan for the complex's parking lot.

Hawley's request to approve the site plan was a late addition to council's agenda and needed an immediate OK to avoid further delays.

If council had not approved the plan, the decision



Developer John Hawley. EVAN LOREE

would have fallen to the new council, which takes office in mid-November.

"The building's almost ready. We just need the parking lot," Hawley said.

The plan for the development needs approval from council so the builders can hook up sewer and storm-water systems.

The medical centre was originally scheduled to open this spring, but supply chain issues caused by COVID-19 delayed the project, Hawley told council.

Council voted unanimously to approve the site plan.

Right time. Right choice.



VOTE
Vaughn
Lord Mayor
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Our CORE values inspire us to be EXTRAORDINARY: Compassion in Action, Driven by Optimism, Achieving Ambitious Results.

Niagara Health is a multi-site organization comprised of five sites and a growing network of community-based services, serving 450,000 residents across the 12 municipalities making up the Regional Municipality of Niagara. The team is made up of more than 7,300 employees, physicians and volunteers. Niagara Health provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services, including Acute Care, Cancer Care, Cardiac Care, Complex Care, Emergency and Urgent Care, Kidney Care, Long-Term Care, Mental Health and Addictions, Stroke Care and Surgical Care.

Niagara Health's Accreditation with Exemplary Standing is a clear demonstration of the team's commitment to the highest safety and quality standards. As a community-based academic centre, teaching and learning, research, innovation, and partnership are propelling Niagara Health towards imagining a healthier Niagara. Our strong partnerships with the Niagara - Ontario Health Team - Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara (NOHT-ESON), Hotel Dieu Shaver, Brock University, McMaster University, Niagara College and many others, will help us transform healthcare and work to improve the health of our community through patient-centred, innovative and sustainable health care. A new hospital build, the South Niagara Site, is a significant priority over the next five years.

Niagara Health's Board of Directors is expanding to enhance the overall skills and experience of the Board and to promote effective succession planning. We are recruiting new Board Directors who have demonstrated executive leadership and governance experience, and a commitment to our Vision, Purpose, and Values to join us in 2022-23 and beyond.

The Board is interested in hearing from leaders with any of the following experience profiles, and especially those with board experience:

- Legal
- Construction and Project Management
- IT and Cyber
- Finance, Audit and Risk

Niagara Health is participating in the federal government's 50 - 30 Challenge to increase diversity in positions of influence and leadership across our organization. We welcome applicants from equity-deserving groups including: women, racialized persons including Black Canadians, people who identify as gender or sexually diverse, persons living with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. Ideal candidates would be members of the Niagara community.

For a detailed Board Director recruitment profile and to submit your expression of interest by Friday, Oct. 28, please visit NiagaraHealth.on.ca/BoardRecruitment

www.niagarahealth.on.ca



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Heritage Trail Fun Run & Dog Walk raises more than **\$7,000**

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Runners kicked the dust up on Saturday morning for the Heritage Trail Fun Run & Dog Walk.

Starting from Veterans Memorial Park, it was the first of what is planned to be an annual fundraiser.

Originally, it was supposed to be held in 2020, but was postponed until now due to the pandemic.

"It's nice that we can put this on and then, hopefully next year, we'll just do it again," said volunteer Laura Fakla.

Twenty-nine runners and walkers began their five-kilometre run at 8 a.m. As they disappeared in the distance, dog walkers checked in for registration.

If there's something every dog loves, it's going for a walk.

As other dogs arrived, the canines' excitement grew, with tails wagging in every direction.



Left: Joy Janzen holds her medal up high as she crosses the finish line. She was the first female to finish the race. Right: Toby is one of 22 dogs who participated in the Heritage Trail Fun Run & Dog Walk. He walked two kilometres with his owners and received a medal after he crossed the finish line at around 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. SOMER SLOBODIAN



"Well, I think we're expecting almost as many dog walkers as runners," said Tony Chisholm, the vice-chair of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee.

In total, 20 dog walkers and about 22 dogs took part in the two-kilometre walk.

As the clock ticked closer to 8:30 a.m., cheering could be heard at the finish line as the first runner approached. Steve DeBoer, wearing number eight, was the first to finish the race.

Rick Meloen, the chair of the heritage trail committee,

said they were prepared for 200 people.

"For whatever reason, we're not getting quite that many. But that's OK. We're gonna have fun," he said.

It's important to raise awareness so that more people know about the trail, said Meloen.

"You've got to do it, right, otherwise it just disappears," said volunteer Paul O'Connor.

All the money raised goes toward phase two of the restoration of the 10-kilometre trail. Between sponsors and participants, more than

\$7,000 was raised.

Phase one was completed in 2021 and cost about \$150,000. It restored 1.5 kilometres of the trail between John Street and East and West Line.

The second phase will cost about \$160,000 and restore the trail from East and West Line to Line 3.

"We're hoping to start work on that within a year or so," said Chisholm.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sesquicentennial Committee chose the rehabilitation of the heritage trail as its Legacy Project in 2017.

In 2019, a committee of the town – the heritage trail committee – was formed to help restore the trail through fundraising and boosting awareness.

The committee is applying for government grants and will continue to seek more trailblazers.

"A trailblazer is a person who contributes at least \$100. And then their name appears on a brass plaque that's actually mounted at that entrance," Chisholm said.

The group also is going to continue with personal fundraising to help with the cost of phase two.

"We're working on it bit by bit," said Chisholm.

The restored section of the trail is already well used, he said. All of the feedback has been extremely positive.

Last year, the committee planted about 50 trees along the pathway.

"And we will continue to do this as we head up along Concession 1 all the way

to York Road and to join on eventually to the Bruce Trail," he said.

Each participant received a backpack that included a water bottle for them and their pets, donated by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

Pet Valu in Virgil also donated 50 goodie bags for the four-legged athletes.

"I've done so many races in my life ... it's very rare to find a race with this much swag," said Fakla.

Every time someone approached the finish line, she'd cheer and dangle the medals up high, shaking them until they sounded like bells ringing.

By the end, dogs and people alike had medals dangling from their necks.

"In a time when the world is unpredictable and mental health is a challenge for a lot of people, just being able to come back out and celebrate each other and celebrate just being in nature is just absolutely wonderful," she said.

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Group begins **collecting donations** for burial ground restoration

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A group that plans to restore the historic Niagara Baptist Church Burial Grounds now has a website up and running.

The website, Negroburial-groundnotl.org, will solicit donations to help make the project a reality.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will only allow the group to begin with stage one of the project once a minimum of \$5,000 is raised.

"I'm going into it hopeful, very hopeful that the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake feel that this is a worthwhile project," said George Webber, one of the leaders of the fundraising committee.

Formally known as the Negro Burial Ground, the cemetery is a plot of land on Mississauga Street near Mary Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Established in 1829 by John Oakley, the burial ground is an important part of NOTL's historic past. Below the ground lie 28, or more, bodies of Canadian



James and Mayilyn Russell looks for one of the marked graves at the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. The Russells are in town for a month to research and replace the flags at the burial ground. SOMER SLOBODIAN

settlers.

The number of buried individuals was only discovered thanks to James and Marilyn Russell, who took interest in the burial grounds and began restoration efforts last year.

Webber, along with Niki Walker, is leading a fundraising effort through a new steering committee

to raise the money needed to continue the restoration project.

The total cost of restoration is about \$59,000, but right now the team is focused on raising \$5,000, so they can begin stage one.

With the help of Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., stage one will focus on identifying who is buried.

So far, the committee has collected more than \$2,100.

The group doesn't plan to go to council for any money and hopes to raise all it needs through public appeals and sponsors.

In order for Webber's fundraising plans to come to fruition, a lead sponsor is needed, he said.

The committee has a meeting with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club on Oct. 4 in hopes of getting the club's support. Then on Oct. 5, members meet with the Chamber of Commerce.

One of Webber's goals is to make the burial ground more visible.

He'd love to see tour buses stopping at the grounds so visitors can learn about its history.

He sees it as an opportunity for tourists to not only learn about the site, but ask more questions about Black history in NOTL.

It may lead them to become interested in the history of the Underground Railroad or other historical Black sites in NOTL.

"We want people to become better educated in terms of our history," Webber said.

"My wife keeps reminding me, she says, 'George it doesn't have to be Black history. It's our history. This is the fabric of what made our town,' " he added.

Webber hopes the burial grounds will also become a sister site to the Voices of Freedom Park on Regent Street downtown.

"I think it creates some continuity and creates a sense of, they came to Niagara-on-the-Lake, they lived and worked and contributed (here)," said Webber.

He'd love to see elements from the Voices of Freedom Park, like the metal sculptures, on the burial grounds, too.

While Webber is leading the fundraising efforts, James Russell continues to dive head first into the research side of the project.

Recently he talked to Nancy Butler, author of the book "Slavery And Freedom in Niagara". She came to Niagara in 1981 and told Russell that there were no other headstones then at the grounds besides the two there now.

"They were lost previous to that," he said.

The burial ground was

abandoned in 1878 and vandalized in the 1950s.

