



Kids go back to school | Page 4

Candidates **face off** at Lake Report debate



About 150 people attended The Lake Report's debate at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery on Tuesday night to hear from Niagara Falls riding candidates for the federal election Sept. 20. JESSICA MAXWELL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

COVID-19 recovery, vaccine mandates and climate change were some of the big topics federal candidates for the Niagara Falls riding debated in Niagara-on-the-Lake Tuesday night.

The debate, hosted by The Lake Report at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, had an interesting start.

New Democratic Party candidate Brian Barker cancelled his appearance late Tuesday afternoon after experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Karrie Porter, a municipal councillor in St. Catharines, stepped in for Barker to represent the party.

She was welcomed with boos by a small contingent

and one woman said if Barker wasn't there then Porter shouldn't be in his seat.

Porter responded that public health officials ordered Barker to isolate and he is doing the right thing.

Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser apologized to Porter for having to endure the boorish behaviour.

"We truly appreciate that (you are here) and I'm sorry that the comments and the booing were made. We, and I, value you being here," Kaiser said to Porter during her opening comments.

Porter noted she appreciates "a civil debate and I think it's incredibly important that we have these civil debates during election time."

Continued on Page 9

20 Years After 9/11

A crystal clear sky **shattered** by terror

We asked readers for their memories of 9/11, two decades afterward, and are publishing a selection of their recollections this week and next.

Elizabeth Masson
Special to The Lake Report

I usually drove to my office at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., but on that day, a look at the crystal clear, blue sky made me decide to walk to the Metro.

As I reached my office at 8:50 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, my friend Dianne zipped down the hall to announce that a small twin-engine plane had just crashed in to one of the World Trade Center buildings. How could this have been an accident? The World Trade Center on a clear, sunny day is definitely noticeable.

I walked through our



The twin towers after the 9/11 attack. WIKI COMMONS

suite into Dianne's office, the only one to have a radio, as the announcement came that a United 767 had just hit the top of the South Tower. Immediately, I thought of my husband's and my friend who had taken us to his office on the 80th floor years before to see the breathtaking view from his window across the Hudson River and far into New Jersey.

What I will always

remember about Washington, D.C., on that day were the rumours. Phone call after phone call came reporting the most amazing news. Could all this be true?

The secretary's niece phoned and, in tears, said that she had run from her office in the Pentagon and was at a gas station watching smoke billow out. A colleague's husband appeared to say the fire alarms had gone off in his build-

ing across from the White House and since no one had instructed the employees to remain, he had gone to the nearest Metro station and left.

Next came reports from the secretary's daughter who was at home watching TV that a bomb had gone off at the Capitol, then at the State Department; next, she called to report the Beltway had been shut down.

It occurred to me at about 9:45 a.m. to check on my husband who worked three blocks from the White House. Finally, he answered the phone and said that they'd just gotten the notice to leave.

He thought it best to walk the six miles home since the D.C. transportation system was in chaos with all downtown employees being told to leave simultaneously.

Continued on Page 5



An artist's rendering of the proposed obelisk. SUPPLIED

Study finds most residents **don't like** new gateway design

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

People really don't like the proposed new design for the entranceway to Old Town, a survey has found.

The proposed gateway drew a lot of negative criticism in a Join the Conversation survey conducted by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The survey had 178 respondents, 67 more than

the average of 111 for NOTL surveys. The number of responses varied from question to question.

Respondents were unhappy with the inclusion of a 25-foot tall obelisk, the imposing nature of a proposed wall and alterations to the intersection of Mississauga and Queen streets.

"The results came back quite negative towards the

Continued on Page 4

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Firefighters, Enbridge, town can't find source of gassy smell

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake officials don't know what caused a rotten eggs odour – initially suspected to be a gas leak – to roll through a large part of Old Town on Saturday.

With the town packed with Labour Day weekend visitors, NOTL firefighters took over Queen Street for much of the day to try to find the cause of the smell.

After extensive tests and searching, no source for the problem was found.

The town will continue to monitor the situation over the next week, said environmental services supervisor Brett Ruck.

"There continues to be no immediate risk to the public," he said, adding if anyone has concerns they should call 911.

The fire department received about a dozen different reports of a natural gas smell over a wide swath of downtown, with most complaints coming from the Queen Street area, said fire chief Nick Ruller.

He said several passersby indicated they smelled the rotten egg odour from Simcoe Park to Mississauga Street near Johnson Street, about a kilometre away. Other residents even farther south said they smelled it, too.

Crews were first called at 10:46 a.m. to Queen



NOTL fire crews on scene Saturday. They could not locate the source of a gassy smell that was reported across Old Town from Mississauga Street to Simcoe Park. RICHARD HARLEY

Street not far from the Royal George Theatre and stayed until about 1:30 p.m., but could not solve the mystery.

Ruller said firefighters from Old Town, Virgil and St. Davids were on the scene, as well as Enbridge Gas, to monitor the air for natural gas and hydrogen sulfide, as it couldn't be determined what type of gas it might have been.

Hydrogen sulfide gas is extremely explosive and toxic, Ruller said, so crews took extra precautions to ensure the area was safe.

When Ruller arrived, a business owner on the street thought it might have been coming from a building under construction beside Taylor's Bakery,

but air quality tests showed there was no gas emanating from the building.

At that point Ruller said he crossed the street – and smelled something.

"When I was crossing the roadway all of a sudden I caught an odour, which was similar to either sewer gas or natural gas," he said.

Crews began to exhaustively monitor the air inside businesses and determined there were no signs of gas, so they began to focus on the street.

"It was fairly widespread. We conducted air monitoring at countless buildings along Queen Street. We sent crews to the outlets of some of the storm drains to do air monitoring there to see if there was anything com-

ing out, but we didn't get any readings on any of our detections."

"We used four gas detectors and they can measure explosive limits and oxygen percentages," he said.

"We were getting odours in various areas. However, the interior air monitoring was coming up negative on every building, so at that point we shifted our focus to possible underground infrastructure, either our sanitary sewer or the storm-water sewers."

He said the widespread area of the reports made it challenging for crews to know where to look.

Staff from the town's environmental services department also were called to the scene. They started

checking storm sewers and working back to see if they could find anything, but also came up empty-handed.

Enbridge's air readings also were negative for natural gas.

"We were unable to identify what the actual origin was, however, the odours ended up subsiding while we were on scene and we were no longer getting reports of the odours," Ruller said.

The call was of a "high level of importance," he said, "given the amount of people on Queen Street and the heritage district and then the widespread reports."

"We just wanted to ensure that if it was hydrogen sulfide that we were able to identify the source. However, it appears that it was just some kind of unidentified odour" that eventually dissipated.

One person reported feeling nauseous, but didn't require medical treatment, he said.

"We can hypothesize what could have occurred but there's a lot of things" that could be blamed, he said.

Wind direction could have played a role. He noted there is a "fairly major Enbridge distribution site on Concession 1, so we were wondering if there perhaps was like a blow-off there or something."

The region's sanitary system was another consid-

eration, he said.

Based on all air readings coming back negative for gas, crews determined there wasn't a public safety risk and left the investigation to the town's environmental department.

While some people might have seen the large firefighter response as an overreaction, Ruller said the possibility of a hydrogen sulfate leak is not something to take lightly.

He cited an August incident in which buildings were destroyed and several people hospitalized after a hydrogen sulfate explosion in downtown Wheatley, Ont., near Leamington.

"Our objective in fire is always to be over-prepared and underwhelmed in the event that something occurs," he said, adding the fire crews were split, with one there in case an incident occurred, and the other trying to identify the source of the smell.

"When it was all said and done, there was no risk to public safety in any way," he said.

"I know it was right on Queen Street, there's a lot of people around, a busy long weekend, so there was a lot of people kind of wondering what was going on," Ruller said.

The department "just wanted to make sure that we took every kind of reasonable precaution."

FUTURE VISION: Part 3

Fears of losing links to past if hospital site is redeveloped

Amanda Gamble
Friends of Fort George

The Friends of Fort George organization has some deep concerns about potential redevelopment of the former Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital.

The old hospital property at the corner of Picton and Wellington streets in Old Town is steeped in over 200 years of history that we hope will be considered and preserved as the town reviews expressions of interest.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake hospital site was originally



The old NOTL hospital. FILE/JESSICA MAXWELL

part of the Commons – the military reserve that surrounds the Fort George national historic site and stretches toward Butler's Barracks, also a national

historic site.

The green space beside the hospital is still owned and maintained by Parks Canada and includes some of the best preserved

trench lines and batteries from the American occupation of Fort George in 1813.

The trench lines were part of the American defences during their seven-month occupation of the town, which ended in the burning of Niagara in December 1813.

The trench lines were made from regular sandy soil mixed with clay that was brought in from places like Navy Hall to strengthen these features.

They stretched from the northwestern bastion of

Fort George, through the hospital property, along Byron Street (where they are still visible) and down through the St. Mark's Church cemetery (where a plaque was placed during the War of 1812 bicentennial to highlight the trenches) and toward Queen's Royal Park.

These trench lines are significant, not only for their role in the War of 1812, but also as the longest defensive lines of an invading force in Canada.

As with many other individuals and groups in

the town, we are concerned with the proposed development of the site.

We hope that consideration is given to its proximity to heritage sites, such as the Shaw Festival Theatre and Fort George, to ensure any development fits with the aesthetic of the area, does not compromise the historical integrity of the site, and maintains the historic sight lines and view planes of Fort George.

Amanda Gamble is executive director of the Friends of Fort George.



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Niagara North Health Team temporarily moving to old hospital on Wellington

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara North Family Health Team in Virgil will be relocating temporarily to the old NOTL hospital at the end of December.

Five doctors and the clinic's nurses and other health professionals announced earlier this year they eventually will move their practices to the new Village Medical Centre when it is built next year. The rest of the physicians have said they will stay on at the current Virgil site.

But until the new centre opens some services need a new home.

"Currently there's a gap



Dr. Tim Bastedo is only physician from the Virgil clinic moving temporarily to the old NOTL hospital. FILE PHOTO

between when our lease ends at the end of December and when we will be able to move into the new medical centre in April," executive director Mary Keith told councillors last week.

The only physician moving into the old hospital will be Dr. Tim Bastedo, she said.

All of the other health staff will be moving but due to limited space they will be rotating who works in the

old hospital and who works from home, Keith told The Lake Report.

She said it is unclear where all the other physicians will be working in the new year.

Keith said the health team will rent 1,380 square feet of space in the basement of the old hospital, which is owned by the Town of NOTL.

At a going rate of \$25 per square foot, they will be paying \$34,500 a month for the space.

The medical team will be sharing the hospital site with Royal Oak School and a LifeLabs Medical Services operation.

Council agreed to lease the space on a month-to-month basis.

Town approves \$82,000 website upgrade

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has hired B.C.-based Upanup Studios Inc. to design and host a new town website at the cost of \$82,885.

The money is coming from a \$725,000 municipal modernization grant that NOTL is receiving to upgrade its service capacity, according to the province of Ontario's website.

A total of \$100,000 has been allocated for the new website, which aims to streamline service and be more efficient for users, chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie

said to council on Monday Aug. 30. Upanup hosts 40 websites for municipalities across Ontario and redesigned the website for the Town of Collingwood in 2018.

