



Lake Report is the **most decorated** community newspaper in Canada

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The Lake Report has been honoured by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association with 29 national awards for journalism excellence, more than any other publication in the country.

The awards, announced Monday, are for stories, photos, features and commentary published in 2020 and 2021.

COVID forced postponement of the awards for 2020, so this year judges separately assessed submissions from both years.

All told, The Lake Report won six first-place awards, 12 seconds and 11 third-place honours, competing against news publications from coast to coast.

Continued on Page 2

Rain or shine, **NOTL** remembers

Soaking wet ceremonies a reminder of the sacrifice of veterans



Cadet Emily Abt salutes the Canadian flag as it is lowered to half-mast during Friday's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old Town cenotaph. She was joined by cadets who guarded the cenotaphs at the Old Town and Queenston ceremonies. RICHARD HARLEY

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Emily Abt was squeezing rain water out of her white gloves and soaked from head to toe, shivering after the Remembrance Day ceremony in Queenston on Friday.

"I've been wringing out my bun the whole day," she said, referring to the wet knot of hair hidden under her hat.

The 17-year-old air cadet spent the day supervising the members of the honour guard, who were watching over the dead soldiers memorialized on the town's two cenotaphs.

"They protected us, so we're protecting them," she said.

The cadets were on site as early as 6 a.m., taking half-hour shifts, in the morning in Old Town and later at Queenston.

At 9 o'clock, the clouds opened up and the rain started pouring.

It fell remorselessly throughout the day, pooling in gutters, pot-

holes and inside leather boots.

It dripped from the rims of wide-brim hats and it ran rivers down the umbrellas of anyone fortunate enough to have one.

Standing in the rain, with no umbrellas to shield them, was a young honour guard that a

Continued on Page 10

Young winemaker watches over **Ontario's oldest** Cabernet Sauvignon vines



Mitchell McCurdy.

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Long after the Chardonnay and Riesling, the Gamay Noir and even Cabernet Franc grapes have been picked, one varietal lingers on the vine, soaking up the last of the season's

heat and sunshine.

Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are the last to come in and at Maryniss Estate Winery, one of the youngest winemakers in NOTL has been patiently playing a waiting game for the right time to harvest the grapes from the oldest commercial

Cabernet Sauvignon vines in Ontario.

The vines were planted in 1978, 16 years before Maryniss's winemaker Mitchell McCurdy was even born. McCurdy is now 28 and the vines are a venerable 44 years old.

When McCurdy checked

on the grapes back at the end of September, he was pleased with what he found.

"I'm really happy with them. We have beautiful clusters, with no rot, no worries," he said at the time.

"We had a normal spring after a very cold winter and we got to 25 degrees almost

immediately after bud break in May. Our ideal temperatures for growing days are 25 to 35 Celsius, and the more the better," he said.

The true test of ripeness comes in tasting the grapes. "These grapes right now

Continued on Page 5



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Goettler foundation pledge \$1M to help preserve The Wilderness

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake philanthropists Lauren and Vaughn Goettler have pledged \$1 million to help ensure the acquisition, stabilization and protection of 407 King St., the site better known in town as The Wilderness.

"We love our home in Niagara-on-the-Lake and think heritage attributes like The Wilderness contribute to making this a special place to live," Lauren Goettler said in announcing the donation to the Niagara Foundation.

Lyle Hall, incoming president of the foundation, said, "This generous gift will further the foundation's efforts to acquire the half-interest in The Wilderness we don't already have claim to."

"We want to acquire this heritage property and honour its unique place in the history and culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The foundation claims its half-interest through the will of Ruth Parker, one of three sisters who owned the property. Parker died in 2013.



NOTL residents Vaughn and Lauren Goettler have pledged \$1 million to protect The Wilderness property. FILE

Hall said the executor of her estate determined that the Niagara Foundation was the best organization to respect her wishes that the heritage elements of The Wilderness be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the public.

The Goettler Family Foundation pledge kicks off a process that will extend into 2023.