During his research, Russell also met a 95-year-old woman named Hope Bradley, who took him around Niagara-on-the-Lake and pointed out where a few Black people lived back in the day.

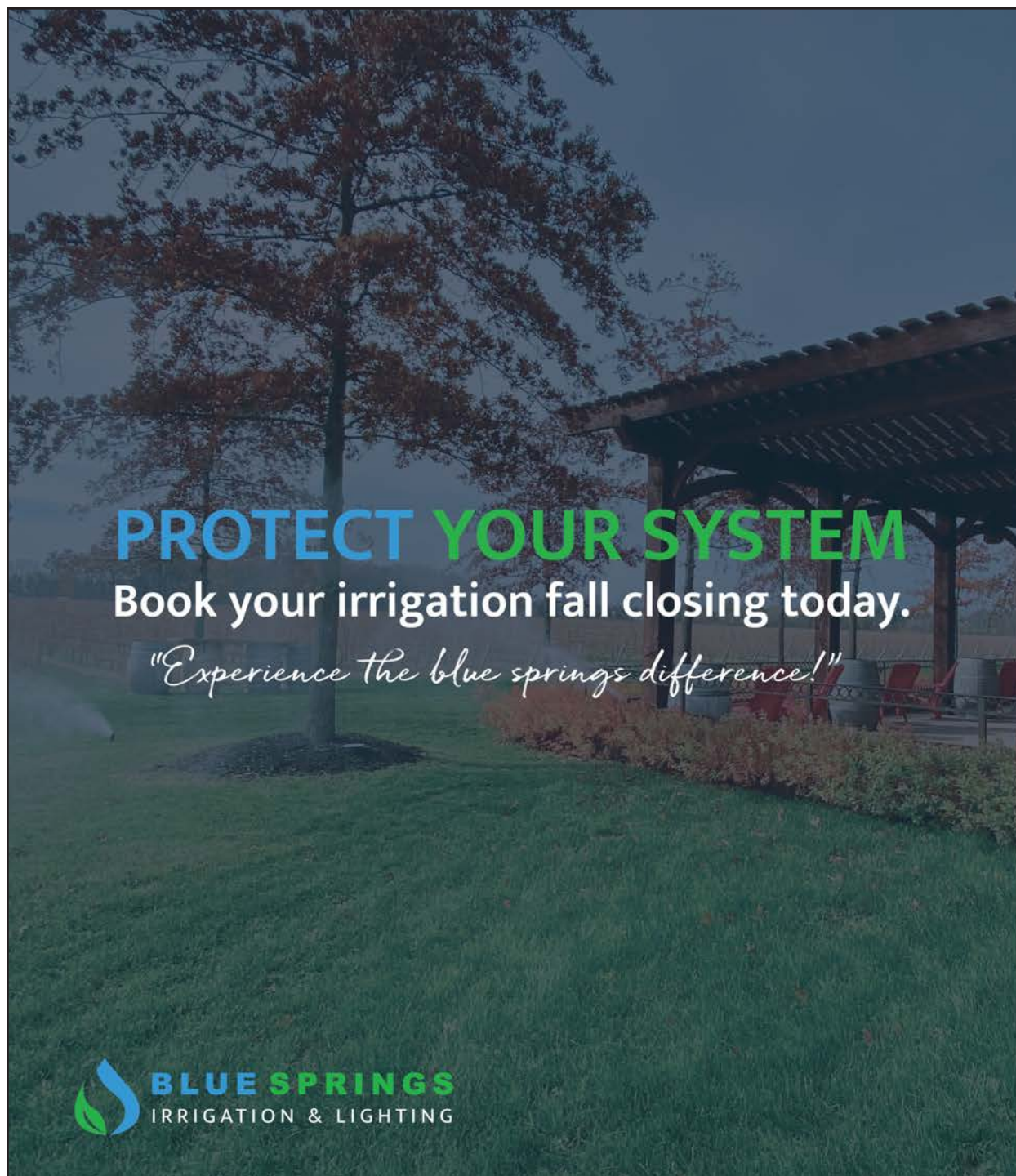
She pointed out a plot of land where Mary Duddy lived. Duddy was a Black woman who was a librarian at the NOTL Public Library from 1946 to 1967.

Bradley also noted Swinton Cottage at 309 Victoria St., where Winnifred Wesley once lived.

She was the granddaughter of George Wesley, who is interred in the burial ground and has the only gravestone that is still legible.

Webber hopes to hold fundraising events to help raise money for the restoration project. But for now, he's hoping the community can help out in any way that they can.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project, or wishing to donate, can go to Negroburial-groundnotl.org or email negroburial-groundnotl@gmail.com.



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Some NOTL beekeepers are thriving, despite rough start to season

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's not all doom and gloom for beekeepers. Many beekeepers had a difficult start to the season. Some lost most, if not all, of their beehives.

In Ontario, 47 per cent of winter colonies didn't survive, according to the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists' colony loss reports.

But there is some good news: things appear to be looking up for some beekeepers.

Dave White of White Orchard Farms lost all of his hives over the winter, rather than the usual few. But now, his new hives are thriving.

"Everything's going really well," said White.

He pointed to one of the hives on his property that he captured about a month and a half ago. Someone was going to exterminate the hive, but instead called White to see if he was interested in taking it.

"So my son went down, cut the branch off and just shook it. And they're doing amazing," he said.



Howard Bogusat stands with his hive. The queen of this hive is originally imported from Italy, and has produced about 75 pounds of honey. SOMER SLOBODIAN

He'll get about 50 pounds of honey from the top box, he said.

When he took the hive, it had about 1,000 bees inside.

Now, there's 40,000 to 50,000, said White.

He now has eight hives, but hopes to increase that to 25 or 30 next year.

Beekeeping has been a part of Howard Bogusat's life for 45 years and he thinks this is going to be his best year yet.

But the year didn't start off that way.

He and his business partner Ron Zimmerman lost half of their 16 hives last winter after just losing one the previous year.

"But from 50 per cent we were back up to 17 hives by mid-June," he said.

He and Zimmerman bought three queens that were originally imported from Italy. One of the new queens has already produced 75 pounds of honey and by October he expects that hive to produce 150 to 200 pounds.

In total, he's collected 1,800 pounds of honey from all of his current hives.

"I think it could be a record year," he said.

He keeps his hives in four different locations around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bogusat's hives are around seven boxes high, with nine frames in each to collect the honey. Each frame of honey that is taken out of the hive weighs about three pounds.

"This is from the hive," he said as he held up one of the frames, still full of honey.

Pointing to the wax still coating the honey in the frame, he took a piece off and put it in his mouth.

"(I) just take it and say OK, what did they get into to produce this one?" he said, sucking the honey off the wax before spitting it out.

The flavour of the honey is going to depend on the plants the bees have access to. All season long the flavours are going to change, Bogusat said.

Once the wax is stripped from the frame, it's ready to be spun in a centrifuge. Spinners range in sizes and Bogusat's holds 12 frames full of honey.

When it's done spinning for about 15 minutes, he lets it sit for six to eight hours. Afterward, he just opens the tap and honey flows through a strainer and into a container. Then, it goes into the jars.

When it comes to beekeeping, Bogusat said location is everything.

Bees can fly as far as 12 kilometres, but usually stick to the food sources available

to them within three kilometres. The closer the food source, the more trips the bees can make in a day.

Bees are fast and can visit up to 40 flowers per minute. The longer they spend at a certain spot the better the nectar.

Bogusat thinks the decline in bee colonies is largely due to weather, but agrees other factors also contribute – like chemicals or the varroa mite, a parasite that weakens and kills bees.

"Nobody really knows," he said.

While the cause of widespread, significant bee losses remains still a mystery, beekeepers like Bogusat and White are back on their feet and ready to make some honey.

"Every year something happens in beekeeping you're never seen before," said Bogusat.

White is preparing for the winter and hopes the bees continue to thrive. He can check on the hives in the winter using a thermal imaging camera.

The winter is going to be a test, said White.

"But, like I said, they're doing amazing," he added.

WE LOVE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IT'S WORTH PROTECTING

"Doubling tourism in NOTL means higher taxes for costly infrastructure, road repairs and mitigating traffic congestion."

"Niagara-on-the-Lake would need more traffic circles. Emergency response times would be reduced. Parking will be difficult to find. Good neighbours will move away because of crowds and hollowed out neighbourhoods. Large, noisy, littering crowds will make NOTL famous as the town overtourism killed."

"Niagara-on-the-Lake needs a tourism strategy that puts residents ahead of greed. Niagara-on-the-Lake should first be great place to live and second a great place to visit. NOTL should be a gem worth visiting, not a overcrowded tourist trap noted as a quick stop on the way to Niagara Falls because of its many tax payer funded public toilets."

"Defund tourism marketing that goes beyond pre-pandemic levels. Vote for town councillors who put residents first before special interests."





Left: Trekking across a field of boulders. Right: Rick Waters, Margaret Northfield and Elaine Aldridge-Low in the Swiss Alps. SUPPLIED

Gruelling journey is **170 kilometres** from Chamonix to Zermatt

Continued from Front Page

When she and her fellow hikers set off this summer, the trip had been long anticipated and twice postponed because of COVID.