The town will be paying \$6,000 a year for Upanup to host the website on its servers. Upanup provided the town with pricing

for the next three years, Cluckie said. The town held a request for proposals and graded all companies that applied. Companies were graded according to experience and qualifications, references, ability to accommodate requests, methodology and pricing. Upanup scored 97 out of 100.

for the next three years, Cluckie said.

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NOTL seeks to restore ban on A-frame signs

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is considering reinstating a ban on A-frame signs on Queen Street and replacing them with hanging signs or another alternative.

A-frame or sandwich board signs were previously illegal in the Queen-Picton streets area under the town's 2012 sign bylaw but council allowed their use in August 2020 in order to help struggling businesses through the pandemic.

With the province reopening and crowding on Queen Street getting back to pre-COVID levels, more space is needed for pedestrians on sidewalks, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said as council



A-frame signs were allowed during the pandemic as part of the town's recovery plan. EVAN SAUNDERS

debated a motion on Sept. 3. Disero recommended replacing the A-frame signs with hanging ones such as the sign outside Grace United Church.

"It's a beautiful little sign that's on a post that points the way to Grace United Church. I just think we need to start moving in that direction because on Queen Street in particular all the A-frame signs are begin-

ning to look cluttered," she said.

Coun. Allan Bisback supported the idea but added an amendment to have staff consult with businesses in Old Town on the matter.

Staff will prepare a report based on conversations with businesses and report to the municipal heritage committee.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita was concerned the removal

of the signs would adversely affect some Old Town businesses.

"A lot of those signs are for businesses that are off Queen Street and have less exposure," she said.

"Why don't we have a Zoom meeting with the businesses? We can organize it through the Chamber of Commerce and make sure that everyone is invited."

The signs were listed as a public safety hazard in the motion. Director of corporate services Kyle Freeborn said there have been no reported injuries related to the signs.

"I will support this motion because A-frame signs have been illegal in the past and I think this is a good alternative," Coun. John Wiens said.



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Slow down, deputy chief tells drivers as students head **back to school**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Kids were eager to get to class — and to get home, on the first day of school Tuesday.

Longtime St. Davids Public School crossing guard Victor Tee, along with Niagara Regional Police Deputy Chief Brett Flynn and Const. Mike Malachowski, were eager to make sure they did it safely.

Niagara police were out in force making sure drivers obeyed speed limits and drove safely around school zones across the region.

“I think today, as much as anything else, is about the messaging with the kids being back in school, making sure there’s visibility and people are aware,” Flynn said.

He said it was important this year because people, particularly kids going back to school, have not been used to busy streets throughout the pandemic.

“Slow down,” Flynn said, “especially since school buses are back out on the streets now and we’ve got a lot of kids who don’t have exposure to traffic.”

By the end of the day the police issued 42 tickets for speeding, two for distracted driving, two for not properly wearing their seatbelts and one for



Veteran crossing guard veteran Victor Tee helps kids get safely home from St. Davids Public School after their first day of class. EVAN SAUNDERS

passing a stopped school bus, according to a media release.

“Today’s a big splash day for us,” Flynn said. “We don’t always get to do this but we think it’s important on the first day of school to help remind everyone.”

Tee has been helping kids cross the street safely in St. Davids for nine years.

“The kids are always great here. They’re anxious to get to school this year,” he said with a laugh.



Crossroads Public School students were excited to return to school on Tuesday morning. TIM TAYLOR

Business and the economy focus of **Chamber debate**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Getting the economy back on track after 18 months of COVID disruption was a key focus of a federal debate Wednesday afternoon hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie Chambers of Commerce.

Inflation and fluctuating supply costs were an area of particular concern in the online debate.

Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser said her party is working to make the Canadian supply chain more resilient and blamed the worldwide impact of COVID-19 for decreased cost certainty.

She said strengthening the country’s capacity to produce materials and products is a main focus of the Liberal recovery plan.

She pointed to her party’s fight against Trump-era sanctions on Canadian steel and aluminum as an example, saying when Donald Trump tried to tear up the North American Free Trade Agreement, Liberals were able to negotiate a better deal.

Conservative party candidate Tony Baldinelli said his party would stand up to American tariffs on Canadian products such as steel.

He decried the increased rate of inflation as a result of government spending and said the country spends \$400 million a day more than it takes in.

Without more stringent economic policy, inflation and cost certainty will continue to increase, he said. The Conservatives will invest in infrastructure and make more land available for business, Baldinelli said.

New Democratic Party candidate Brian Barker said investment in green technologies will help circumvent these problems.

Focusing on a greener economy will create a new sector of jobs and will buffer job loss and uncertainty in traditional industries such as steel, he said.

Barker said the inflation of housing prices needs to be addressed and that his party would be dedicated to making homes more affordable.

Debt has been the main issue with the supply chain, said People’s Party of Canada candidate Peter Taras.

Controlling spending is needed to mitigate the economic issues facing builders, he said, calling for the defunding of public media like the CBC because they are propaganda machines for the government. He also claimed the government sends billions of dollars overseas to promote abortion.

Many residents want Old Town entranceway to **remain as it is**

Continued from Front Page

design. There were some concerns about the obelisk,” chief administrator Marnie Cluckie told councillors Friday.

A total of 176 people responded to a question asking if they supported the obelisk as presented and 75.6 per cent, or 133 people, said they did not.

Another question asked respondents for their thoughts on the obelisk. In all, 108 people answered this question and the town shared the three

most common answers: 51 people said they wanted the obelisk completely removed, 19 said the entranceway should remain as it is and 27 people said they wanted the obelisk redesigned.

One open-ended question asked respondents if they had any further comments on the entranceway.

Of the 105 responses to that question, 38 said they wanted the proposal redesigned, 34 felt the entranceway should stay as it is and 33 said they wanted the alterations to the intersection

at Mississagua and Queen streets removed.

The majority of survey respondents were also unhappy with the proposed length and height of the wall. The current design of the wall is 40 feet long, eight feet high on one side and 4.5 feet high for more than half of its length.

People overwhelmingly suggested the wall should be lower and shorter.

In June, the NOTL Conservancy sent a letter to the municipal heritage committee outlining its opposition to the project.

“We feel strongly that the installation of this size is not needed,” the conservancy’s letter reads.

The group said the design would be an “intrusion” and a “distraction” from the natural landscape.

Absent from the information report on the survey were the detailed text responses from members of the public.

Cluckie said that releasing the detailed answers may infringe on “best practices” due to the overwhelming negativity of the comments.

“We probably all know

the term keyboard warrior,” Cluckie said.

“Sometimes when people are filling out those items online they can be much harsher than they would be normally and people can say things that are very offensive and abrasive.”

The detailed comments will only be shared with councillors during a private session, Cluckie said. This is in keeping with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, according to the information report.

The project is being fund-

ed by a \$250,000 donation from the Gerald Kowalchuk Family Fund.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she spoke with Kowalchuk and he “is very, very open to working with staff on the recommendations that have come through the survey and accepting and validating the comments that have come from our residents.”

Staff were directed to work with Kowalchuk on the next steps for the project now that the public has shared its opinions on the design.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
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Vivid memories of 9/11 linger

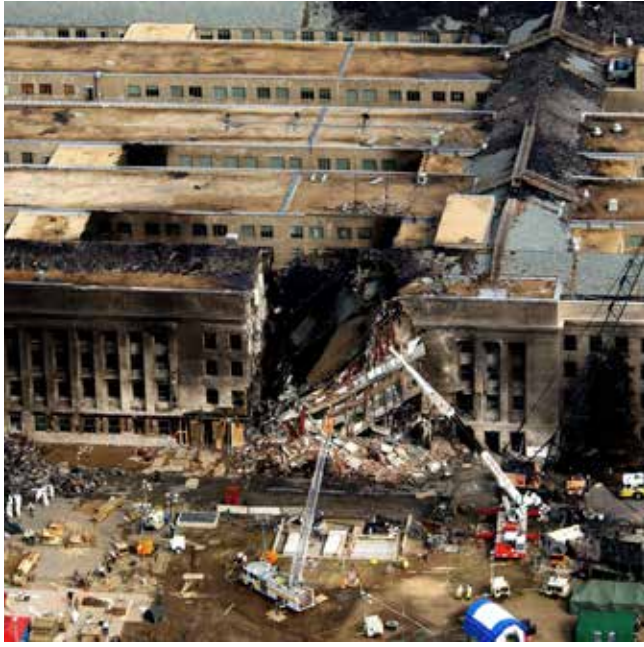
Continued from Front Page

Paul told me later that he could see the smoke from the Pentagon as he walked up the Palisades along the Potomac River.

I walked back down the hall to Dianne's office to hear the news on the radio. Both towers in New York had collapsed. Coming back to my office, I passed by Pat, who said that news on the internet indicated a plane had been hijacked and was crossing Pennsylvania on what looked like a flight path into Washington.

I then phoned our son in Montreal to say that we were both alright and Papa was walking home. "What do you mean you're both alright? Why shouldn't you be?" was his response. I told him to turn on the news and he would understand.

Shortly thereafter, our supervisor stopped in each office to say word had come telling us all to go home. April, the secretary, rushed out the door saying she had taken a bus to work that morning but her daughter had already left home to pick her up. She was gone



An aerial view of the Pentagon after the 9/11 attacks. U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

before any of us could say, "But Kira doesn't have a driver's licence!"

I decided, as did my other colleagues, that we preferred staying in the safety of our offices rather than venturing out into the now unknown world outside.

Lunchtime came, nobody ate. Around 2 o'clock, Janet said her son's school in Alexandria, Va., was being dismissed early so she'd have to try to figure out an

alternative route around the Pentagon to get home. Would I like a ride to the intersection nearest my house?

I walked home from Massachusetts Avenue through a park next to a meandering stream. It was still a gorgeous day with a blue, blue sky. When I arrived home, my husband had the television on. I watched the rebroadcast of the plane ramming the huge World

Trade Center tower once and then I turned off the TV.

The evening was eerily quiet.

The next morning, I again took the Metro into work and found armed National Guard troops on the platforms. I opened up my email to see a message from our son in Montreal saying he had telephoned multiple times the evening before but the phone just rang and rang with no answer.

I responded by phoning Rob to say that we had been home all evening but the telephone never rang. I later learned that the huge volume of phone calls had jammed the trunk lines and while people heard a ringing sound, the call actually was going nowhere.

Rob recounted to me how he had lined up the day before with many of his fellow McGill students to donate blood. That was the first I knew that the attacks of the day before had affected others besides us in Washington and people in Manhattan.

Next: More memories of the attack 20 years ago.

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CBC, March 30, 2021

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Globe and Mail, July 23, 2021

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Canada

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 9
Region active cases: 262
Region deaths: 422
Region total cases: 16,968
Region resolved cases: 16,284

*Sept. 8 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Memories are simply moments that refuse to be ordinary." - Diane Keaton

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Editorial

Candidate debate a lively event

Kevin MacLean
 Richard Harley
 Editors



Peter Taras. JESSICA MAXWELL

Tuesday's all-candidates debate hosted by The Lake Report was a telling tale of our riding's political candidates for the federal election.