"This is a great start to a

larger fundraising effort," said Hall.

"Acquisition is the first step. Then, we need to determine how best to realize Ruth Parker's wish of preservation and maintenance of this historic property."

Vaughn Goettler said he hopes his family's gift becomes a catalyst for others to step forward and help the Niagara Foundation.

"Let's do something we

can be proud of for years to come," he said.

Hall said the Niagara Foundation is grateful to the Goettlers and their foundation for the pledge to help safeguard The Wilderness.

The 5.5-acre wooded property and its historic buildings in the heart of Old Town were once the home of William Claus, deputy superintendent of the Indian department and one of the three trustees of the Six Nations.

The Wilderness was originally given by the Six Nations to Claus's wife Nancy Johnson as a "token of her many deeds of kindness."

Her father, Sir William Johnson, negotiated the Treaty of Niagara with 24 Indigenous nations in 1764, the Niagara Foundation said.

The treaty formed the basis for the original treaty relationship between Indigenous Peoples and settlers in eastern North America.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake designated The Wilderness a heritage property in 1994.

Op-ed: The past, present and future of The Wilderness, Page 9

Niagara schools to close Monday if CUPE strikes

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The District School Board of Niagara will close its schools Monday if the union representing educational assistants and other workers is on strike.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees served up a five-day strike notice after contract negotiations reached a standstill with the Ontario government late Tuesday.

"Despite many late-hour attempts to achieve a freely negotiated settlement, talks have again broken down," reads an update from the union's bargaining committee.

In response, the Niagara public school board warned parents its schools



About 100 people attended a strike rally earlier this month for education workers in St. Catharines.

could be shut Monday. The Niagara Catholic board had made no announcement about its plans as of late Wednesday.

"We are disappointed that only a few short days after talks restarted, CUPE has filed notice

to once again shut down classrooms," Education Minister Stephen Lecce said on Twitter.

The union representing 55,000 education workers in Ontario said in a news release that while it has reached a "middle ground" on wages, negotiators have been unable to secure additional funding for "services that students need and parents expect."

"The government needs to step up to and put more funding into the system," said Darren Levere, an educational assistant employed by the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Student services are provided by educational assistants, custodial and maintenance workers and library technicians.

"These are the services

that kids need, but you need to pay the workers that are doing these vital jobs," Levere said.

At Queen's Park on Wednesday, Lecce told reporters, "They need to start reflecting on how these disruptions impact working people and their kids."

Levere insists that they are not working against parents.

"Join us, tell this government you demand more for your children," he said.

The five-day strike notice comes on the heels of a provincewide strike on Nov. 4 which was incited by the passing of a bill that tried to keep students in the classroom by revoking the education workers' right to strike.

The legislation was repealed on Monday.

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Left: James Hatt of St. Davids survived several major First World War battles, which included German gas attacks on Allied soldiers. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM Right: The Second Battle of Ypres, depicted by Richard Jack. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM



THE MONUMENTS MEN

James Hatt was first casualty from St. Davids

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. Two years later, in 1926, the Township of Niagara unveiled its own memorial in Queenston. In recognition of those who fought and died in two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on the two cenotaphs. This is one in a series of stories documenting and remembering the sacrifices of those commemorated on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

When Britain declared war on Germany on Aug. 4, 1914, Canada was automatically at war.

Canada's minister of defence, Sir Sam Hughes, put out a call for volunteers, planning to send the first contingent of 30,000 men to England within two months.

By Nov. 11, 1918, more than 650,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders had served. More than 66,000 made the supreme sacrifice while another 172,000 were wounded.

The initial rush to the recruiting stations after the outbreak of war included an overwhelming number of men who were born in the British Isles and were

relatively recent immigrants to Canada. Among them was James Hatt.

Hatt was born in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England, on June 10, 1894. His father, James Hatt Sr., sailed to Canada in 1905 to find a job and a new home in St. Davids.

He was joined a year later by his wife Eliza Harwood and their four children, including 11-year-old James and nine-year-old Charles.