Northfield and her NOTL hiking buddies Rick Waters and Elaine Aldridge-Low were part of a group of eight from Niagara and an experienced guide who ventured onto the 170-kilometre route from Chamonix, France, to Zermatt, Switzerland, hiking from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn.

Seasoned hikers all, Northfield, 64, and Waters, 71, have completed the entire 900-kilometre Bruce Trail three times each, while Aldridge-Low, 54, has hiked the whole trail once so far.

But the Alps had some surprises in store, even for veteran hikers.

"Within the first two days everyone had come to me with bulging eyes asking, 'Did you know it was going to be this tough?'" recalled Northfield.

They weren't ill-prepared, but "all the reading in the world can't prepare you

for the actual experience," she explained. "Everybody had moments. There were several meltdowns and some people felt overwhelmed."

"It's the toughest hiking I've ever done. I was nauseated for eight days, and my legs shook every day for eight days. I think it was because of the altitude," said Aldridge-Low.

"I did think, 'I'm not going to make it to the top.'"

Others had trouble breathing, given the elevation of 3,000 metres – or over a mile above sea level.

"I kept asking myself, why is this so difficult?" said Northfield. The answer, she said, was the fact that they had to concentrate every moment to stay safe in the face of various hazards.

"We had to be on all the time and that drains your energy," she said.

Each day started with a steep climb up to a mountain pass, followed by an equally steep descent. Along the way, conditions presented a range of challenges even for veteran hikers.

Terrain above the treeline was very rocky.

"There were many kilometres of climbing over boulders and rock hopping," said Waters.

"We were often hiking over tippy stones, which normally I love, but 30 minutes of that is one thing. After three hours I was over it," exclaimed Northfield.

"We were scrambling over boulders in some sections. On one day, we spent six hours climbing over rocks," said Aldridge-Low.

"Then there were narrow gravelly trails with the mountain on one side and a steep drop off on the other," added Northfield.

She said that one day the guide noticed that one of the hikers had developed a list to one side because of tight muscles. Since the list had her leaning toward the precipice, she took a couple of days off to recover before resuming the journey.

On other occasions, on the most steep parts of the mountain climbs, the hikers had to navigate chains and ladders.

The chains "were essential. You can't use your poles in those spots. It's a very narrow path and you're

going hand-over-hand around the mountain," said Northfield.

The ladders followed, perpendicular to the cliffs, drilled into the rock face.

"When we got to the top, we all said, 'We made it, we did it!' and we had a windy hug and stopped for a break, then hiked down the other side for three hours," she said.

Ever present throughout the hike was the risk of rockslides.

"When we were climbing up, holding the railing, our guide said, 'Sshhhh, we're in a rockfall area. A single stone can cause an avalanche,' so we had to be silent," explained Aldridge-Low.

In certain sections, there was an avalanche shelter every 200 feet, so we knew the danger was real," she said. "We met a woman who lost her husband to an avalanche two years ago."

Amid the challenges and dangers, there was great beauty, grit and inspiration.

"I kept my mouth shut, put my head down, and got on with it. The scenery was just so beautiful, it made me forget my discomfort at times,"

said Aldridge-Low.

"I really had days I really didn't think I could do it and I had to tell myself to hang in there. In my head I kept repeating, 'I can do this, I can do this.'"

Waters said, "I took it one step at a time. You can't beat the mountain."

"It was a tough hike, but then you turn around and see an amazing view. The natural beauty is spectacular."

Not just the sights were memorable, but also the sounds.

"We'd be hiking along and then hear ding ding ding ding ding, cowbells, the cows wear different sized bells, some small, some large and heavy, it's very traditional," said Waters.

"The sound of the cow bells, I'll never forget it," asserted Aldridge-Low.

In addition to the spectacular views, there were at least two other moments each day that kept everyone motivated.

"Everyday at the top of the pass, there was a sense of aahhh, we made it this far," Waters said.

"We were always ecstatic at the top of the pass, and

again at the finish each day. You get to feel like you've done something, even getting to the place to put your head down for the night. It's very satisfying," he said.

And no one will forget the feeling they had when they first saw the Matterhorn.

"When we sighted the Matterhorn, it took my breath away," recalled Aldridge-Low.

"When we saw the Matterhorn, it's so iconic, and we knew we were near to the end, so it was an amazing moment," said Waters.

All three hikers agree they have no regrets.

"We were at times uncomfortable, but it's good to challenge yourself and have an adventure," said Northfield, adding, "adventures are not always comfortable!"

"I'm proud of myself, I got through it! I'm glad I did it," concluded Aldridge-Low.

As for Waters, he said, "I just felt lucky to be able to do this."

All have resumed their many hikes on the Bruce Trail closer to home and all say they'll never again complain about their climbs up the Niagara escarpment.

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U.S. author sets **romantic novel** in NOTL

Region is “the most beautiful area I’ve ever seen in my life,” Andrew Pender says

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Romantic Niagara-on-the-Lake was the optimal setting for American author Andrew Pender’s love story, “19 Strings for the Harp.”

“It’s the most beautiful area I’ve ever seen in my life,” Pender says of the Niagara region.

His love of Niagara and the contrast between NOTL and Niagara Falls inspired the story and the personalities of his main characters, Nektarios “Nick” Strings and Natalie Harp.

“Nick represents more of Niagara Falls. He has this beauty with him, but he’s so destructive. If you approach him too much it can hurt. Like Niagara Falls. You can’t get too close to the falls,” he says.

Natalie, on the other hand, is soft and beautiful, with a past.

“Natalie represents more of Niagara-on-the-Lake and she’s very beautiful. She’s very soft. But like Niagara-on-the-Lake, it has a past. It’s not always squeaky clean. There is a lot of history to it,” he says.

“That’s Natalie.”
The story chronicles the “public and humiliating downfall” of the protagonist and the journey through his own past, mental health struggles and serendipitous meeting with Natalie.

The self-published book is Pender’s first foray into novel writing, though he is no stranger to pouring his heart out onto paper.

Initially from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Pender moved to South Beach, Miami, with his father when he was



Andrew Pender, who works in a lab at a Rochester hospital, highlights NOTL in his romantic novel. SUPPLIED

about 10. He says that is where his love for poetry began.

“My father had this apartment in an Art Deco building right on South Beach, a couple blocks from Ocean Drive,” he says.

“So many nights, I would sit on the balcony and just write poetry. Or go on the beach and write or go on top of buildings and write. I loved the vibe,” he says.

That love for poetry carried into his novel. Each chapter begins with a poem written by the protagonist and foreshadows the events of the following pages.

“If I could give you an analogy, it would be like listening to an album. So if you open up a CD case, you read the lyrics to the song. And then you listen

to an interview with the artist and the artist tells you OK, this is what happened and led to those lyrics. That’s essentially the book.”

Pender, who works in the lab at Strong Memorial Hospital, in Rochester, says he felt a connection with Niagara from the first time he visited.

Drawn to the destructive beauty of the falls and serene nature of NOTL, he says he knew it was where he wanted to set his story.

“There’s something so unique about Niagara. I went to Niagara-on-the-Lake for the first time in 2011 and I just fell in love with the architecture, the people, the wineries. I had never seen anything like it.”

And although he was

raised in the warmer climate of Florida, he says winter in Niagara offers a comfort like no other.

“I find that my best writing is actually done in the winter. I have actually said this in the book too, that I feel the heart gets warmer the colder it is outside.”

Pender says most people know him as a “sports guy” and wouldn’t know he is actually “a huge dreamer.”

“It’s funny because as much as I love sports, people really don’t know that I have such an artistic side. I love acting. And I love writing,” he says.

That artistic side is prevalent in his debut novel, which can be purchased through Amazon.ca. Search on “19 strings for the harp.”



This week’s riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: Acronyms and abbreviations

**When talking about dates,
B.C.E. stands for this.**

Last issue: This happens to you figuratively when you lose your seat on an overbooked plane or literally when the drink cart hits your elbow.

Answer: What is bumped?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Jane Morris, Terry Nord, Claudia Grimwood, Dan Smith, Bob Wheatley, Danielle Gault, Michele Campbell, Susan Dewar, Bert Dandy, KC King, Gordon Yanow, K Bastien, Sylvia Wiens, Pam Dowling, Maria Janeiro, Sadie Willms, George Dunbar, Sheila Meloche, Elaine Landray, Steve Sianksy, Margaret Garaughty

*REMEMBER TO PUT “WHAT IS” FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

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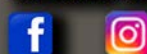


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Hovercraft service is one part of a larger picture

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

A new hovercraft service proposed to connect Toronto and Niagara can be profitable with less than 30 per cent of its seats filled, the company's founder says.

Chris Morgan, chief executive of Hoverlink Ontario Inc., said the company also hopes to expand the service to other spots around the world and to be able to sell the proprietary crafts it is manufacturing.

The service plans to run up to 24 return trips daily, 365 days per year across Lake Ontario and could transport as many as three million people per year. The trip is supposed to take just 30 minutes each way for about a \$60 round-trip.