Overall, we were delighted with the honest answers our candidates offered in response to questions from various NOTL organizations, audience members and our readers.

However, while all candidates were respectful in their answers during the debate, Peter Taras of the People's Party of Canada, unfortunately did not abide by The Lake Report's (and the public health department's) rules for the event.

When we first arranged the debate, we phoned Taras to let him know he'd need to wear a mask at the debate. He initially said he wouldn't, but after being told we'd need to rescind his invitation, he promised to wear one because it was our event and said he would respect those wishes — an ask made in the name of public safety, to protect the very people from whom he's seeking support.

However, when Taras ar-

him to stay, since being anti-science is a big a part of his platform. And we created extra space on the dais to distance him somewhat from the other candidates.

We strongly condemn his actions.

We learned early on that Melanie Holm, the Green party candidate, would not be able to attend due to a family commitment. We're not sure what, especially during a tight election, would motivate a federal candidate to not attend a debate with about 150 people in attendance and more watching the live stream.

But we don't know the details of the family event and we won't speculate.

Unfortunately, the NDP's Brian Barker came down with symptoms of COVID Tuesday afternoon four hours before the event. That required him to get a PCR test, which he was unable to do in time to make the debate. We respect the consideration he showed for all those who attended our debate.

At the last minute, St. Catharines Coun. Karrie Porter stepped in to represent Barker and his party's platform.

There was only one heckler during the night, who told Porter that if Barker couldn't be there, nobody from the NDP should be.

We disagree. Given the circumstances, falling ill was not Barker's fault. And attending could have put others at risk.

That doesn't mean a party doesn't deserve a chance to have its voice represented.

Other than the debate being wrapped up a few minutes early due to threatening rain and high winds, the night was an unqualified success.

And if you missed it, you can catch the debate on our YouTube channel, The Lake Report Newspaper, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cpbs8OZAaAc.

A sincere thanks to Paul Harber for letting us to use Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery's beautiful venue, to Erinn and James of Sweets & Swirls Cafe for providing nibbles for the event, and to Digital Tree, for the video and audio production of our live stream.

And, of course, to all candidates and citizens who attended. Democracy was the real winner on Tuesday night.

editor@niagaranow.com

NDP, Green voters should support Liberals

Dear editor:

Some thoughts for possible NDP or Green party voters, and undecideds, in the Sept. 20 federal election. I will vote Liberal, but, for others, please just read and consider the following, pragmatically:

* Given the history of voting data in our riding of Niagara Falls, it is highly unlikely a federal NDP or Green party candidate can win in this riding in this election. Neither the NDP nor the Greens have ever come anywhere near winning in this riding, nor has their combined total been near a winning one.

* The NDP and the Liberals have much in common in terms of progressive values/views/social policies, etc.. The NDP has, historically, advocated numerous progressive programs and policies (e.g., health care). I am fond of the notion that "NDP voters are Liberals in a hurry," but it has been Liberal governments that have actually enacted versions of NDP priorities; today's NDP and Liberal platforms overlap on many priorities and policies.

* The Greens also have much in common with Liberals, notably, the priority

both attach to "green" issues (environmental protection and conservation). At the moment, the Green party is in disarray, with well-publicized, deep, active, internal disputes, and pending, costly legal fights in the courts. The party has only ever elected three federal MPs (none in Ontario), and one of those recently moved over to the Liberals.

My bottom line: the best choice, in Niagara Falls riding (and in others), for prospective NDP or Green voters to advance progress on their priorities is to vote for a Liberal candidate.

Here, that is Andrea Kaiser.

Voting in our riding for an NDP or Green candidate may well result in a Conservative candidate winning Niagara Falls yet again, if not nationally. For both NDP and Green voters, and, yes, Liberals as well, that is the least desirable outcome. Please just consider the above when you come to mark your ballot for the federal election.

And one final point: the Conservative party formally dropped "Progressive" from its name almost two decades ago, in 2002.

Rick Kirby
 NOTL



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The Mennonite and Indigenous genocides

Dear editor:

In 2019, Parliament proclaimed the second week of September as Canadian Mennonite Heritage Week. But who are the Mennonites and why is this important?

Mostly known for distinctive food, a quiet faith and community service, Russian Mennonites share a violent record branding us as survivors of intergenerational trauma.

Revisiting our forebears' chronicles comes easily as we devour roll kuchen, forma worscht and Kielke met schmaunt fat. Then, the sting of ethnic discrimination surfaces.

My Mennonite grandparents fled during the Russian Revolution when their religion, wealth and German language branded them as dissidents and foreigners.

They saw their villages plundered and razed by the Bolsheviks, their peers tortured and murdered; then tarried in displaced persons camps for two years because of Canada's biased immigration policies against them (1919-1921).

That small-mindedness still causes some to be wary of government actions today, but also urges us toward compassion.

The recent First Nations crisis awakened our own ancient scars of bigotry.



Author Miranda Krause-Chivers. SUPPLIED

The unmarked graves on desecrated burial grounds offer proof of ethnic cleansing in a way that chillingly parallels the Mennonite story. Rooted in our DNA is the recognition that prejudice has many faces and its injury lasts for generations.

Our experience spurs us to ease the suffering of others. These gruesome acts, which highlight the worst of human behaviour, will not disappear until we confront the racism, fear and hatred behind them.

Silence only encourages the perpetrators to repeat the brutality. Decades of guilt, shame and anger manifest through mental illness, addiction, child abuse and domestic cruelty.

Words wound, but they also heal. Therefore, recovery demands influence from those who understand.

Upon visiting my ancestral sites in Ukraine in 2014, the blatant evidence of cultural genocide overwhelmed. Barren fields now cover the demolished graveyards and razed villages of my great-grandparents — the testimony to a deliberate political action to erase us from Russian soil.

Later, I sat with a profound sense of alienation and despair, while healing began in the torn pages of my soul.

As news broke about the First Nations atrocity, a sombre ceremony in Ukraine restored dignity to one Mennonite graveyard. Recent construction development discovered the ruined gravestones bulldozed during the Stalinist era.

My grief resurfaced when I verified the names against the Mennonite geneal-

ogy database. Out of the now identified eighty-six markers, fourteen were my recorded cousins. The stunning truth sickened me. I wondered about their deaths.

Although my backstory differs from that of Canada's Indigenous people, we share the deep wounds of bigotry. Mine hides behind my white skin.

Still, I'm ashamed about the desecration of sacred grounds done by the same country that granted my grandparents sanctuary and gave me life. We all deserve dignity. And walking out our altruistic platitudes requires more than head nods.

Dismissing the ugly truth only buries it temporarily — because history proves that blood screams to be found and bones rise from the graves. Yet time blinds us to the traumatic past.

This September, while we gorge on glums vereni, slurp Borscht from our soup spoons, or submit donations to Mennonite Central Committee charities, let's be mindful that our freedom to indulge arrived with a hefty price.

And while reflecting on history, let us examine our cultural sensitivity and remember — we are the lucky ones.

M.J. Krause-Chivers
NOTL

More promises to be broken on seniors benefits

Dear editor:

Attention all seniors: It's election time and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the great snake oil salesman (like we used to see in the old western movies), is on the campaign trail strutting his latest "If I'm re-elected" promises to increase seniors benefits.

The newest one is to "boost the federal income supplement by \$500 per year for low-income seniors." Just more lies and hollow promises to garner your vote

Go back to Fredericton



Justin Trudeau. FILE

during his 2019 re-election campaign and remember his promises back then: "If re-elected I will do more to boost incomes for seniors, widows and widowers by increasing the Old Age

Security (OAS) by an extra 10 per cent once a senior reaches 75, and boost the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) survivor's benefit by 25 per cent."

When he visits NOTL and the Niagara Region, accompanied by one of his loyal henchmen (or henchwoman in the case of Andrea Kaiser), ask these questions:

How did your promises in 2019 to increase seniors benefits work out? It's now September 2021 and we are still waiting. Why should we believe you now?

When first elected you also promised the Indigenous population you would solve their filthy water problems. How has that worked out? More broken promises.

Just another pack of lies from this scandal-plagued prime minister and his party.

My late Scottish buddy used to say: "Everytime he opens his mouth, he's lying through his teeth." Truer words were never spoken. He is the consummate con artist.

Samuel Young
NOTL

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.

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NOTL to consider 20 Virgil buildings for historic value

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town will review a list of 20 buildings in Virgil for inclusion in the Municipal Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, including one that is a contender for the oldest building in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Council passed a motion by Coun. Allan Bisback that drew on the book “The Cross Roads: Fortune Favours the Strong,” by David Hemmings, a NOTL historian and president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, to put together the list of properties.

“I think folks think of historical properties as only being in Old Town or St. Davids and Queenston. I was really surprised that Mr. Hemmings identified 20 properties in Virgil that he thinks should be considered,” Bisback said.

The municipal register is a tool to list properties with historic value and those sites can then be considered by the province for protection under the Ontario



The Gordon Hunter-Dick house is one of the oldest buildings in Virgil, originally built in 1796 by John Young. DAVID HEMMING

Heritage Act.

In an interview Monday, Hemmings said Virgil as a historical site is underrepresented.

“That was really the impetus for putting this list together. There is big concern that there are houses there that are at risk,” he said.

When Hemmings started telling people he was writing a book on the history of Virgil he said a common refrain he heard was, “What history?”

Hemmings’ work uncovered a rich history in the village – and one of the oldest standing buildings in the

municipality and possibly the region.

The Gordon Hunter-Dick house was built in 1796, just 15 years after the founding of the town, originally called Butlersburg. It is tucked away on a gravel road off East and West Line, completely hidden from the road.

“It’s got to be in the top 10 (oldest buildings in the municipality),” Hemmings said in an interview.

Back in the 1800s it would have been the kind of house you could only find if you already knew it was there, he said.

It’s out-of-the-way placement meant during the War of 1812 it was safe from invading American forces, who burned most of the homes and buildings in Virgil.

The home is also not a part of geographical Virgil but is in what Hemmings considers “cultural Virgil.”

Many of the settlements in the Virgil area were built by members of the United Empire Loyalists, including the Gordon Hunter house, which was built by John Young in 1796.

Mennonites arrived from what is now Ukraine in 1934 and revitalized the farming lands in Virgil, including the area where the Gordon Hunter house stands.

These connective lines of history weave together to form what Hemmings refers to as “cultural Virgil,” drawing on the historic roots of the settlement and not its arbitrary political boundaries.

“Virgil is really a cultural community, not a geographic community, in the sense that there are parts of Virgil that go all the way up to

Lakeshore Road,” Hemmings said.

The Gordon Hunter house has had many additions over the years, as every time Young had another child he would build a new bedroom for them.

“Consequently, each floor of the house is at a different level,” says Hemmings’ description of the property included with the motion.

Young’s first child was born there in 1804. The house stayed in the Young family until it was sold to the Niagara Land & Fruit Company in 1910. It has had a series of owners since then, including a family who lives there now.

Hemmings said all the homes mentioned in the motion are worthy of inclusion on the municipal register. He also noted the Lawrence house, rebuilt in 1818 after being burned during the war.

It was home to George Lawrence, a Methodist preacher, local leader and captain in the militia during the War of 1812. For a time, Virgil was known as Lawrenceville in his honour, Hemmings noted.