The brothers attended school in St. Davids and when James completed his education, he found a job as a labourer. When he was 16, he joined the 2nd Dragoons, a part-time militia regiment.

When word of the declaration of war arrived in St. Davids, James and Charles immediately decided to volunteer for overseas service, joining the 44th Lincoln and Welland Regiment overseas contingent on Aug. 11, 1914.

They were immediately sent by train with other recruits to the huge military camp that Hughes was having built at Valcartier, Que. Finally, on Sept. 23, after being declared fit by a camp doctor, the boys were sworn in as members of the First Canadian Contingent.

Two weeks later, after a rudimentary course of military instruction, primarily marching and foot drill, the Hatts were shipped to England aboard the S.S. Tripolia.

In England, the brothers were separated, with James assigned as an infantryman in the 4th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force while Charles was sent as a gunner to the Canadian Field Artillery. Charles survived the war, eventually promoted to sergeant. James would not be so lucky.

After several months of training in all aspects of an infantryman's duties on the muddy, sodden plains of Aldershot Camp in England, the 4th Battalion was shipped to France to fight in France and Belgium on the Western Front.

The 4th Battalion, along with other Canadian battalions of the 1st Division, were sent to the bloody Ypres salient to fight alongside their British and colonial comrades against strongly entrenched German forces.

Hatt survived attacks and counterattacks at the Second Battle of Ypres, which raged from April 22 to May 25, 1915.

This included the first major German gas attacks of the war at the Battles of Gravenstaffel and St. Julien during which the Canadians distinguished themselves by holding the line while their Allies fled from the chlorine gas that killed hundreds.

Canadians suffered more than 6,500 casualties at the Second Battle of Ypres, but Hatt survived.

When attacking, the men climbed out of their trenches and advanced over the muddy, shell-cratered "no man's land" and were mowed down in their hundreds by enemy rifle and machine gun fire and by German artillery.

Each attack was followed by a strong German counterattack. During lulls in the action, the artillery of both sides would pound enemy entrenchments while snipers lay concealed to pick off anyone careless enough to show their heads above the parapets.

After surviving the horror and terror of the Second Battle of Ypres, James Hatt fell prey to German artillery fire. On May 30, a shrapnel shell exploded over Hatt's trench. He suffered a serious head wound.

He was rushed to the regimental aid post just behind the front line and taken from there to a casualty clearing station where his bandages were changed.

He then was shipped by ambulance to Number 16 General Hospital at La Treport on the coast of France, some distance from the front line. There, James died of his wounds on June 4, 1915, the first of the men of St. Davids to make the supreme sacrifice.

James Hatt lies in the Treport Military Cemetery in France and is commemorated on the Niagara municipal monument at Queenston.

Fuel costs, pilot shortage force FlyGTA to **cancel** NOTL to Toronto service

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

FlyGTA is no longer flying from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the GTA.

The short-hop flights, which allowed passengers to skip QEW and Toronto traffic, have been grounded by sky-high fuel prices and a shortage of pilots, the company says.

The FlyGTA service, promoted at less than \$100 each way, was popular with many business people.

David Nissan, chief operating officer of FlyGTA Airlines, in an email to customers, said the company has been forced to cancel all its short-haul flights out of Niagara District Airport.

The Oct. 29 message says the FlyGTA website and the NOTL airport would be making an announcement "in the coming days," but nothing has been posted yet.

Nissan could not be reached for comment.

In an interview, Niagara District Airport CEO Dan Pilon said FlyGTA has been a "valued partner" and he's still awaiting formal notification about the airline's plans.

However, other than a limited schedule of flights earlier this year, Pilon said FlyGTA has largely been inactive at the NOTL airport since the pandemic hit in March 2020.

In his message, Nissan told customers, some of whom had been inquiring about what was happening with the service, "Unfortunately, we are not able to continue flying this route."

After reviewing costs and pricing options, Nissan said it's not possible to run the Niagara-to-Toronto service without charging passengers \$300 to \$400, "which would not make sense for the given route. Anything less would be operating at major losses."