The hope is to start running as early as summer 2023.

Morgan, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, said while the three million figure is the maximum capacity, the service has a "modest" expectation of about 30 per cent occupancy.

Bottom line, he said, the service needs 27 per cent capacity to be successful.

He's been working on the project for 11 years and said profit expectations are based on market research.

"We looked at other start-ups and other transportation sectors and looked at how you fill that and what the demand was," he said.

Specifically, he said, the company looked at the province's Transportation Tomorrow surveys, GO Transit studies and research on paradigm shifts for transportation.

"I've got some of the best marketing guys in the world that crunch numbers," Morgan said.

He noted the Region of Niagara's official plan for 2041 includes "massive expansion" in Niagara, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is supposed to see its population almost double with development in the Glendale area.

He is confident in the service, despite what he calls a "debris trail" of failed businesses that have tried cross-lake endeavours.

For example, in the 1990s,



Hoverlink's chief executive officer Chris Morgan, who lives in NOTL, says plans are bigger than just one route for Hoverlink. But details can't be released just yet. RICHARD HARLEY

a hydrofoil operated from the dock area in Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto. But it didn't last long.

But Morgan says his business model isn't the same — his company is offering round-trips and more trips daily, making it more practical for people to travel.

That combined with an increasingly clogged highway commute, high gas prices, high parking costs in both Toronto and Niagara Falls and new tech like Uber for riders once they reach Niagara, could be what makes Hoverlink a success in an industry that hasn't succeeded before.

He pointed out a lot of different people might use the service, including work commuters, tourists or students attending university (the service will have special rates for students, he said).

He also said that going to Toronto has been an option that's been missing for many visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He's been in talks with hoteliers in NOTL who say tourists would love to take a day trip to see Toronto, but the minimum three-hour return trip in a vehicle makes it less appealing.

If those tourists could purchase an excursion and be in Toronto in half an hour, it could be a lot more appealing.

"You're talking about two of the largest tourism regions in Ontario, probably two of the top three in Canada. And the service

that we're doing is about moving people — we're not moving cargo or trucks or cars."

But the uses of the hovercraft don't end with transit.

Another part of the whole business plan is to sell the technology and expand routes elsewhere.

“For us, it's about moving the needle on the first route and proving all the models, learning from them.”

CHRIS MORGAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HOVERLINK

Morgan said the company is manufacturing the hovercrafts and has reinvented the machine to be better and more efficient — technology he won't talk too much about because it's proprietary.

But long story short, if the proof of concept for the new hovercrafts goes well, they could open up similar routes in places around the world that need water transit — or sell the hovercrafts, which he said cost "about as much" as a big jet plane.

Asked how much of the tech is proprietary, he sort of grinned and said, "A lot."

"We'll make them and manufacture them, not just for here, but for military application, cargo application," Morgan said.

The crafts are being built in North America, he said.

"And sooner or later, we'll build them right here."

He said he has a "memorandum of understanding" with Heddle Shipyards, which is also planning for major growth in Niagara.

He foresees the whole manufacturing operation producing about 800 to 1,000 jobs.

Eventually the crafts will also be used for cargo, he hopes.

"Did you know that 90 per cent of the Ohio Valley trucking that comes through Queenston-Lewiston Bridge is destined for Ottawa and Montreal, but guess where it goes? Around the Golden Horseshoe."

"They will not do the toll roads in the United States. So we need to find a way to help that as well. And that's on our agenda," Morgan said.

"But right now it's passengers — A to B and B to A — let's prove the model out. Let's test it, get it comfortable."

The hovercraft is being designed and engineered by Hoverlink to cross Lake Ontario all year and he's confident it can run all year.

He said his company is carrying enough inventory in parts that the vehicle can be serviced regularly.

Morgan has an extensive background in motor sports in IndyCar and Formula One, which he said helps him understand what the machine will need.

Still, he said things can

happen "on race day" but "I can't tell customers who rely on this to go back and forth, 'Don't worry, it's under warranty. It'll be up and running in a couple of days when the parts come in.' That's not gonna happen."

Designing something that can cross the lake all year, was "a very tall order," Morgan said, adding that regular hovercraft services would not have received the same classification.

"(Lake Ontario) shouldn't be called a lake. She should be more like an ocean or the Mediterranean, because she can get really nasty. So again, having a craft that meets those pitches, that took a while."

"If you gave me five shoe boxes and then each shoe box was a decade, you put a car, a phone, a plane and a hovercraft in each box for every decade, the only thing that didn't change for the last four to five decades would be a hovercraft."

The hovercraft has to go through one month of water testing, but he might do two months and offer free transit for that time, to get people to try to experience.

The vehicle is 33 metres long and 15 metres wide and he said the ride will be "comfortable" — he's been in talks with Cisco to even see about getting wifi onboard, but isn't sure yet where the blackout areas in the lake are.

Because it's a hovercraft, he said the entire pressurized footprint of the boat is equivalent to 1/16 a human footprint.

"She's used in the Aleutian Islands to do studies, testing in marshes," he said.

"In fact, one of the tests that we did in the U.K., a dog ran out, got under the fence or ran out in front of the craft when we were going out testing — the craft went right over and he's still stood there after shaking his hair because it won't affect you."

"I can clear six or seven feet of ice sticking out of the water. So we have sonar and radar and a bunch of other components I can't talk about that helped us navigate."

True to his past marketing experience with motor

sports and even Disney, Morgan said he wants "to make this transportation almost like the Disney of travel, where you need to be fun again."

And with a planned round-trip price tag of about \$50 to \$60, it is cheaper than most parking in Toronto, Morgan notes.

Even at the 27 per cent capacity required to run the business, that's 810,000 passengers per year, an average of 2,219 riders per day. At 24 trips per day, that's about 92 riders per trip.

When it comes to parking for those transit riders, he said the plan is to build about 400 parking spaces in Niagara for riders — about 150 spaces near the terminal in Port Weller and about 250 more near Lock 3, from where riders will be able to shuttle to the terminal.

Asked if the service might ever stop in Hamilton or other cities, he said, "There's going to be another reveal. We're not just these two destinations."

The craft is also fairly eco-friendly. He said its fuel injection system "burns off just over 90 per cent of all harmful emissions."

"So we're 90 per cent less (greenhouse gases) than anything on the highway," he said.

"That's equivalent to 33 kilometres of cars parked bumper to bumper you're basically taking off the highway."

As for implementing a similar service in places like Vancouver, he said, "We're already out there working on it."

"For us, it's about moving the needle on the first route and proving all the models, learning from them."

He said there will be licensing opportunities and that it could even be used in Far North communities by the Canadian military to defend the country's borders.

In the end, he said, people want to get to Toronto and back faster.

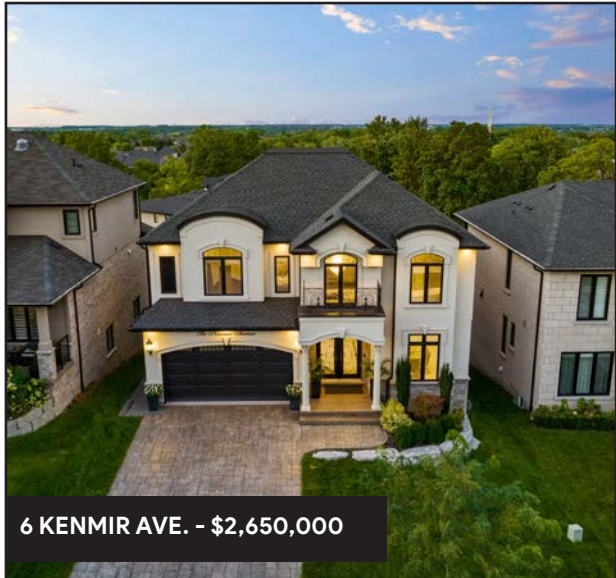
"You're getting two, three hours of your life back. Whether you're married, single or other, you've got three hours to do other things in life that are more important than sitting in traffic."