The Lawrence house is behind the Twisted Vine restaurant on Niagara Stone Road.

Coun. Clare Cameron, who sits on the municipal heritage committee, noted inclusion on the register does not mean the properties will be recognized by the province.

“(The municipal register is) only the most initial level of protection or acknowledgment of some of those heritage attributes,” she told councillors.

She pointed to the former Virgil Public School as a historically significant building that is on the municipal register but not protected under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Cameron noted that while the list was great it did not include all the historically relevant buildings in Virgil.

The list will be reviewed by the municipal heritage committee and a heritage planner to deem which buildings are fit for inclusion on the register. The full list of 20 properties is included in council’s Aug. 30 agenda under a report on the municipal register.

PEOPLE'S PARTY of CANADA

ELECT

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

ISSUE

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

FACTS

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

PLAN

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

A People’s Party government will:

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

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Left: Niagara Falls riding candidates share their views during the Niagara-on-the-Lake debate on Tuesday at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. RON PLANCHE Top right: Editors of The Lake Report, Richard Harley (left) and Kevin MacLean, give opening remarks. Bottom right: The audience was large, but a live broadcast of the meeting was available.

Debate topics include recovery, COVID and climate

Continued from Front Page

But moderator Patrick Little ensured levity throughout the nearly 90-minute debate.

After applause breaks every time a candidate spoke, Little addressed the time-wasting habit.

“Curtail the applause in total or at least shorten it so we don’t spend most of the evening listening to applause,” he told the crowd. His request was met with resounding applause from the packed event space.

Little held his head in his hands and said, “Be careful what you wish for.”

The debate kicked off with candidates staking their ground on the issue of climate change.

Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli, the incumbent, drew attention to his party’s platform released in April, saying the Tories will invest in nuclear, natural gas and hydrogen technologies as well as accelerate the deployment of carbon capture technology.

He claimed the Conservative party would reduce emissions by 29 per cent over the next nine years.

Kaiser offered no specifics for how she would address climate change but said the issue is what got

her involved in politics.

“There’s no question that this is a crisis we are facing,” she said.

She touted the Liberal plan as an ambitious but pragmatic one, saying the New Democratic plan was overly optimistic and the Conservatives didn’t go far enough.

She mentioned Dr. Mark Jaccard, an economist at Simon Fraser University, who graded the Liberal climate plan an 8 out of 10, and gave the Conservatives and New Democrats a 5 and 2, respectively.

During an interview on the YouTube channel Energi Media, Jaccard said the Liberals have succeeded in implementing necessary but tough measures such as a carbon tax. Jaccard used a modeling device from Navius Research to conduct an empirical analysis of the party’s plans, buffeted by his judgment calls on the data, he said.

Porter said the NDP would address the climate crisis but wouldn’t do it on the economic backs of average Canadians.

“Large polluters need to pay their share,” Porter said.

“We’re going to create thousands of good jobs by investing in clean energy. The Liberal and Conserva-

tive plans rely on fossil fuels.”

People’s Party of Canada candidate Peter Taras approached the topic from a different standpoint.

Taras spent most of the debate espousing the importance of personal freedom and criticizing big government. His comments were often met with rowdy cheers from a small group of purple-clad supporters seated together at the venue.

Taras said the entire climate movement is hypocritical, since the Paris Climate Accord was signed by politicians who flew in on jets.

If elected, he said his party would withdraw from the Paris accord and argued that if individuals want to do something about climate change then it’s up to them alone.

Candidates were asked how they would help the Niagara Region and NOTL recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.

Baldinelli said the Conservatives would cover up to 50 per cent of the cost of a new hire to help businesses find workers. He also said they would maintain the wage and rent subsidy programs longer than the Liberals would.

Kaiser said by pushing vaccinations the Liber-

als will help the province avoid further lockdowns and help businesses get back to normal.

Porter spoke about the issue of large companies profiting from the pandemic while the average Canadian struggles financially.

“Small businesses pay tax, working people pay tax. It’s time for the people who have profited during this pandemic to pay tax. That is how we are going to get out of this recession from the pandemic,” she said with a reference to Amazon.

Taras said the restrictions brought about by the pandemic, such as lockdowns and wearing masks, were needless and did more harm than good. He referenced the United Nations worldwide death statistics to prove his point before saying his party would completely open up the Canada-U.S. border.

Candidates were asked if Canada needs a federal vaccine passport and how they would comfort people afraid of getting vaccinated.

Porter said she understands vaccine hesitancy, as she went through the same fear when her children were required to get vaccinated. At the time, there was misinformation circulating that vaccines could cause

autism, she said.

But she emphasized she worked with a doctor to understand the issue and said society has a responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

“(COVID-19 has) killed people that I know. It’s killed people I know who’ve been previously healthy. I do support a vaccine certificate,” Porter said.

“Compassion and understanding are important but we also have to put people’s lives first and protect them. COVID is real.”

Taras said his party does not support vaccine passports and referred to the measure as “medical apartheid,” saying it should be each individual’s choice.

“Even if it’s going to make me stronger, smarter and taller, I should still have the choice to take it,” he said.

He also questioned the seriousness of COVID, claiming it has been exaggerated.

Baldinelli also said his party supports Canadians’ right to choose.

“However, vaccination is a safe and effective tool to stop the spread of COVID-19 and we encourage everyone who is able to take one,” he said.

He said he did not support the Liberal plan to

make a double dose of vaccines mandatory for travel or for federal workers, saying his party would ensure people take tests and prove a negative result before boarding a plane or train or going to work.

Baldinelli did say a Conservative government would work to implement a vaccine certificate for international travel, noting the inevitability that governments around the world will require proof of vaccination for incoming travellers.

Kaiser pointed to the suffering of anti-vaxers dying from COVID as a reason to get vaccinated.

“At the end of the day, a COVID test saying you have COVID is too late. It’s really as simple as that,” she said to loud applause.

“It’s time to do our part. It’s time to get vaccinated and to protect each other. It’s not a new concept. We vaccinated babies when we had polio.”

Kaiser also spoke about her children needing vaccines to attend public school and emphasized that vaccine certificates have a long history in Canada.

Watch The Lake Report debate video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cpbs8OZAaAc.



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Anatomy of a rescue: Sailboat freed from sandbar

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A 35-foot sailboat that ran aground on a sandbar off Queen's Royal Park on the windy evening of Sept. 1 was finally freed two days later.

After a dramatic nighttime rescue by Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services Department, a group of residents tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the boat. It remained stuck in the sandbar until about 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 when it was pulled loose by C-Tow Marine Assistance Ltd.

No one was injured and the sailboat survived the ordeal unscathed.

The water where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario near Queen's Royal is shallow and a prominent sandbar runs hundreds of feet not far from shore.

The sailboat got stuck and was listing to the starboard side with its keel wedged firmly into the bar, keeping it tipped over for almost two days. The water is only a few feet deep where it sat.

The keel is a large fin that juts into the water underneath a sailboat from the centre of its hull and helps keep the craft stable.

The sailboat was flying an Aquatic Park Sailing Club flag, a yacht club out of Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto.

The boat also had a vice commodore flag, an ensign flown by current and former yacht club vice-presidents across North America, NOTL sailing club member Barry Solomon said.

Commodore and vice commodore flags represent a sailor with experience and rank in their respective yacht club, he said.

"That's pretty embarrassing," Solomon said with a wry grin.

The sailboat anchored around 7:30 p.m. in the Niagara River on Sept. 1, not too far from the sandbank, said Delater Street resident Terry Boulton.

Boulton watched the entire event unfold and said there was a man and woman aboard the boat.



NOTLers tried to free the sailboat Saturday afternoon. RICHARD HARLEY Middle: NOTL and St. Catharines fire crews help the stranded couple off their boat.

"I thought, 'What is this guy doing?' " Boulton said in an interview.

"We watched for maybe an hour from my living room and I thought, 'Uh-oh, he's dragging.' And I knew he was in a very bad place."

Dragging anchor is a sailing term for when a boat gets pushed by wind, waves or currents even though its anchor is down. It is considered extremely dangerous since the pressure exerted on the anchor's cable from the force of the moving boat makes it impossible to raise the anchor and regain control of the vessel, Boulton said.

Boulton has lived in NOTL his whole life and started sailing with his father when he was a child.

He said Canadian Coast Guard boats came and shone spotlights on the sailboat. The American Coast Guard was also present.

"They can't come in here, it's way too shallow," he said.

The boat was being broadsided by the wind and waves for a while. At one point the craft was keeled over so far the railing on one side was completely submerged, he said.

Eventually the boat was pushed onto and over the sandbar, where it remained firmly stuck in the sand between the shore and the bar.

These events set the scene for a dramatic night rescue performed by NOTL firefighters.

Fire Chief Nick Ruller said his team received a dispatch call at 1:10 a.m. and arrived promptly on the scene.

The fire department received reports that the sailboat had anchored farther up the Niagara River. The current dragged the boat down to Lake Ontario, where the wind and waves began to push it toward the shore, Ruller said.

NOTL firefighters dispatched a pumper truck and brought two four-man rescue boats to the scene, in co-operation with the St. Catharines fire department.

"We reached out to the Canadian Coast Guard but they advised they were unable to get any closer or secure the boat because of the conditions," Ruller said.

The Canadian Coast Guard offered to bring in air support but Ruller and

his team decided on another way.

"Knowing that we do have a bit of a sandbar there this year and that it was exceptionally shallow we felt the best strategy would be to send a couple of firefighters in to do the rescue and utilize the dinghy that was on the back of the sailboat," Ruller said.

Firefighters waded out in the water as the wind howled across Lake Ontario from the north. They secured the dinghy with ropes to the shore and used it to shuttle the sailors to dry land.

Occupants of the sailboat were safe and sound on shore by 1:53 a.m., Ruller said.

Although water rescues are rare and dangerous, the fire department was prepared and trained for it, the chief said.

Even in the middle of a windy night, NOTLers were eager to help the struggling strangers.

"There were a few residents nearby, one of them was a bed and breakfast owner that offered up a room for them, if they needed," Ruller said.

"It's always nice to see that com-

munity element."

Once the occupants were safely on shore, attention turned to the strenuous task of removing the sailboat from the sandbar.

Since the boat was being supported by its keel, every time a wave hit the vessel the keel got hammered into the hull.

"If (the keel) is punched through (the hull) and they try to drag it, what happens? Does it sink?" Boulton mused.

The boat's captain contacted C-Tow to aid in removing the boat but the company was not able to help immediately.

"Busy, busy day," C-Tow representative Paul Gales said in an interview.

Gales offered some insight into how C-Tow frees boats in similar situations.

The company can use inflatable lift bags to elevate a boat so it floated over a sandbar, Gales said.

When a boat's keel is wedged deeply into a sandbar, C-Tow can use a high-powered water hose to clear the sand away from the keel and the water.

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Free off Queen's Royal Park



at early Thursday. NICK RULLER Right: Adrian Kennedy and Ed Yglesias of C-Tow work to free the craft on Sept. 3. CRAIG RUSSELL

Gales said they can also lean a boat onto its side and float it out, which is exactly what a group of residents tried to do when C-Tow informed the sailboat's owner they were delayed.