"Truthfully, we have continued to provide the best service that we can through the years, and despite the hard COVID times, we gave the route another try," he said.

But, at the beginning of October, "we had several pilots leave for other posi-

tions with big airlines, which came swift and affected our scheduled operations. On top of that, any government support has stopped and the costs of flying have more than tripled."

"Fuel prices went from \$1 per litre to \$4+ per litre, along with inflated pricing for all costs," Nissan said.

The company is continuing to operate cargo and other services from Billy Bishop and Pearson airports in Toronto, as well as to Muskoka, Ottawa and other destinations.

Nissan noted he doesn't know what the future holds for passenger flight in Niagara, "however, our company will be around when things normalize and maybe one day we are able to return to this route with a larger aircraft, or another airline may serve, which we would happily support."

Niagara-on-the-Lake pharmacist Sean Simpson used FlyGTA a number of times pre-COVID to attend meetings in Toronto.

"It was an incredible service that saved me countless hours on the road and made commuting enjoyable," he told The Lake Report.

"I think COVID caused enough of a shift to enable remote work that the demand for the service really dropped off. It's too bad that it could not be sustained, as it really made Toronto much more accessible to people from the region," he said. "Hopefully, the new hovercraft service can fill the void."

The Hoverlink cross-lake service is expected to launch in mid-2023.

Pilon credited FlyGTA with offering a "unique and innovative service" that was "continuing to build momentum."

When the service started in 2017 it carried about 1,700 passengers annually but by 2019 had increased that total to around 6,000, he said.

"FlyGTA captures the imagination a little bit," Pilon said.

"It was new. It was different. It was innovative. It was an 11-minute flight. It worked really well."



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Jorge Garcia moves the grapes from the vineyard to the winery for production. DON REYNOLDS

Marynissen winemaker **Mitchell McCurdy** waits for the right time to harvest old vines

Continued from Front Page

are very fruity, but the skins are still tannic so they're underripe. The seeds are still greenish and we want them to turn brownish," he explained.

"In two weeks I could pick them to make a tasty rosé, but I don't want to do that. We're getting to good blue fruit flavours. We'll leave these on the vine, so the flavour develops, acids drop and sugar accumulates," he said.

McCurdy's wish on that day was for October weather that would bring "cool nights and some warm sun in the day. If we're below 15 degrees at night it keeps disease pressure down."

October delivered on that wish, but November brought foggy days and warmer nights.

"I was confident about the quality of the grapes, but then we had some fears because of that thick fog that settled in, and the warmer nights that went with it, because that could increase disease pressure," McCurdy said.

"The grapes were still in very good shape going into that time, and the heat and sunshine we had during

the day helped them ripen further," he added.

"The last two weeks on the vines were all about reduction of acids, which will give us a more ripe flavour and less tart acidity" in the wine, he said.

So on a sunny Saturday morning in November, the time at last had come.

"Even two weeks ago the grapes were quite ripe, but now the tannins have softened. The grapes taste very fruit-forward, which is excellent," he said.

"We opted for hand harvesting, because if we used a machine to harvest we'd likely get too much MOG (material other than grapes) because of the leaves breaking down. It only took 90 minutes, since we only have two acres of Cabernet Sauvignon, and the acre of old vines is sparse."

Sparse, because the vineyard suffers from attrition.

"With these old vines, we want to maintain the integrity of the wine we make from them, so we don't interplant. Where vines have died, we leave the gap," McCurdy said.

That attrition, plus winter damage and hungry birds, have conspired to ensure the yield is low, but the quality

is excellent.

"The grapes are in and they're tasty and ripe. I'm very happy."

"On pick day it was 20 degrees, which is perfect, so we were ready to rock. We inoculated (with yeast) that same day and fermentation got going."

This is just McCurdy's fourth vintage as winemaker at Marynissen.

"I've always liked wine and I love using science to make delicious beverages. It's a blend of art and science," he said.

McCurdy studied oenology at Brock University and "fell in love with wine and winemaking," he recalled.