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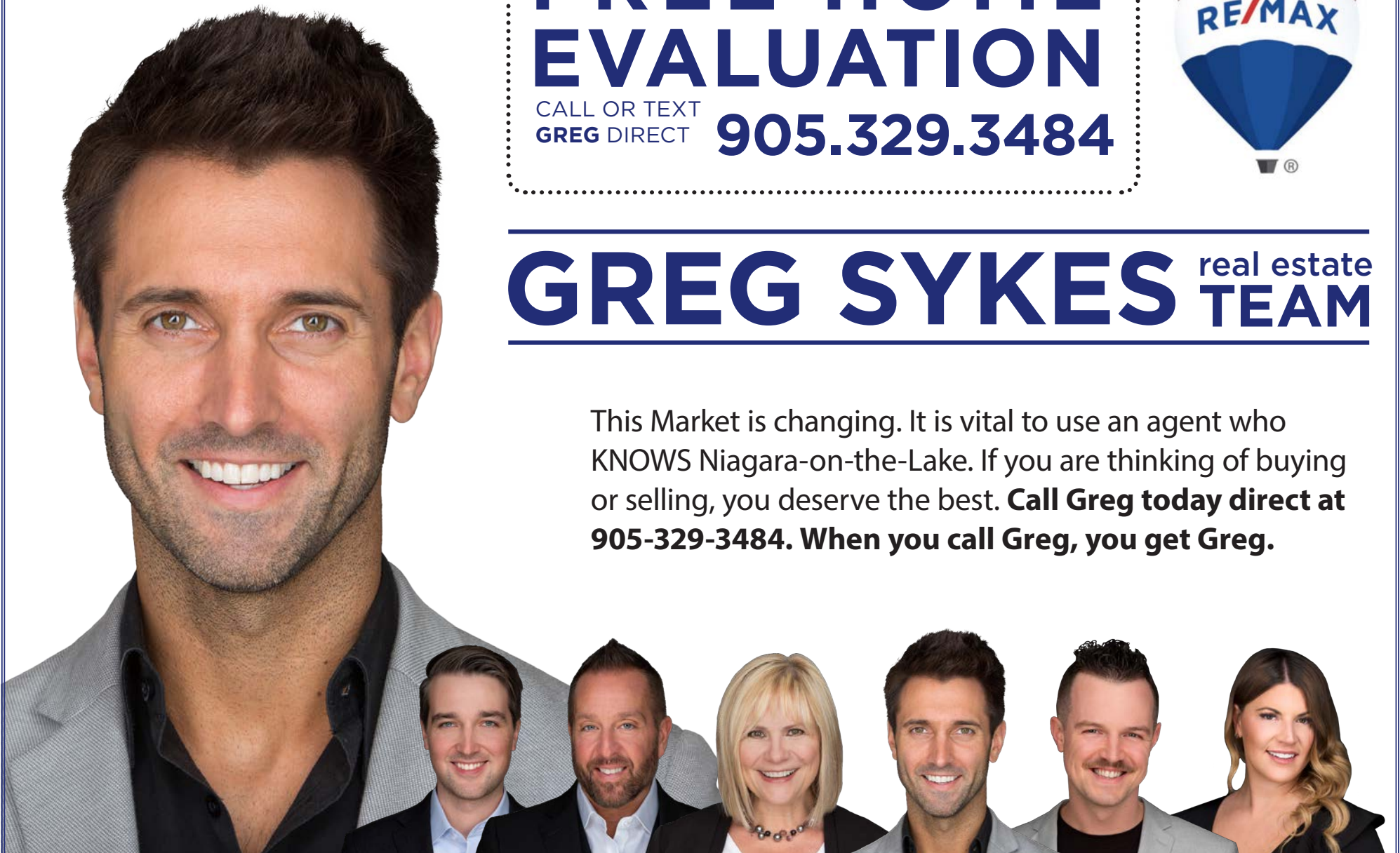
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Pumphouse exhibits **E. Robert Ross** landscapes

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is presenting the paintings of landscape artist E. Robert Ross in its Joyner Gallery for the month of October.

The solo exhibition titled, "The Grand Scheme-Ontario," runs from now to Oct. 30. The public can meet the renowned painter on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. at a meet and greet reception.

Ross was born and raised in the Hamilton area, where he still resides.

He has been painting since 1975, exhibiting primarily in southern Ontario with solo exhibitions at the public Art Galleries of Hamilton and Burlington, as well as in private galleries.

His paintings can be found in many art collections throughout the world including those of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall; former Gov-Gen. Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul; and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, among others.



"Iceforms, Niagara Falls," by E. Robert Ross. SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Ross said his Niagara-on-the-Lake exhibit "focuses mostly on Ontario landscapes, including a few from the Niagara region. The title comes from the phrase 'in the grand scheme of things,' which means a bigger picture."

"In the grand scheme of this country we now call Canada, and our part Ontario, it is an important theme of this show and my work, that we all are a part of nature, and can enjoy its beauty while trying to live as harmoniously and sustainably as possible."

The inspiration for many of his works comes from his love of nature and the outdoors.

Ross paints landscapes he visits from his open-air adventures: canoeing, backpacking, camping and mountaineering throughout Ontario.

He captures a vista in a realistic style so that "the painting can invoke the feeling of involvement with a specific place."

Ross's works entreat viewers to picture themselves "being there."

For instance, in his painting of the Niagara Gorge,

he invites the observer to imagine what they might feel looking at the scene from the river's edge, where the rushing water from the falls cascades at a tremendous force.

Through his art, he wants to encourage "a greater appreciation of the past, present, and future of the landscape, and view as essential the work toward its preservation, given the environmental stresses of climate change and development."

"Each one must do as much as possible to protect this beautiful planet."



Decoration Day honours those who fought for Canada



Top: The Royal Canadian Legion General Nelles Branch 124 held its annual Decoration Day service at the Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery on Saturday, to honour those who fought and died for our country. From left, Al Howse, Stan Harrington, Chris Toye, Chaplin Sheldon Kofsky, Elizabeth Richards and Paul Dolby. SUPPLIED/SOMER SLOBODIAN



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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
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One tree at a time: Free saplings support climate fight

Molly Bowron
The Lake Report

Roland Adams wants everyone to have a free tree – until he runs out, at least.

The Gage Street resident is one of a few people in Niagara-on-the-Lake giving away free saplings in celebration of National Tree Day, which was last Wednesday.

And outside Ruth Denyer's home on Wilberforce Avenue, a few dozen catalpa saplings have been sitting in planters, waiting to move to a permanent home.

"This year's tree giveaway is the biggest and most successful yet," Adams said.

In collaboration with Tree Canada, an Ottawa-based charity that promotes tree planting across the country, Adams was able to pot 170 trees and leave them for free curbside pickup outside his home at 488 Gage St.

Denyer did the same.

She and a group of neighbours, including Julian Trachel, Holmes Hooke and Victor Tarnoy, dug the catalpas up from the property of Susan Dobson and Franc Petric on McNab Road.



Ruth Denyer, Holmes Hooke, Julian Trachsel and Susan Dobson filled a truck with catalpa saplings to be given away. SUPPLIED



Top: Roland Adams holds one of the saplings he's giving away for National Tree Day. Bottom: The free trees are available for pickup from his driveway. SARAH LAUGHTON

Now, "they're in pots, ready to be picked up for any takers," Denyer said.

About a dozen were still available on Wednesday outside her home at 20 Wilberforce.

Tree Canada has projects all over the country to help fight against the world's climate emergency.

"Our local effort is part of a really important national strategy to both look after Canada's existing trees and plant millions of extra new trees," Adams said.

So far, he's given away about 60 saplings.

Even "visitors from as far as Owen Sound and Ajax" have stopped in to pick up a tree, he said.

And a resident from Shaw's Lane in NOTL saw the trees and grabbed a few for his daughter, who is moving onto a three-acre lot in Niagara.

"So our trees solved her immediate need for some young trees."

Adams' freebie trees are mainly alders, along with

some maples, some oaks and some ashes.

"Alder is a faster-growing species, so ideal to plant in response to the climate emergency."

The saplings are small, "but with a little nurturing, they are viable and will do all the good things trees do."

Tree Canada accepts donations through its website, treecanada.ca, which includes information about its programs to plant more trees across the country.

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John Thwaites, left, and Edward McDonnell, right, talk about the success of Thwaites Asian pears and the Ontario Tender Fruit Tree and Vine Program during a reception and orchard tour at Thwaites High Density Pear Orchard. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Program brings **new tender fruit varieties** to Niagara

22,000 Asian pear trees at Thwaites orchard in NOTL an example of research project's success

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If there's one thing Niagara is known for, it's the amount of delicious tender fruits and fresh grapes the region produces each year.

Now, due to the success of the Ontario Tender Fruit Tree and Vine Program, shoppers will be able to add some new fruit varieties to their shopping carts.

The program started in 2016 and is funded by the Greenbelt Foundation and Greenbelt Fund, and works in partnership with the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers.

It focuses on creating new varieties of tender fruits and fresh grapes that can withstand extreme weather conditions due to climate change.

In turn, the new varieties will increase yields and provide fresh, local fruit while helping the economy.

"At the end of the day, there's a lot of great agricultural land in Ontario, but few areas can match the potential of Niagara,"

said Edward McDonnell, the CEO of the Greenbelt Foundation.

The funding provided by the Greenbelt Foundation covers up to 30 per cent of new, eligible tender fruit trees and fresh grape vines.

"So depending on what a grower plants, they could be receiving that cap up to 30 per cent, or an overall cap so that we make sure there's money available to all the growers that apply," said Sarah Marshall, manager of Ontario Tender Fruit Growers.

To showcase the program, a reception and orchard tour was hosted at John Thwaites' High Density Pear Orchard in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday, Sept. 15.

Thwaites' farm has planted more than 22,000 high-density Asian pear trees. High-density means the trees are planted closer together.

He received funding from the program, which helped him with the initial planting of the Asian pears, he said.