Paddle Niagara's Tim Balasiuk and a crew of residents, organized by NOTL sailing club member Rick Sherk, attempted to free the sailboat on the afternoon of Sept. 3.

Balasiuk strung ropes around the sailboat's halyard, or mainmast, to try to flip it onto its side. Balasiuk yanked with his own bodyweight on one rope while Paul Kocsis pulled the other with a dinghy.

While this was happening, NOTL residents Steph Tribe, Marty, Ty and Shane Sherlock gathered onto the starboard (right) side of the sailboat and tried to use their bodyweight to lean it over further.

Vaughan Goettler, another NOTLer, arrived with his boat to try to pull the sailboat over the sandbar while this was happening. They were unsuccessful.

"If we had more people I think we would have been able to do it," Bala-

siuk said in an interview Monday.

And while the civilian attempt failed, the altruistic residents were on the right track. The method they used was the same one professionals from C-Tow used to free the boat later that day.

Ed Yglesias of On Your Way Marine in Severn, Ont., also works for C-Tow. Yglesias, Adrian Kennedy and Craig Russell spent well over seven hours on Friday, Sept. 3, driving from Severn and freeing the sailboat from the sandbar.

They arrived on the scene around 7 p.m. and had the sailboat floating free around 9:30, roughly 48 hours after the whole ordeal started.

Yglesias said Kennedy and Russell worked a larger boat while he drove a small motor boat. The small boat put ropes around the halyard and flipped the sailboat onto its side, Yglesias said.

Once it was flipped, the crew floated the sailboat west down the shore to a point where the sandbar was a little deeper and attached ropes to the bow of the sailboat from the stern of the tow boat.

"We leaned it on its side while the big boat pulled it. It was pretty straightforward, uneventful and simple," Yglesias said.

There was never any doubt that they could pull the sailboat over the sandbar, the real question was how safely that could be done.

"We have enough horsepower to just drag it out. But the key was and the whole reason of leaning it on its starboard side was to minimize damages," Yglesias said.

"You can actually break the keel or the bolts that hold the keel in place can get compromised and then the boat starts taking on water."

But it seems the boys from C-Tow did about as good a job as one could hope.

"From the assessment we did, we could not see any damages," Yglesias said.

"Our main goal in a situation like this is not only getting the customer out safe but obviously minimizing the damage for the client."

And with that, an uncommonly eventful 48 hours at Queen's Royal Park was brought to a close.

RIDDLE ME THIS

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

Last issue: The more of me there is, the less you see. What am I?

Answer: Darkness

Also accepted: Fog

Answered first by: Sheila Meloche

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Mary Drost, Terry Nord, Win Laar, Maria Janeiro, Wade Durling, Howard Jones, Karunesh Makker, Charlotte and Gwendolyn Webber Mayeda, Kevin Etherington, Sylvia Wiens, Tammy Florio, Barbara North, Robert Wilms, Doug Bruce, Elaine Landray, Margie Enns, James Stewart, Teresa Kaminski

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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NIAGARA'S HISTORY UNVEILED

Sandsuckers, **ice jams** and decades of change

This is the final piece of a four-part series based on a talk given as a part of the Niagara Historical Society's lecture series. Because of the pandemic, the series, "All along the Waterfront" was done via Zoom. All of the talks are available online through the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

Linda Fritz
Special to The Lake Report

By 1959, only sandsuckers were left as commercial enterprises on the Niagara River.

According to one observer, they tied up "at the once busy dock where five passenger boats used to berth daily." One of the last sandsuckers in this area, the Niagara, was sunk at Tobermory and is now used to teach diving skills.

On Nov. 25, 1970, the sandsucker C.W. Caldwell struck a submerged rock just off the Queenston dock.

D.G. Bawtinheimer, the owner, said the Caldwell



Major ice jams, like this one in 1909, occurred several times near Queenston. NOTL MUSEUM

had a full load of commercial sand when it hit the rock. A photograph of the Caldwell taken sometime around 1961 is available at the Niagara Falls Public Library.

Although they are no longer used in Niagara, sandsuckers still exist. When the Kyoto airport was built in Japan in the early 1990s,

sandsuckers were used to create the island on which the airport sits.

The Niagara River provided industry and entertainment for both villagers and visitors. It was not always kind, however.

In 1825, 1909, 1936, 1938 and 1955 major ice jams played havoc on both the river and on shore. The

jams usually occurred during the spring ice break up. Boats and storage facilities were destroyed in each jam.

A forgotten writer, Barlow Cumberland, fictionalized the 1825 ice jam in his novel "A Century of Sail and Steam on the Niagara River." Written in 1913, the book gives a detailed history of sailing on the

Niagara River during the late 19th century.

We don't see ice jams today because a floating boom line at the entrance to the river at Buffalo/Fort Erie controls the amount of ice going over the falls. However, most years in March and April it's possible to watch the controlled ice floes as they move down the river to Lake Ontario.

We now come to the 21st century. The once bustling area is now a quiet little village. The bridge that used to bring American visitors into the village has moved a couple of kilometres to the south.

Visitors have to drive three kilometres to the first exit from Highway 405 and back again to reach the village. People can no longer walk across the border to visit their American friends and neighbours.

Young people who once swam across the river to prove a point when their parents weren't looking can no longer do so.

The major users of the

river do so for recreation. Fisher folk, many of whom come from outside the Niagara region, and jet skiers are often on the water in summer.

The last existing industry is the jet boat operation. These people bring little to the village. The noise from the jet boat buses is loud and constant throughout the summer (in non-COVID times). Too many of the fishing people leave their garbage strewn around for others to collect.

All is not lost, however.

Life in a village ebbs and flows, like the river. Young families are making the move to Queenston. Most people who live here love the place.

A walk along the riverfront is still a pleasant distraction at any time of the year. The view from the point to the east of St. Saviour's church is a joy, as is meeting friends and neighbours.

Who knows? Queenston's heyday may be in the future.



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The Grace United Church book sale on Saturday had nearly 5,000 books for people to peruse. JESSICA MAXWELL PHOTOS



Heinz Probst from Grace United Church sells the last of the fresh ears of corn to Carolyn Greenfield.



Marlene Fry (left) and Pauline Miller took care of sales at the jams and jellies table at the church's market.



The town wants more rural bike lanes. EVAN SAUNDERS

Town wants to add more **bike lanes** in rural areas of NOTL

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake wants money from the province to create more bike lanes in the rural areas of the municipality.

And if there's no money available, the town is asking for legislative power to possibly have bicycle tourists pay a tax to help fund the new infrastructure.

The idea, presented by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, came toward the end of a two-day, nine-and-a-half-hour council meeting that started last Monday and concluded on Friday.

Disero said the town is crowded with cyclists and proper infrastructure needs to be built to accommodate them.

"I get so many calls from people out there living in the rural areas that the bikes are all over the road and there could be problems," she told councillors.

NOTL encourages visitors to bike to the various wineries around town and that increases the need for bike lanes, Disero said.

"This just is asking the province for some help or some enabling legislation to allow us, either to give us the resources or to help us get the resources, to create bike lanes in rural areas," she said.

Her motion passed 7-2, with Couns. Clare Cameron and Erwin Wiens voting against it.

Cameron said she was concerned the plan would create a tax applicable only to bicycle-related businesses.

"That could be a possibility," Disero said. "Enabling legislation could mean a lot

of different things."

Cameron said that she wouldn't support the idea, noting the businesses had not yet been consulted about the issue.

Disero said consultation would take place after funding was secured.

"If the province refuses anything and everything, then really what's the point (of consultation)?" Disero said.

Wiens echoed Cameron's sentiment but also disagreed with a tax on "green energy."

"It's great for the environment and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's going to tax it? I don't like that idea at all. I think we need to encourage people to get out onto our bike lanes," he said.

Wiens said asking the province for funding or legislation to create bike lanes before the completion of the transportation master plan will probably be unsuccessful.

Coun. Norm Arsenault was concerned that the motion would trump the transportation master plan, of which bike lanes are a feature.

"(The motion) doesn't talk about where bike lanes go and all the rest of it. This is just going to try to help us get some money," Disero said.

"OK, I'm fine with that," Arsenault responded.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was supportive.

"My fellow councillors have raised a number of issues with the details as we move along and, yes, all of them need to be considered, but I see this as a way of moving in tandem with the tourism strategy," she said.

"I see those as detail discussions further down the line."

Grace United book sale offers **5,000 treasures**

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

A sunny Saturday morning this past weekend helped Grace United Church's Festival Market raise \$2,900 just through its book sale.

A first edition copy of "Tom Sawyer" was one of the prized finds that went to an early buyer.

For the first time in two years, the church hosted its annual market, which featured over 5,000 books, local produce, homemade baked goods, jams, jellies and sauces, along with a mystery sale.

The market raised almost \$9,000 that will go

toward supporting operations at the church.

Book sale co-chair John Sayers said the response from the community was gratifying.

"There are people we haven't seen in the flesh for two years and we see them and it's so lovely, it's wonderful," Sayers told The Lake Report during the Saturday sale.

People were especially excited for the huge book sale with some book collectors showing up as early as 7 a.m. to wait outside the church hall doors.

"We've been keeping these books for two years in my garage," said book sale co-chair Marnie Tay-

lor. "It's a huge amount. We have about 215 boxes, about 5,000 books."

"People have been giving us more and more books with special interest because they know that we organize and curate the book sale. It's all organized by topic," Taylor said.

"They know that we have good quality stuff and that it's well-organized."

The first edition of "Tom Sawyer" sold for \$200 first thing in the morning, said Sayers.

Volunteers from the church helped to sort large quantities of donations from community members since the onset of

the pandemic. This came in the form of more than just books, but also useful household items and décor.

Donations from the community were a big factor in the market's success, said Chris McQuestion, who was helping to run the mystery tables at the market.

"It was supposed to just be a few tables, but we had so many donations from the community," McQuestion said.

Sayers said he hopes to see more church festivals resume in Niagara-on-the-Lake as pandemic restrictions lift and it is safe to gather.

New minister joins St. Davids-Queenston United Church

Steve Hardaker
Special to The Lake Report

After a nearly two-and-a-half-year search, the congregation of St. Davids-Queenston United Church welcomed their new minister, Rev. YongSeok Baek, on Sunday.

Born and raised in South Korea, Baek was ordained in the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea in 2011.

He moved to Canada in 2014 for his master of

theological studies at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and later joined the United Church of Canada.

After four years as minister at Wilkie and Cut Knife United Church in remote northwest Saskatchewan, he was appointed to St. Davids-Queenston United Church this past April 2021. Thus began an over 3,500-kilometre road trip to come to Ontario.

Baek, his wife Yugene Oh and their two children, Soul and Dana, arrived in Niagara-on-the-Lake in mid-August

and settled in the Glendale area. He officially became the minister on Sept. 1.

His predecessor, Rev. Paul James, retired and moved to Penticton, B.C., in 2019, after 22 years at St. Davids-Queenston.

The congregation has resumed in-person services with capacity limits and is live streaming services on YouTube.

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



YongSeok Baek. SUPPLIED

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Women take pro to school and then he returns the favour

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Eight members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake 18 hole women's league beat the club pro in a fun shoot-out competition last Tuesday morning.

But he turned the tables on them a week later and this Tuesday, no one came close to knocking him off.