It was only later he learned that his mother had roots in the wine industry, dating back a decade before he was born.

"She worked for Labatt in the early '80s, which owned Chateau-Gai then. She worked in research and development, which Allan Jackson (later to co-found Jackson-Triggs) was in charge of," he said.

She trucked grapes for the research facility from Niagara to London, making small batches and trying different techniques. "Shortly after that, she worked at

Chateau-Gai in a quality-control lab," he said.

Back at Marynissen on Concession 1 Road, once fermentation of the 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon is complete, the wine from the old vines will go into oak barrels to age for 18 months before bottling. It will be on the shelves in about two years.

When it is released, it will be under the label Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon, Marynissen Vineyard. The wine will be made exclusively from fruit from the old vines and will be a small batch.

"There will only be 50 cases, so it's very small," McCurdy said.

The 2020 vintage from the old vines is available now, and according to McCurdy, "it's pretty awesome. It has cool climate freshness with good body and delicious flavours. The old vines give a floral note."

"There's been talk about tearing those old vines out, but no decision yet. There's historical significance there and they are still producing quality grapes," said McCurdy.

"Sometimes we make uneconomical choices for the sake of quality."

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

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 46

Region active cases: 875

Region deaths: 646

Region total cases: 48,443

**Nov. 16 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too." - Paulo Coelho

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First snow of season



Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this photo of the first snow of the season on Sunday.

Editorial

Airing some dirty laundry

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Farming is a tough business. Long, long hours, back-breaking work, many large expenses over which you have little control.

Plus there are rules and regulations imposed by various levels of government, and you're always at the mercy of Mother Nature.

But it's also work that is crucial, innovative and essential – to life, to the economy, to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We can't profess to be experts on everything the agricultural sector does, but we do love and appreciate the very necessary work that farmers dedicate themselves to.

We also greatly appreciate the work done by seasonal workers, mainly from Jamaica and Mexico. They travel here, leaving families and loved ones behind, to earn money to support those families.

They also are critical to the success of Canada's farming community, doing the difficult labour that many Canadians simply refuse to do: spending long days in the heat, rain and cold to plant, then care for and eventu-

ally harvest the bounty that farms like those across Niagara produce.

For some, Canada becomes a permanent home, but for many, our country offers meaningful employment that inspires them to return year after year.

In a lone editorial, it is impossible to sum up, let alone resolve, the issues and problems facing the farming industry or its migrant workers.

So, for now, we'll deal with just one. Laundry.

It feels ridiculous to be suggesting in a first world nation like ours that the ability to have and work in clean clothes should be a luxury. But for many migrant workers that is the case.

While some farmers have been accused of mistreating their workers – accusations that cannot be taken lightly and need deeper investigation – for now we'll give the industry the benefit of the doubt.

But on the subject of clean clothes for those who toil in the fields, we have to ask: Why is this even an issue? It seems fundamental in Canada. Period. Full stop.

However, as a Lake Report investigation by reporter

Somer Slobodian last week showed, there is a disconnect between the rules of the federal and provincial governments on laundry. And, as if that is not enough, inspections and enforcement are left to a third level of government, the region.

Bureaucrats are aware of the confusion but suggest it could be years before regulations are changed and aligned.

The feds require "laundry facilities, including an adequate number of washing machines and where possible, dryers." (Exactly what's "adequate"?)

The province wants "at least one laundering tub for every 15 bunks" and the Region of Niagara's expectation is "one laundry tub or washing machine per 15 persons." (There's a choice?)

The result: some get washing machines, many get washboard-style laundry tubs to scrub their clothes on, and few, if any, get dryers. That's why you see laundry hanging from clothes lines outside bunkhouses all over rural Niagara.

And many travel to a laundromat to do something most of us take for granted.

We don't comprehend why

this isn't so embarrassing that the people overseeing seasonal worker programs at the two senior levels of government have not been shamed into fixing it.

Their lack of action is appalling.

Also appalling is that we might not even be aware of this if not for Ceto Reid.