The idea of planting

high-density pears is newer. Normally, pears would be planted 15 to 20 feet apart. Thwaites' trees are planted four to 12 feet apart, resulting in 900 Asian pear trees to the acre.

"It's attracting new growers to the industry as well, which is really cool."

SARAH MARSHALL
MANAGER
ONTARIO TENDER FRUIT GROWERS

"They had a pretty nice crop last year. And they had a little bit the year before," Thwaites said of the pears. This year, he's predicting the harvest will be double last year's.

Asian pears are circular in shape, and more acidic and watery than other pear types.

"I'm told that ours are sweeter than the ones that come from China," Thwaites told the crowd.

It can take anywhere

from 10 to 15 years before a tender fruit variety makes it to the marketplace. An evaluation committee puts the varieties through an extensive process to make sure they suitable for Ontario growers.

Ontario Tender Fruit Growers also works with the University of Guelph and the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre throughout the process.

The program has helped more than 90 growers in Ontario, many of them from Niagara. This year alone, Ontario residents have access to more than 10 million pounds of tender fruit.

"It's fantastic," McDonnell said after seeing the program in action at Thwaites' orchard on Townline Road.

"We spend a lot of time sort of understanding it conceptually. But then you come out to a place like Niagara into an orchard like this, and it kind of really warms the heart," he said.

More than \$450,000 in funding was provided in 2016 and 2018. The money

meant more than 212,000 new trees – like peach, nectarine, plum and pear trees – were planted.

The Greenbelt Foundation is mainly funded by the province of Ontario, said McDonnell.

For the 2021 to 2023 period, the foundation has contributed an additional \$286,000, which will help plant 75,000 new tender fruit trees.

It will also be used for 10,000 new grape vines in Niagara.

This year, there were 63 different types of peach varieties planted and 15 different types pears.

There's about a \$25 million economic impact because of this program, said Marshall.

That's not only the growers, she said, but it's the marketers and retailers, too.

The program, which also helps attract new growers, has generated 335 full-time jobs, as well as \$6.9 million in tax revenue, according to a news release from the Greenbelt Foundation.

The juniper grape is something new the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers are trying to commercialize, said Marshall. She said many farmers who don't grow grapes or tender fruit are showing interest in the juniper vine.

"It's attracting new growers to the industry as well, which is really cool," she said.

The Greenbelt consists of 2 million acres of protected land. It not only protects farmland but also protects forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes.

The Niagara tender fruit and grape area is one of two specialty crop areas in Ontario, the other one being the Holland Marsh. Both areas are protected by the Greenbelt.

The foundation will continue to look for other opportunities in Niagara or along the Greenbelt to support agricultural activity, said McDonnell.

"Because we always say, you know, the Greenbelt only works if it works for the people in the Greenbelt."

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Graeme Somerville (*A Christmas Carol*, 2021). Photo by David Cooper.



Jr. A Predators take home opener 6-3 over Northumberland

Kevan Dowd
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara Predators are back in action and hoping to build on last year's success as they begin their second season in Virgil.

Hitting home ice for the first time this season at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, the Predators pulled off a 6-3 win over the Northumberland Stars last Friday night.

It was their second game of the 2022-2023 Greater Metro Jr. A Hockey League season, following a 2-1 road loss to the St. George Ravens on Sept. 18.

"The guys were more settled down tonight," said new head coach Kevin Taylor.

"We capitalized on our chances. I thought we had a lot of chances against St. George, we just never capitalized on them."

While the Northumberland Stars were on the



The Niagara Predators won their first game of the season 6-3 against Northumberland Stars last Friday. KEVAN DOWD

scoreboard first a little more than six minutes in, Niagara's Nolan Wyers evened things out just one minute after.

And two minutes into the second period Niagara's Anthony Tropea took advantage of a Stars' penalty to put his team in the lead.

Scoring was all Niagara

for the rest of the period with tallies from Predators' Reese Bisci and Wais Ayubi, for a 4-1 lead after 40 minutes.

Two minutes into the third Northumberland came alive with Thomas Murphy netting his team's second of the night.

But with additional early

goals by Bisci and Riley, a marker for the Stars midway through the last period was not enough to save them from a 6-3 finish.

"Tonight, they were really battling, even on the rebounds," said Taylor.

"They weren't giving up on pucks and I think that's something they're starting to realise and we're gaining a lot of confidence moving forward."

Along with a new season and coach, vice-president Andrew Ferlatte is hoping to bring some fresh ideas to the marketing side of the team this season.

Friday's game featured raffles for team merchandise and season tickets, noise makers given out to fans, a live band and even a characteristic "eagle cry" played over the loud speakers.

"The one thing we missed out on last year – I was working more behind the scenes – was being able to build and establish a

brand in an already saturated hockey market," said Ferlatte.

"Being able to use a small town like Niagara-on-the-Lake and be more active within the community and having more events to bring more people here is really important because if you have a community behind you it makes the program more popular."

Meanwhile on the ice, Ferlatte said the plan for building the Predators this season is to start with young players and develop their game through the team.

"The goal is to have a young team, a local team and develop them. So, our process is to establish and get them to where they want to be and hopefully bring in a championship team every year," he said.

"But our primary focus is to develop," Ferlatte said. "So one thing that's a little different this year when compared to last year is you

see a lot more younger players and local, instead of the Europeans."

The team's current roster on the league website lists 17 players, with 13 from around Niagara, including Wyers and Maxwell Bredin, both from NOTL.

Taylor has similar developmental plans for the team. "It's about building a program," he said. "Trying to build with what we have and what's going to come in."

As far as on-ice strategy, he said the biggest thing he wants is to use his defence more than he feels other teams do.

"Let's not just have a game of ping-pong. We want the defence to control the play in the neutral zone and let our offence use their skates."

The Predators play again this Friday night at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil against the Windsor Aces. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

NOTL champion fastball team reunites 50 years later

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The boys are back in town.

A team of fastball players from Niagara-on-the-Lake made it to the Ontario Juvenile Championship game 50 years ago and clobbered their competitors from North York with a final score of 16-1.

A lot has changed since then.

Some of the old coaches are long gone and the team is short a player with the death of Barry Archer.

That didn't stop NOTL resident and former fastball player Ken Rive from bringing the team

back together to celebrate their 1972 championship victory.

The day of the reunion marked exactly four years since Archer's death, Sept. 17, 2018.

"That's what happens when you wait," Rive said.

After Archer died, Rive got more serious about bringing the old team back together.

Knowing some of them had to come from as far as Ottawa and British Columbia, Rive reached out in April.

When they got there, the men were a little more weathered and a little less stable in the knees than they were 50 years ago, but everyone was smiling all

the same as they reunited for the first time since their championship game.

He and his old teammates started their day on the golf course before heading back to his home for appetizers and dinner.

Half a century later, the most vivid memory of the game is how cold it was.

"The temperature dropped down to freezing and none of us had coats," Barry Newhouse said in an interview.

He wasn't the only one who remembered the chill in the air.

Fred Enns said all he recalls is the cold.

The vision of the whole team together was more vibrant to everybody.



From left: Back row: Rudy Wiens, Jim Redekop, Wally Istchenko, Greg Dick, Tim Greves, Dennis Amell and Fred Enns. Front row: Ken Rive, Gary Sartor, Mark Southcott, Barry Newhouse, Harry McNaughton, Mike Brezecka and Tom Clement. EVAN LOREE

"It's almost surreal," Enns said of the reunion.

He had not seen most of his teammates in nearly 50 years, though some had been his closest friends back then.

Enns has remained close with Tim Greves over text despite the distance between them.

The reunited fastball players were cracking beers and smiles all evening while sharing old stories with each other.

"I almost recognize nobody," said Mark Southcott with his tongue in his cheek.

He described the experience of seeing his old friends as "enchanting."

In his case it was 47 years since he'd last seen some of them.

"There's a good chance we'll never see them again for the rest of our lives," Southcott said.

Faced with the reality that everyone was getting older, he said he's happy he and his teammates "got today."

Sun shines on Grape & Wine tennis tourney

Trish Spagnol
Special to The Lake Report

Saturday's weather was perfect for the fifth annual women's Grape & Wine Tournament held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

Hosts Christy Pennington and Trish Spagnol welcomed 20 players from within the club and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of laughter, friendship and good doubles tennis.

The day was capped off with a wonderful boxed

lunch provided by Sweets & Swirls Cafe.

Taking first place was the team of Jill Evans and Sheila Rider, followed by second-place finishers Natalie Early and Dana McDonagh.



Left: Jill Evans and Sheila Rider teamed up to win the Grape & Wine Tournament at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club on Saturday. Right: Natalie Early and Dana McDonagh were runners-up in the tournament. TRISH SPAGNOL



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NOTL golfers impressive in Champion of Champions tourney

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The husband-and-wife team of Louise Robitaille and Stephen Warboys led the Niagara-on-the-Lake contingent to an impressive showing in the Niagara Champion of Champions tournament.

The one-day, 18-hole tourney Saturday afternoon at the St. Catharines Golf & Country Club featured more than 80 of the top golfers from across the region competing in six divisions, from juniors to seniors.