Every season, pro Billy Simkin goodnaturedly puts himself on the line and lets the women have a shot at outperforming him from the tee on the course's par-3 fourth hole.

Some years the pro has dominated, some years the women have "schooled" him.

Last week it was the latter as Lisa Allen, Carroll Baker, Donna Lailey, Sharron Marlow, Carolyn Porter, Margot Richardson, Cathy Taylor and Robin Williams all managed to beat the pro.

There was a tough elevated back-tier pin placement, said Simkin, noting his wedge shots repeatedly hit the ridge and rolled back, while the women



Carroll Baker and Robin Williams were among eight women who beat the pro in a friendly shootout last week, but he got his revenge this week. BILLY SIMKIN PHOTO

rolled their shots up closer than his.

It was all in fun, though, and Simkin said it was "great to see so many women happy" with beating the pro at his own game.

But he vowed a rematch and this week, with a similar pin placement but a different angle from the tee box, his pitching wedge was working well.

He landed at least one of his shots within a couple of feet of the hole. No word yet on if it will be best two-out-of-three.

MEN'S RESULTS:

Lefty John Sobil was crowned winner of the WOOFs Cup last week, winning the one-day, nine-hole tournament. Last year's winner Jim Meszaros was second and Grant Williams

was right behind in third place.

This week, four players tied for first with 39 but Peter Falconer was the winner through scoring retrogression. Low net was Charlie Rate with 34. Richard Cook won the hidden hole (#1) and Darryl Fry was closest to the pin on #4. Ernie Jensen won \$58 in the 50/50 draw.



League co-ordinator Bill Katrynuk, left, presents the WOOFs Cup trophy to winner John Sobil. KEVIN MACLEAN

In Thursday men's league action, Stephen Levy led the field in modified Stableford scoring with 22 points. Jim Meszaros, Randy Busbridge and Tom Eltoft were second with 21. Bob Chertion, Jim Ricci, Joe Interisano, Norm Kerr and John Gursky tied for third with 20.

James Grigjanis-Meusel again had the low gross with a 1-under 35.

Winners of \$50 net skins were Stephen Jenkins (#1), Dow Wright (#3), Bernard Marlow (#7) and John Reynolds (#8). Gross skins worth \$20 went to Jenkins (#1), Rai Lauge (#2), Kevin MacLean (#3), Grigjanis-Meusel (#4, #5), Ted Wiens (#6) and A.J. Harlund (#9).

Closest to the pin were Mark Derbyshire (#4) and Harlund (#9).

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Ross' Ramblings: Let's stop and **smell the flowers** around our town

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

Stop! Shut down for an hour or so. This week every NOTLer needs to enjoy a ramble around our town.

Take a break from being beaten down by the nightly news, as our world is limned by the news anchors. Haiti, Afghanistan, fires destroying forests on the west coasts of Canada and the U.S. Clean water challenges in Ethiopia and for many Canadian Indigenous people.

COVID-19 statistics and prognostications. To mask and jab or not to mask and jab.

As I paused the other day and sat on the bench in front of Niagara Home Bakery, I slowly savoured a day-old cinnamon bun, and enjoyed watching scores of tourists ambling by. Some pushing strollers, others pushing wheelchairs. Families and couples and singles from around the world. Many taking photos of our town flowers, in full bloom.

So many languages, so many styles of dressing, an endless parade of smiling



NOTL's Chris Allen massages so many effulgent plantings in Old Town. SUPPLIED

people. Polite, respectful, inquisitive. Indeed, our Niagara-on-the-Lake shows well on a summery day.

Each and every person feeling safe and secure, amazed at our flowers pots and baskets. Some strollers Covid-ly masked, some not.

And a delightful number of young women enjoying their bachelorette getaways in Niagara. Walking. Zoom

bicycling, Pedal Pubbing, jetboating, tasting some wines, quaffing a very cold Oast House Barnraiser ... what's not to love?

Live music is coming back. Fun!

Relax, take a leisurely drive, or a long walk or bike ride. We are so fortunate.

I am sad that we are becoming known by some as an unfriendly place to visit.

Too many negative signs, so many bylaw enforcement vehicles patrolling our streets and parks, often with their roof lights flashing.

Just doesn't seem welcoming. We spend big money to encourage tourism visits and then we whack 'em with parking fines of up to \$150. Yes, \$150! I got nailed while stopped for five minutes in front of my

old Chautauqua cottage. Sheesh. Ah well, I need a wee donnybrook. Life has been too peaceful of late.

Delight in Chris Allen's wonderful, effulgent horticultural displays in front of the Shaw Café and the Irish Harp, and so many other downtown businesses. And over to Virgil's hanging flower baskets, the Pollinator Garden in St. Davids, and the lovely residential gardens of Queenston. Endless visual and olfactory delights, eh?

And with some frequency, an open-piped motorcycle or souped-up car dramatically breaks the silence. Hey, lighten up. To each his/her own, eh? Va-room. Flex yer mechanical muscles. Whatever floats yer boat.

And our paper keeping us apprised of NOTL issues. Granted, this is cherry picking, but we are kept abreast of such issues as "traditional marriage" lawn signs, the Pedal Pub lease, the Queen Street/Mississauga intersection kerfuffle, and parking and family picnic enforcement at Ryerson Park.

Not to mention the continuing vitriol regarding the future of horse drawn car-

riages in the Old Town. The horses seem healthy and happy, but who asks them?

Not to stir the pot, but let's enact a bylaw to regulate portable toilets. Construction sites require relief opportunities, but let's learn from the Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, where temporary toilets must be camouflaged by cedar trees or a trellis.

It's time for me to give my rambling head a shake.

Time for a Black Cherry or Maple Walnut ice cream cone out at Walker's Market, or the venerable Stage Coach downtown. By the way, who orders an ice cream cup? Someday I must go upscale and try my first gelato.

In the meantime, please take a break from the real world. Enjoy a leisurely look around our town.

Do some tourism marketing, by Covid-ly smiling at some visitors or locals. A cheery hello or nod will be appreciated and remembered.

Let's resolve to return to being a friendly place to visit and live.

Be kinder to people.

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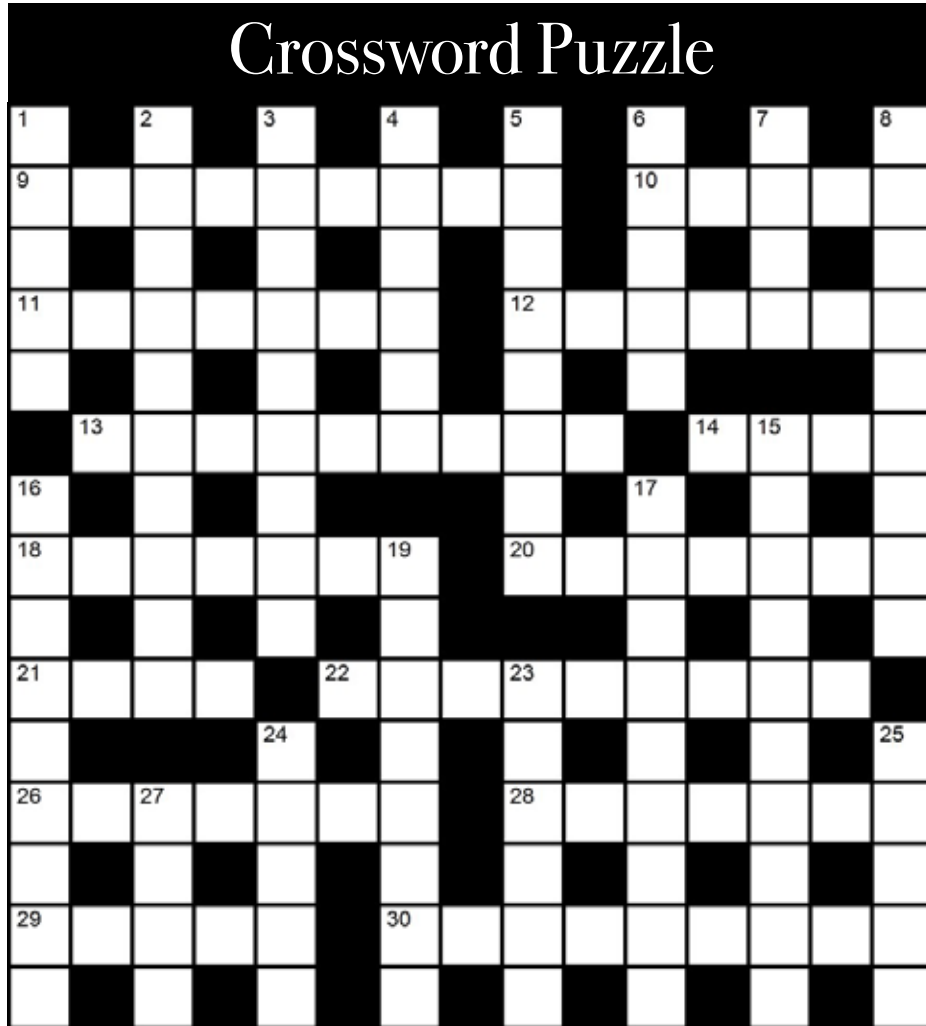
Have some fun

Across

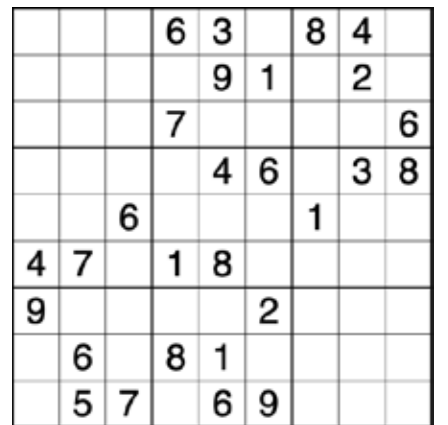
- 9. Playwright (9)
- 10. Moor (3,2)
- 11. Space surrounding an altar (7)
- 12. Quickly (7)
- 13. Runner (9)
- 14. Cougar (4)
- 18. Distinct sort or kind (7)
- 20. Surgical knife (7)
- 21. A great deal (4)
- 22. Herald (9)
- 26. Hedge (7)
- 28. Books of maps (7)
- 29. Young hooter (5)
- 30. Abbreviated (9)

Down

- 1. Decree (5)
- 2. Executives (10)
- 3. Biting (9)
- 4. Fiddle (6)
- 5. Old liners (8)
- 6. The Roman Empire's home country (5)
- 7. Large mass of floating ice (4)
- 8. As thumbs are (9)
- 15. Disagreeable (10)
- 16. Psalter (5,4)
- 17. Moon (9)
- 19. Astonishment (8)
- 23. Lea (6)
- 24. Threescore (5)
- 25. Stage whisper (5)
- 27. Depend (4)



Last issue's answers



Dr. Brown: Valuable **lessons learned** from treating rare diseases

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

Sometimes, a rare disease can teach us a lot about treating more common diseases.

Such is the case for a disease called transthyretin amyloidosis, which in its autosomal dominantly transmitted form, is rare – about one case in 100,000.

Chance mutations in the transthyretin gene related to aging and other factors, account for far more common non-genetically transmitted versions of this disease.