In October, one day before he was to return to Jamaica, the worker at P.G. Enns Farms, was seriously injured when he was struck by a car.

While toting his clean laundry. While riding his bicycle. In St. Catharines, several kilometres from the farm. (Thankfully, Reid is recovering and the community has rallied to support him.)

It's easy to blame farmers and ask why they don't just do more, but the truth is they appear to be operating within the rules of their highly regulated industry.

Yes, some could do better, but given how the federal government oversees the country's seasonal worker programs, we need to see some real leadership on this issue. And we need it done now, not in 2023 or 2024.

It's laundry for goodness sake. Fix it.

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Former teacher recalls days at **Niagara Nursery School**

Dear editor:

I have been enjoying Tim Taylor's series of articles about the growth and development of the Niagara Nursery School. It's been quite a journey.

I was the teacher at the school in the early 1980s when the school was housed in the basement at Parliament Oak.

Although the stairs would pose a problem by today's accessibility standards, the actual location of Parliament Oak was within easy walking distance of some of the most teachable moments in the Niagara region.

We explored trenches from the War of 1812 at St. Mark's Church and met real firefighters at the hall on King Street during Community Helpers Week. We got to sit in the fire truck and work the lights.

We visited the Niagara Home Bakery at both Christmas and Easter, and were treated to gingerbread men and chocolate roosters.

Theatre Beyond Words welcomed us and let us try on the masks worn by the Potato People.

We walked to Lion's Beach and fed the ducks, and went sledding in Simcoe Park in the winter.

The kids got used to the physical plant of Parliament Oak, which afforded a seamless transition to kindergarten and we were included in all of the school's special, seasonal activities.

John Bissell was the school custodian and was not responsible for our classroom, yet he often washed our floors, and I know he gave the whole classroom a thorough cleaning during the summer. He knew the kids by name and they all loved him.

The '70s and '80's were magical years for the kids growing up in Niagara-on-

the-Lake and the various locations of the Niagara Nursery School during that time were exactly right.

Nevertheless, times and communities change and new models are needed to meet demand and satisfy legislation.

I'm very grateful for the time I spent teaching so many great kids and getting to know their families, and for the community that supported our learning experiences so generously.

I wish the Niagara Nursery School continued success over the next 50 years.

Betty Gullion
Allains Creek, N.S.



The Niagara Nursery School class of 1973. SUPPLIED

Hoping new council will be **open to discussions** on development

Dear editor:

A dark cloud has been lifted from Niagara-on-the-Lake.

After four years of constant criticism and a lack of communication with the town, smearing of my family on social media and in the community, I hope the new council will be open to more communication.

Over the last four years, groups like SORE (Save Our Rand Estate), backed by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, have been ruthless to my family.

SORE representatives have used words like "grotesque" and "criminal" to describe my family's plans.

What kind of individuals

personally attack an entire family without knowing them or ever really having a continued conversation on the issue, all over a development proposal?

SORE and Disero fought us at every turn, creating constant roadblocks and never made the effort to sit down as members of the community and business owners to come to a resolution so we could all identify what is in the best interest of the town overall.

We have gone through the application processes and provided updates on our plans, often to just be ignored by the town and the mayor.

Based on the election re-

sults, the majority of NOTL residents agreed that change was needed.

Congratulations to our new Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

In the end, communication is what's needed. That never happened with Disero. She never once sat down with me in the past four years to discuss the Rand proposal and/or come up with a solution. As a family company, we were open to adapting our plans.

It's not a surprise. She ran her 2018 election campaign against me personally and she couldn't be seen having conversations with someone she used for her campaign's agenda.

Instead of protecting the town's and the taxpayers' interests, she protected the interests and the agenda of her supporters (SORE).

That is not good behaviour for a town's mayor whose sole focus should be what is in the best interests of the entire community.

By acting in such a hostile manner, Disero and SORE lost the election.

All she did was pile on legal fees and chaos. It has cost the town and myself a fortune and accomplished nothing but heartache and division.

It was not fair and just.