All the competitors were champions at their home clubs, though a few, like Warboys, were filling in because the champ couldn't make it.

Warboys, a former NOTL men's open champion, didn't miss a beat and shot a 3-over 75, good for third place in the senior men's division.

He was filling in for NOTL's Jon Taylor, who won the NOTL seniors



Left: Stephen Warboys finished third in the senior men's competition at the Champion of Champions. Right: Louise Robitaille tees off to start her round at the tournament. KEVIN MACLEAN

crown in August but couldn't play in the Champions tourney.

Robitaille, competing in the women's open championship against a challenging field, finished sixth, shooting 83 on the day.

And in the senior women's division, Martha Cruikshank, who was among a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake golfers inducted into

the Niagara Golf Wall of Recognition on Saturday evening, shot 89 to land in a four-way tie for fifth in a field of 18.

Cruikshank, winner of eight women's open titles and three seniors crowns at the NOTL Golf Club, was recognized for her career accomplishments and her many years of volunteer leadership roles



in golf in Niagara.

NOTL's reigning men's open winner, Ricky Watson, and teammates from Niagara District Secondary School's golf team, were also inducted to the Wall of Recognition.

NDSS teammates Evan Caughey, Marc Forbes, Mark Hicks and Brad Neudorf also were named to the Wall of

Recognition.

Their team was a dominant force in high school golf and won the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) golf championships.

Watson had a tough day on the links Saturday, carding a 10-over 82 to finish 12th.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's

two junior champs, Keira Dexter and Sam Walker, both had respectable performances, teeing off against some tough competitors.

Full results are available at niagarachampions22.golfgenius.com.

OTHER NEWS:

Warboys and Jim McMacken led all shooters in NOTL Golf Club's men's league play, both carding even-par 36 last Thursday.

McMacken also scooped the best Stableford score, with 20 points.

Other winners were: Closest to the pin: Tim Taylor (#4), Ron Planche (#9). Longest drive (#3): Al Demray. Closest to the 150 marker (#8): Nino Ferrantelli. Longest putt: Kevin MacLean (#2), Warboys (#5).

Gross skins went to: Watson (#2, #8), Warboys (for an eagle on #5), McMacken (#6) and Jim Meszaros (#7).

Net skins winners were: Greg Fedoryn (#2), Jeff Jacques (#3), McMacken (#6) and Bernard Marlow (#7).

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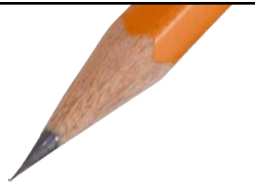
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Have some fun



Across

- 1. Pulled a face (8)
- 6. Deeply felt (6)
- 9. Business combination (6)
- 10. Rain gently (8)
- 11. Orts (9)
- 12. Hangs around (5)
- 14. Undiluted (6)
- 16. Units of sound intensity (8)
- 18. Weird things (8)
- 20. Charge with a crime (6)
- 21. Expect (5)
- 23. Stopped (6,3)
- 26. Fighting axe (8)
- 27. Scheduled (6)
- 28. Public address (6)
- 29. Rule out in advance (8)

Down

- 2. Returned to office (2-7)
- 3. Power (5)
- 4. Murderous painter of "The Supper at Emmaus" (10)
- 5. Craved (7)
- 6. Calvary inscription (1,1,1,1)
- 7. Retired (4,2,3)
- 8. Team race (5)
- 13. Providing grounds for a lawsuit (10)
- 15. Bring into being (9)
- 17. Midlands cathedral city (9)
- 19. Conceited and snobbish (5-2)
- 22. Shout with joy (5)
- 24. Whimsically funny (5)
- 25. Sprint (4)

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11					12		
14		15		16			17
18				19	20		
21	22			23			24
26				25			
27					27		
28					29		

Last issue's answers

1	T	2	T	3	R	4	R	5	S	6	D	7	M				
8	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	9	L	O	G	I	C	A	L		
	M	A	I	F					M	A	G						
10	W	R	I	G	G	L	E	D		11	E	N	G	I	N	E	
	O	L	A	R					R	R	O						
12	R	E	A	C	T	O	R		13	U	S	U	A	L	L	Y	
	T	N	E	A					E	M	I						
14	H	I	D	E		16	C	L	E	F	T		18	S	P	A	N
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23	S	C	R	E	E	N	S		24	T	H	E	R	I	T	Z	
	I	R	I						A	R	N	A					
25	S	T	U	M	P	S			26	G	L	O	B	U	L	A	R
	I	O	T						I	I	E	E					
27	U	N	A	R	M	E	D		28	T	R	A	N	S	I	T	
	G	E	R						Y	N	S	H					

		7		1	8	9	2	
8								3
			2	5			8	
	2	8			6		5	
			4					
7	9			6		1		
	3			9	5			
2								9
	9	1	7	2		8		



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No longer a peasant power, China's empire looms large



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Nothing is constant where empires, nations, borders and governments are concerned.

That's certainly been true for China and much of the rest of the world in my lifetime.

When I was a boy what I knew about China could have been put in a thimble, as my mother was wont to say.

Neighbours across the street had been missionaries in China for several generations before the Japanese invaded the country in the 1930s and chased foreigners out.

They used to regale my brother and I with tales of China and countless black and white photos of villages and mountains in places which, to me and my brother,

had strange-sounding names.

Far more interesting to me was learning that my eldest brother Bob flew DC3s (called Dakotas or goony birds then) carrying supplies from what is now Bangladesh or Myanmar between the Himalayan mountains and on into China.

Only many years later did I learn from Bob just how dangerous that job was and how many crew and aircraft were lost because of icing, unpredictable high winds or mechanical failures with no safe place to land their aircraft.

Then in 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea and by the coming winter China joined in when some United Nations troops reached the Yalu River border with China.

The next three years of what was aptly called the "forgotten war," were brutal but also a warning.

Chinese troops turned out to be tough, well-led, courageous adversaries who fought the UN troops, including Canadians, to a draw, despite the many technical advantages, such as overwhelming control of



the air over the battlefields possessed by UN forces. The war ended in an armistice that holds to this day.

From the peasant army which by the late 1940s had defeated their nationalist rivals led by Chiang Kai-Shek, China has evolved into a thoroughly modern country.

It has an economy second in size and power only to the U.S. and is expected by many Western experts to overtake the U.S. within a decade or two.

In the areas with which I'm most familiar, such as biology including genetics, and what I've learned about their expertise in computer design, including most recently quantum computers, China is second to none.

That shows in the journal Nature's annual rankings

of universities based on the quality and quantity of their published work and accomplishments. There's hardly an area in science and engineering where China hasn't caught up with the best in the West and some areas where they may have passed us.

Many current leaders in science in China were trained in the West, especially the U.S. – but is that any different to empire, then Commonwealth countries and the U.S. training their best in the U.K. and Europe in the 1900s?

The Chinese military has become world-class in equipment and their naval and air forces now rival those of the U.S. The Chinese navy, for example, has three modern aircraft carriers and several under construction.

In short, China is no longer a peasant power but a thoroughly modern professional power intent on securing the sea lanes around east and Southeast Asia. That would ensure control of regional trade fell within China's growing influence, which now extends to many

African countries, as well as some in the Western Hemisphere.

China has a long, bitter memory of occupation and control initially by European countries and later the Japanese. And like other colonized countries, China carries a rightful grudge against both, especially the Japanese in the 1930s and Second World War.

Given China's treatment by other countries in recent centuries, its current behaviour should come as no surprise.

Hence China's expansion and intention to control the South China Sea as far south as the Philippines and the construction of strategically located artificial islands and airbases in that sea. Ditto for the intention to build a new "silk road" across Asia to link other Asian countries and Europe with China.

I confess to some concern about China's intentions economically and territorially in the future but if there's a fault it's that the democracies are losing or will lose their technical edge with the advantage to China.

China isn't the only eco-

nomie threat. Other south-east Asian countries, such as South Korea and Vietnam, pose similar concerns for the same reasons if we don't get our act together.

The mistake has been to outsource so much of our technology because it made for cheaper goods at home. That's our fault.

As the other giant, India, I wish China and other similarly achieving countries, well. But the math is not in our favour unless we adapt – and soon.

What we want is a world that works together for the common good, including mitigating climate change and sharing wealth more evenly, instead of concentrating it with the top 0.1 per cent.

This is a most unusual essay for a community paper to print and for me to write.

Response?

Compare maps of the world in 1900 and 2000 – you'll get my point about change.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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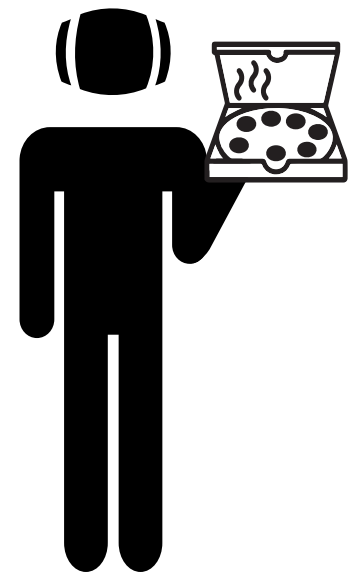
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Six Nations doll circa 1820

This c.1820s Six Nations doll was donated in 1909 and is reputed to have belonged to a Chief's daughter on the Grand River. It is made of painted carved wood and is dressed in clothes decorated with beads. You can imagine that during a time when toys were handmade and less accessible as they are today, that this doll would have been cherished for many years. Children have an innocence and love for special items they can call their own.