Transthyretin is a protein made in the liver whose normal task is thyroxine and vitamin A transport – a prosaic enough job not unlike thousands of other tasks carried out by other proteins in the body whose structures and functions are dictated by their parent genes. So far, so good.

In its normal form, the transthyretin protein is a soluble tetramer made up of four sub-units. However, in

its mutant form – a product of mutations in its parent gene – this protein unfortunately breaks up to form fine insoluble amyloid fibrils.

Deposited in peripheral nerves, those fibrils cause loss of sensation, postural drops in blood pressure, incontinence and diarrhea, or deposited in heart muscle, lead to progressive heart failure. And left untreated, the disease is fatal within three to 15 years.

That dismal picture dramatically changed recently because of cumulative and closely related advances in physics, chemistry, molecular biology and genetics, especially in the field of messenger RNA (mRNA) technologies (sound familiar to you what with mRNA vaccines?), and CRISPR-Cas9, a novel gene-editing tool. For the latter, the 2020 Nobel prize in chemistry was awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna.

These technologies offer two ways of treating both the genetically transmitted and naturally occurring (wild) mutant forms of this disease. The first approach involves mRNA.

Normally, genes that code for specific proteins are transcribed into a single strand of mRNA in the nucleus, the code of which mRNA, is read (translated) by ribosomes in the cytoplasm to create gene-specific proteins. That train of events from gene to protein offers a way to treat diseases like transthyretin amyloidosis by blocking the go-between mRNA molecule and thereby stopping the production of the mutant protein responsible for the disease. Nifty.

That's what was achieved with two new drugs, Inotersen and Patisiran in 2018. Repeated injections with Inotersen or intravenous infusions in the case of Patisiran over the course of a year and a half dramatically

reduced the blood levels of the mutant protein.

More importantly, progression of the disease was halted and even reversed. That's the good news. The not-so-good news would be the high cost and inconvenience of repeated treatments and, more importantly, occasional severe adverse side effects.

The triumph in the treatment of transthyretin amyloidosis was the recent evidence that CRISPR-Cas9 was found to be equally, if not more, effective in lowering the blood levels of the mutant transthyretin protein compared to the mRNA treatments. But unlike the latter, it was associated with only minor side effects and required but one treatment.

The CRISPR part of the CRISPR-Cas9 was a short strand of RNA tailored to target the mutant transthyretin gene, while avoiding any off-target misses of functional significance. The CRISPR guide was coupled to an en-

zyme (Cas9) to cut the gene at both ends of the target site. That effectively knocked out the mutant gene.

It worked in part because CRISPR-Cas9 was packaged in a nanoparticle-sized lipid shell engineered to evade the immune system in much the same way Pfizer and Moderna protected the RNA in their COVID vaccines. In the case of treating transthyretin amyloidosis, the CRISPR-Cas9 package was also designed to target the liver.

Follow-up, of course, is needed but the triumph is impressive for the high level of collaboration shown by so many disciplines in universities and high-tech companies. That's often what it takes these days.

This review spotlights one of a growing number of single mutant gene-related diseases that were hitherto untreatable by employing novel technologies to edit the mutant gene responsible for the disease directly using the gene-editing tool CRISPR-

Cas9 or, alternatively, to block the effects of the mutant gene on protein production by interfering with the mutant mRNA.

Gene therapy is a rapidly growing game-changing tool for treating cancer, common inherited blood disorders such as sickle-cell disease and thalassemia, some eye diseases, inherited genetic diseases of the brain such as progressive muscular atrophy in infancy, and several muscle diseases.

For all those and other reasons, gene therapy is the subject of the opening program in the InfoHealth series on Sept. 13 at 11 a.m. in the Niagara-on-the-Lake library. In-person attendance is limited to 20 people.

Remember, too, the Nobel series returns on Monday, Nov. 8 at 11 a.m.

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.

SHAW GUILD

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Shaw actor runs 100 miles to support Canadian entertainers

Jessica Maxwell
The Lake Report

For the second year in a row, Shaw Festival actor Kevin “Koovy” McLachlan completed a self-organized run for charity.

McLachlan spent just more than 35 hours running 100 miles – 160 kilometres – this past weekend to raise \$5,000 in support of the Actors Fund of Canada, a charity that supports Canada’s entertainment industry.

The route took McLachlan on a trail in and around the Dundas Valley Conservation Area, which he said he modelled after another local run by Happy Trails Racing called the “Foxtail 100.”

Through sun, rain and pitch darkness, McLachlan said he was challenged mentally, physically and emotionally.

“I wanted to see how far I could push myself and I wanted to find the edge, basically find that place where you just go, ‘I can’t do any more,’ and then you just keep going,” he said.

Some people might wonder why this 25 year-old would push himself to his limits to run for more than 35 hours and 100 miles when no one was making him do it.

“I got to prepare, I got to practice and I got to try to put things in place to be ready for it but not everyone has that luxury,” McLachlan said.

This is a reality of many of the Canadian entertainers who seek the support of the Actors Fund when in need, he said.

McLachlan recalls a moment around 70 kilometres into the run where he was reminded of the real reason he pushed himself to complete this challenge.

“One of my friends who ran with me, Eliza Jane Scott, was there as the night fell around 9 p.m. to midnight,” McLachlan said.

Running alongside him, she talked about how her son had been born with complications, and both mother and baby ended up in hospital.

“She talked about all these unexpected costs

and things had arisen and she said how the (Actors Fund) paid for her rent that month,” he recalled.

“And I just remember tears coming in my eyes that moment and being like, ‘Oh yeah, there was a bigger why,’ to have me doing this as a fundraiser to help support people and being reminded of those of those moments and those things was such a was such a motivating thing to keep me moving.”

As of Tuesday, Sept. 7, McLachlan was well on his way to his goal and had raised \$3,550. Anyone interested in supporting the run can visit his fundraising page at <https://afchelps.ca/koovyruns100miles/>.



Kevin “Koovy” McLachlan. SUPPLIED

Osprey in the wild



NOTL photographer Frank Hayes captured osprey recently along the Niagara Parkway.

Carriage supporter charged with assault after defending daughter

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake horse carriage supporter has been charged with assault over an incident in August.

The charge relates to an incident involving two alleged assaults, one of which was against a minor, on Aug. 14 during a protest by animal rights activists.

Police said at about 2:45 p.m. that day an “altercation ensued” between a 17-year-old girl and a 69-year-old woman. The Lake Report



Elizabeth Beattie. FILE

has identified the teen as Hailey Beattie, an employee of Sentineal Carriages.

Hailey’s mother Elizabeth Beattie later came to confront protesters.

Two people were arrested on the scene, however both were released pending fur-

ther investigation.

Police said an investigation found no evidence that the 17-year-old victim was assaulted, “However, evidence did exist that a 35-year-old female approached a protester and allegedly swatted a cellphone out of her hand.”

The protester did not suffer any physical injuries as a result of the incident.

Police charged Elizabeth Beattie, 35, of St. Catharines on Saturday. She was released on a promise to appear in court later.



2021 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE FINAL SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

Tax Rates as per Final By-Law No. 5321-21

Payment may be made by mail or by drop off at the **Town Municipal Offices** at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON L0S 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.**

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only **after** the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. **If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.**

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Save time and potential late fees by paying your taxes through our Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan or through online or telephone banking. Property owners can also request to receive their property tax bills and notices from the Town by e-mail only through a new eSend service.

For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town’s website at www.notl.com or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.

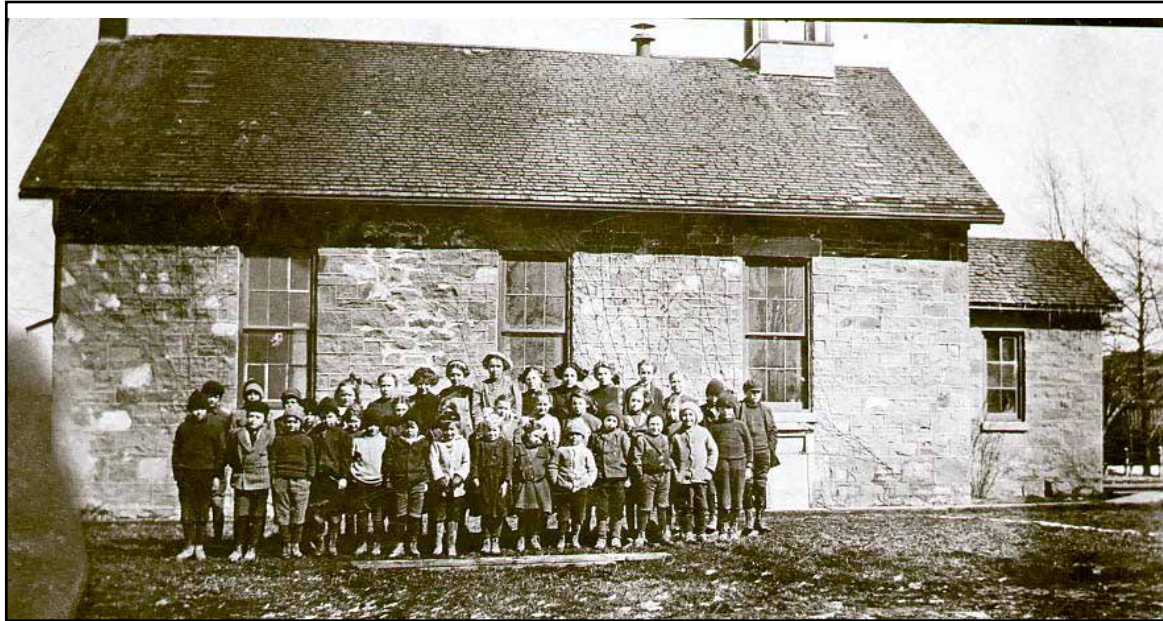
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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Former St. Davids school

It's back to school for the kiddos this week — some virtually and some in person. Here's an early photograph of the former St. Davids school building on York Road. David Jackson Lowrey donated the land for the school as well as its bell. The school was located where the St. Davids Public School is today. Emma Currie, known for her part in promoting the story of Laura Secord, attended school in St. Davids briefly while her father was a tanner there. She recalled: "There were no steel pens in those days; the teacher had to prepare quills. Some sought in the creek, where many geese were to be seen, for wing feathers from the many geese to be made into quill pens." Parents, I guess you can enjoy the ease of back-to-school shopping in your local store rather than along the water of Four Mile Creek.