A young girl at the age of 6, named Phyllis Webstad, had that same adoration for her new orange shirt that her grandmother bought for her first day at the local residential school. When she arrived, this cherished orange shirt was stripped from her and never returned. Phyllis was devastated and rather than a feeling of excitement and wonderment to learn, she experienced feelings of insignificance, neglect and worthlessness. September 30th was declared 'Orange Shirt Day' in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to indigenous children. Make sure to wear your shirt on that day. Or, purchase your Orange Shirt Day buttons at the NOTL Museum. Proceeds go to the Niagara Regional Native Centre here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

*Correction to last week's image: the sailing club is located to the right of the picture, not the left!

Serving it up at Rotary's Icewine Cocktail soiree



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's Icewine Cocktail Party on Sept. 17 raised money for club projects and showcased Niagara restaurants, wineries and breweries. The evening, sponsored by realtor Nancy Bailey of Engel & Volkers, was hosted at the Prideaux Street home of Rick and Gianna Dritsacos. The fare included Masaki Sushi, BarBea caviar shooters, Cheese Secrets raclettes, beef tenderloin by PigOut and music by the Athertones. ROSE ELLEN CAMPBELL

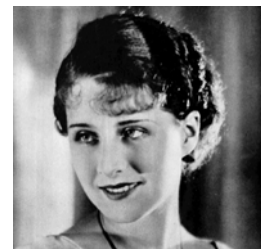
Looking to the Stars

Influence of Venus means we can all feel at ease

Thursday, Sept. 29: Venus enters one of the signs she rules, Libra. (Venus also rules Taurus). When Venus is happy, there is a background of happy. In the coming weeks, Venus will walk hand in hand with the sun, oppose Jupiter and trine her lover Mars (now in Gemini). Venus leaves Libra and enters Scorpio on Oct. 24. Until then, we will feel at ease with life, ourselves and others. Venus in Libra opens us to be receptive to others – so this is a good time for social activities and for anything to do with relationships. Once, Canadian-born Norma Shearer was a huge star in Hollywood. On Sept. 29, 1926, she wed Hollywood mogul Irving Thalberg.

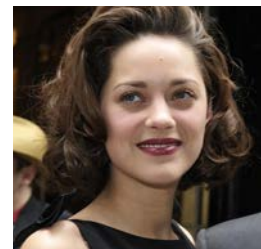
square to Mars and opposite Neptune. Thinking has never been more precise or complicated. A surprise sustained by sheer willpower is the best of it. Today is also the third-quarter moon in Capricorn. This may be the least forgiving quarter moon of the year. It was Oct. 2, 1957, that David Lean's film "Bridge on the River Kwai" was released. It won the Oscar for best film in 1958.

Monday, Oct. 3: The moon is in Capricorn all day, including a conjunction with Pluto tonight. As truthful feelings appear, each one of us must decide what to do in response. Guelph-born actor Neve Campbell turns 49 today.



Friday, Sept. 30: The moon moves from secretive and sexy Scorpio into all-seeing Sagittarius just past midnight today, setting up a period of confidence boosted with help from Jupiter and Venus. Go big. Marion Cotillard, born Sept. 30, 1975, won the Academy Award for best actress in "No Country for Old Men" in 2008.

Tuesday, Oct. 4: Affection, romance and love are in the air today. It's so easy. Everyone agrees silent film comic Buster Keaton was born Sept. 4, 1895. Most give Piqua, Kansas, as his place of birth. Rumours have it that Napanee, Ont., may be his true birthplace. Research of Piqua reveals not a town, but a gas station.



Saturday, Oct. 1: In spite of a day of mostly little frustrations and sidetracking, today is full of new love. So go for it. Happy birthday #98 to America's 39th president, Jimmy Carter, who still volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for the poor.

Wednesday, Oct. 5: On the seven connections in the solar system today, the moon, the sun and Mars make for the strongest energy and together create a scene of generosity and harmony. During the War of 1812, today was the Battle of the Thames, where the Americans defeated the Mohawk and British coalition.

Sunday, Oct. 2: Mercury goes from retrograde to direct at 5:08 this morning. Mercury is trine to both Pluto and Uranus,

My new website is coming soon. It will still be at www.lutts.ca

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Plant your garlic **now** for July harvest



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

Nothing ever tastes as good as something that you have grown yourself.

Even though our growing season for most things is finishing up, it is now the time to be planting your garlic.

Early to mid-fall, before the first frost, is the best time to be planting your garlic cloves so that you can harvesting them the following July. Here is what you need to know for growing garlic.

Garlic grows best in a full-sun location. This means that your plants should be receiving at a minimum of five to six hours of sunlight a day.

They prefer to grow in a light sandy soil that has been amended with compost or composted manure.



If you're planting garlic this season, make sure to plant seed garlic, not grocery store bulbs. PIXABAY

With sandier soil, the bulbs will grow easily and you will have larger sized bulbs.

Adding in some type of compost will help to retain some moisture into the soil but still allow the soil to remain crumbly. A heavy clay soil will make it difficult for the bulbs to attain any size and allow excess moisture to build up, resulting in various diseases.

There are many varieties of garlic to choose from varying in size, flavour and colour. The one thing that you must not plant is any cloves that you have purchased from the grocery stores.

Most grocery store garlic bulbs have been treated with an anti-sprouting chemical to prevent the cloves from sprout prematurely. Always buy what they refer to as "seed-garlic."

You will often find seed garlic for sale at places where they also sell fall flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils.

When you have purchased your seed garlic, you need to crack open the bulb to release the individual cloves for planting.

To crack a bulb, hold it in both hands, with the stem facing up. Pierce the skin with one thumb, using the other thumb to lever the stem back and forth.

Once you have removed one clove, the others will easily break off the basal root plate. It's ideal to crack bulbs as close to the time of planting as possible.

Be sure to leave as many layers of skin (also known as "wrappers") as possible intact on each clove. Plant each clove about two inches deep and

about six inches between cloves.

Space your rows about at least one inch apart.

Plant so that the pointy end of the clove is pointing upward. Cover the cloves loosely with soil, then mulch lightly with straw or shredded tree leaves.

This will help protect the garlic for the winter and prevent the frost from heaving out the cloves. You can expect to harvest about five to 10 pounds of bulbs per 20-foot row.

The cloves you are planting now will be ready to harvest near the end of July. Check plants frequently at that time watching for the leaves to start turning brown.

If you lift the bulbs too early, when the leaves are still fully green, they will not have sized up yet. If you lift them up too late, the outer papery wrapper is more prone to tear, resulting in lower quality and poor keeping ability.

Once you have harvested the bulbs, cure the garlic in a hot, dry, dark and airy place for a few weeks. Make sure you trim back the roots and neck.

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

Obituary

Thomas Howe



HOWE, Thomas (Tom)
Masterton
March 26, 1942 -
September 15, 2022

With our hearts full of love and so many good memories it is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Tom after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease on September 15, 2022. Born

in Falkirk Scotland on March 26, 1942 he emigrated to Canada with his wife Anne in January 1967. He was employed by GM Canada as a millwright for 30 years.

Tom was a man of many talents and interests. He loved photography and he never went anywhere without a camera. For many years he was the President of the Niagara Falls Camera Club. Tom also enjoyed working with his hands; he could do carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. Many people have had home renovations done by Tom. He also loved to travel. For many years he and Anne volunteered at Myakka River State Park in Florida. This park held a special place in Tom's heart. There among many projects he completed was a log cabin for laundry facilities for the volunteers who lived in the park. This cabin became known affectionately as "Tom's Cabin". Tom and Anne also volunteered at other state parks in Florida, Texas and Arizona where they organized and led canoe, kayak and biking trips. They had many adventures together including a safari in Southern Africa, a kayak trip in the Sea of Cortez off the Baja Peninsula, in Mexico and hiked the West Highland Way trail in Scotland which is 100 miles long. They also travelled extensively in Canada and Europe.

Tom is survived by Anne his wife and best friend of 58 years, his son Stirling (Tammy Mallon), and will be missed by Ashley and daughter Madison, Tyler (Mary) and twin daughters Avaya and Avery, Amber (Tyler).

Special thanks to the staff at Rapilje Lodge, Welland, especially those in H300, for their exceptional care and kindness to Tom for the past four years!

A Celebration of Life will be held at Creekside Senior Estates Community Centre, 23 Four Mile Creek Road, St. Davids on Saturday October 29, 2:00-4:00pm.

In memory of Tom, donations can be made to Rapilje Lodge, 277 Plymouth Road, Welland, L3B 6E3 or the Niagara Alzheimer's Society, 1-403 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, L2N 1L5.

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