Understanding New Traditional design

Brian Marshall
Columnist



New Traditional take on American Shingle Style. SUPPLIED

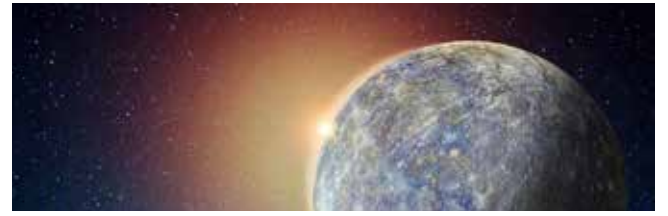
In several of my past columns, most recently in my series on infill builds, I referred to the New Traditional school of design. However, I have really not elaborated on the approach this group of architects employs nor the work that results. This is something I'd like to correct this week. On page 725 of her seminal book on American residential architecture, "A Field Guide to American Houses," Virginia Savage McAlester describes talented New Traditional architects this way: "... they understand classical principles and architectural style well enough to subtly alter or rearrange elements to create New Traditional home designs, not copies

— houses instantly familiar yet subtly different from the homes that inspired them. Architectural historian Vincent Scully describes this as a 'conversation across the generations.' " To do this well, is a great deal more difficult than one might at first think. The architect must, in part, be an historian who is intimately familiar with the parameters of the architectural style as evidenced by built heritage. They must possess an expert knowledge of the materials and methods used in the period construction of the style. Further, all of the forms and elements associated with

a particular style must be clearly understood and at their creative 'fingertips'. Although, as most of the Arch-i-Text's regular readers will know, I have a relatively high bar when it comes to describing any particular designer as "talented," my standard moves even higher for those working in New Traditional. Keep in mind that the intent here is not to produce an exact replica of a home that would have been designed in the past. The objective of these architects is to design a modern expression of an historic style which conforms in every particular to the established

criteria of that style. The result is a house that looks and feels correct because it conforms to stylistic parameters but, upon closer examination, has been deftly adjusted to provide modern livability, often with materials that may not have been available during the historic period it represents. To use a simple example, we are designing a classic five-bay, ranked Georgian (think of the McFarland house). The window openings on a period house would have been relatively small because the imported glass panes from England were a standard small size. Even 12 over 12 panes didn't produce a large sash. By maintaining the scale, proportions, ranking and so on, we may choose to make our openings somewhat larger, filled by a 12 over 12 window wherein each pane is slightly higher and wider, thereby producing a window that looks correct but provides enhanced sightlines and improved interior light. Done well, New Traditional designs are the best way to bridge between yesterday and today.

Looking to the Stars



A day of tension for 9/11 anniversary

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

This week Venus leaves her home sign of Libra for sexy Scorpio and Mars leaves Virgo for peaceful Libra,

Thursday, Sept. 9: As the moon moves from serious Capricorn into futuristic Aquarius in the morning, we get a powerful insight into our deepest strengths courtesy of the sun in perfect harmony with Pluto. It was Sept. 9, 1776, that the United Colonies officially changed their name to the United States of America.

Friday, Sept. 10: Venus moves from her home sign of Libra into Scorpio. Fortunately, we have a mitigating factor called mutual reception, which is when two planets are in each other's sign of rulership. Venus is now in Mars' sign (Scorpio), while Mars (from Sept. 14 onward) is in Venus' sign, so Venus and Mars bring the best out of each other. This is a great transit for relationships of any kind. In the next few weeks, we will find it easier to relate to others, to put ourselves in their shoes. Jean Chretien married Aline Chaine on Sept. 10, 1957.

Saturday, Sept. 11: On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, here is a day when, in a less raucous way, is also full of tension. Feelings are in for a day of powerful mood swings. Remember to breathe. This too shall pass. Happy birthday #54 to Harry Connick Jr., born Sept. 11, 1977.

Sunday, Sept. 12: Today, as the moon moves from secretive, sexy Scorpio into all-knowing Sagittarius, heart and mind have different takes on what promises to be a warm, sexy, stern and serious Sunday. Henry Hudson, English-born explorer sailing for Holland, was born Sept. 12, 1575. He founded New York, where a river is named for him, and then visited Hudson Bay while

searching for a northern route to China.

Monday, Sept. 13: We are exactly halfway between the new moon on Sept. 6 and the full moon of Sept. 20. It's the day of the first quarter moon in Sagittarius. It's a challenge as we recommit to promises made two weeks ago. Happy birthday Laura Secord, born Sept. 13, 1775!

Tuesday, Sept. 14: The sun in Virgo is opposite Neptune in Pisces. The opposition is a confrontational aspect that will force us to pay attention to something that we would rather overlook, because it feels like hard work. The question now is not "Who am I?" but "Who am I becoming?" Also, Mars enters Libra, which is the "lawyer aspect." Mars in Libra may not fight for themselves, but will certainly fight for others. Ask Gandhi, Mandela, Dalai Lama, the Pope, or John Lennon — they all have Mars in Libra. This is also a good aspect to address relationship issues and blockages. Mars will give you the drive to "do something about it" and Libra will make sure you remain reasonable and objective. Actor Sam Neil turns 74 today. He is most famous as Dr. Alan Grant in Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" films.

Wednesday, Sept. 15: Changing something about a key relationship to make it better for you and where you want to be going is stressful, but also very worth it. Google is 24 today.

And on Sept. 15, 1616, in Frascati, Italy, the first free public school opened its doors for all. Next week we will see the full moon in Pisces. It promises to be one of the most energetic full moons of the year.

Please check out the brand new website www.lutts.ca as in Looking Up to the Stars. And you can get my free horoscope with interpretation emailed to you.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Monday
Current exhibition is Making Her Mark,
on display until October 24th



Obituary & In Memoriam

Anthony Parker



The incomparable Tony Parker passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2021. Tony had 75 years of adventures, and even after his brain cancer revealed itself in November 2019, he had his best year ever as a realtor, connecting many clients to their dream homes.

Tony (Antonino) was born in Sicily and raised in Australia and England, before coming to Canada in his 20s. He worked in sales nearly his whole life, selling everything from Lifesavers candy, to china and glassware, to office equipment. But it was when he turned his considerable talents to real estate that his abilities were truly able to shine. Becoming a realtor in the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake at age 65, Tony earned his place as the top realtor at the local Bosley Real Estate brokerage for the past five years running. In selling homes, he helped build the local community, bringing new and old residents together, and introducing clients to his favourite local businesses. Many of his clients became friends of his, as they discovered how much genuine care he took in everything he did for them. He would not let any need go unmet, and always encouraged and supported others to succeed.

Tony was a connoisseur: he loved a fine meal, and had a wide palate, especially enjoying Indian and Thai food, stinky cheeses from England and of course, pasta. He could not resist fresh pastries, and he was able to indulge in them on his frequent trips to Europe with his partner Meg. The patisseries of Paris will miss him. He loved art and architecture, with a special passion for art deco buildings and sculptures. Tony was a film buff enjoying everything from art house favourites to documentaries to goofball comedies. He was also an avid reader of books on history, politics, and the social sciences. He delighted in learning about advances in science and technology, as befitted his optimistic nature.

Many described Tony as a consummate gentleman, which was absolutely true. Always impeccably dressed, he loved to go for drives in his new Jaguar, a car he had dreamt of owning for years. But he also had a wonderful silly side and loved to laugh. Tony was a destroyer of crosswords and a sandwich wizard, and he let his creative side flourish in the kitchen with his famous fish soups. Tony could bask in the sun for hours and lived his entire life in denial of winter.

Tony will be dearly missed by his daughter Judith and her partner Angelo; his son Steven and grandsons James and Owen; his partner Meg and her son Jeb; his sisters Anna, Marisa, his brother Frank, and many nieces and nephews. Family & friends are invited to a Celebration of Life in Niagara-on-the-Lake at an upcoming date, to be confirmed. Kindly email Celebrations of Life Toronto info@cofl.ca or call 416-817-8772 to be placed on our contact list. You will receive memorial details for Tony as they are announced. The family ask that any donations be made to Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care or United Way Niagara.



**In Loving Memory of
Gerry Lamarre
Aug 13, 1937 - Sept 14, 2020**

When God was making husbands, as far as I can see,
He made a special soulmate, especially for me.
Next time we meet again will be at heaven's door
When I see you standing there, I won't cry anymore.
I'll put my arms around your neck and kiss your smiling face.
Then the pieces of my broken heart will fall back into place.

Miss you so much.
Love you forever.
Your Ruth

Growing Together: September is time to plan your fall bulbs



Joanne Young
Special to The Lake Report



Crocuses. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTO

There is nothing more satisfying to a gardener than seeing those first early spring flower bulbs popping up from the cold ground.

These little sprouts soon bloom into gorgeous flowers, brightening up your garden for the start of a great growing year.

So why am I talking about spring flowers now? When people think about the first week of September and Labour Day weekend, they are usually thinking about the end of summer and the kids going back to school. For me, it signifies the beginning of the bulb

buying season. Yeah!

So, let's start off with a definition of a bulb. "A flower bulb is an underground storehouse and flower factory." Within the bulb is everything that the plant will need to sprout and flower at the appropriate time.

This week we will be just looking at what we call "fall bulbs" – ones that are planted in the fall, overwinter dormant in the ground and start blooming in early spring. Fall bulbs include

tulips, daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, Alliums and winter aconite. "Summer bulbs" are planted in the spring, bloom throughout the summer and must be dug up and stored for the winter.

Generally, bulbs become available in garden centres the second or third week of September. As well, many companies sell bulbs online, especially hard-to-find ones.

When choosing your bulbs, look for ones that are not bruised or marked up. Most bulbs have a brown,

papery covering on them called the tunic. Make sure the bulb still has this covering on it when purchasing. Choose a larger sized bulb when possible – the larger it is the larger the flowers will be and the more likely it is to bloom the first year.

Very small bulbs (immature bulbs) may not bloom until the second or third season so don't be afraid to spend a little more on the bulbs to get big results the first year. When you are choosing your bulbs, make sure that you select a variety with staggered bloom times to extend the length of colour in your spring garden. Also, consider the different heights that the bulbs will grow to be and the height of the surrounding plants.

The best time to plant fall bulbs is from mid-October to mid-November, before

the ground freezes. You may want to purchase your bulbs earlier to get the varieties that you want, though. Just keep them stored in a dark, cool area until you are ready to plant.

Bulbs prefer a loose, porous soil with lots of organic matter and good drainage. If the soil is too wet, it can cause bulbs to rot. Most bulbs prefer a sunny location – but remember that they just need sunlight until the time that they go dormant. So, if a location receives sun in early spring, but is shaded later by overhead trees, they should still thrive in that environment.

When possible, plant your bulbs in larger groupings in order to have a more dramatic and instant show of colour. Instead of planting each bulb in its own hole, dig a larger hole and place several bulbs in that hole. Follow the directions

on the package for planting depth. If there are no instructions provided, plant bulbs at a depth that is equal to three times the diameter of the bulb itself - e.g. if a bulb is two inches in diameter, plant it six inches deep.

Once the hole is dug, mix bone meal into the soil at the bottom of the hole. Place bulbs in the hole, pointed end up. To discourage squirrels from digging up your bulbs, you can cut a piece of chicken wire (with larger holes) to the size of the hole and place it over the bulbs. Back fill the hole with amended soil, such as triple mix or compost, gently packing the dirt as you go. Water thoroughly.

Your bulbs are now all tucked into bed and eagerly waiting for spring..

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



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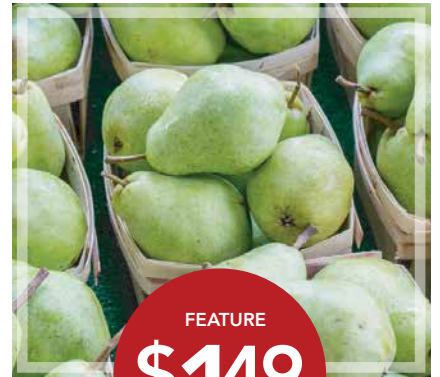
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