We hope the bullying tactics, harassment, defamation and insults used by social

media groups that favour Disero will come to an end now.

To disagree and challenge something is one thing. However, to attack and defame and spread misinformation is extremely dangerous behaviour that has shown the level of intolerance of a small group of community members.

Cultural heritage aspects of the Rand Estates have and will always be respected as they relates to what is best for the use and the overall landscape plan we are designing. We hope to improve on what is currently there so it continues to flourish over time and continues to be a landmark.

We take great pride in everything that we do as a family-owned and operated company and for someone to assume that we have such disregard for the beautiful heritage landscape and properties that we own and have paid for is disparaging and disappointing.

So, we as a family look forward to working with the new mayor and council to propose and bring forward what we think will be beautiful additions to our town.

And we are looking forward to keeping the dialogue open and ongoing.

Benny Marotta
NOTL

Rainbow bench, crosswalk is blatant **virtue signalling** by town

Dear editor:

I am writing about your Nov. 10 editorial, "More than an act of vandalism," about damage done to the town's lone rainbow bench.

Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, I hesitated putting forth my views on your editorial. However, there are many NOTLers who share my view and our voice needs to be heard.

In 2021, I wrote a letter suggesting that to proceed with rainbow crosswalks was a big mistake.

My argument was: why single out just one community group? Why not the



The rainbow bench in Virgil, before being vandalized. FILE

Asian, Indigenous or Black community?

In fact, holding one group apart as special, or differ-

ent, is the basis for divisiveness in a social community.

Having spoken with a couple of councillors, I

learned that council was somewhat divided on giving the nod of approval to a rainbow crosswalk – yet, it went ahead. And now we have an act of vandalism?

By painting crosswalks and park benches with rainbows, the town is engaging in the most blatant act of virtue signalling.

It's like waving a red flag in front of a bull at a bullfight. It will activate those very few people in our community who are just looking for an excuse to express their worst behaviour.

The Shaw Festival is celebrating its 61st year of

operation. Many people associated with the theatre, the arts, restaurants, etc. are from the LGBTQ community.

My wife and I live here and have been attending the Shaw for over 35 years. In that time, we have never seen or heard of issues detrimental to this community.

In fact, a year or two ago, I came across a letter to the paper from a woman who mentioned she was gay and in the theatre. She was adamant that NOTL should not consider rainbow crosswalks.

Her cogent reasoning was that she did not want to be

considered a "gay actress" nor did she want a symbol of it displayed in our town as a constant reminder. She wanted to simply be known as a Canadian. Good for her, I thought to myself.

Clearly, much of the western world has unfortunately adopted a woke attitude and many residents in our fair town are sorry to see its tentacles reaching into our midst.

We can only hope the new town council will not perpetuate similar errors of judgment of the past.

John Buchanan
NOTL



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Doug Ford's housing act **isn't** about affordable homes



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

In two columns published in February of this year I wrote a brief analysis of the provincial government's task force report on affordable housing.

It was my opinion then that, if the recommendations of this report were adopted into legislation, it would almost totally strip away the authority of local governments to manage contextual development and be the most egregious assault on heritage ever seen in Canada.

And further, the proposed skeletonizing of provincial regulations would leave almost total control of future developments in the hands of the real estate development industry.

I wish this week's column could be an admission I'd been mistaken, but sadly, such is not the case.

Now, the Ford government has introduced its More Homes Built Faster Act, which is everything I feared – and worse.

It is clear that this legislation has much less to do with building affordable housing

than it does being a blatant pandering to the building and development sector.

Let's demonstrate this with one of the bullets the legislation is firing at heritage. The proposed act will double the requirement for heritage designation from the current threshold that a property must qualify by meeting at least one of nine defined criteria, which can generally be grouped within three classifications (physical/design, historic/associative, and contextual).

Clearly this is an action taken to limit the number of heritage designations granted in the future.

However, I suspect this bullet is not principally directed at residential colonial built-heritage. Within the context of the Ontario Heritage Act as amended in 2005-06, cultural heritage landscapes that may be eligible for heritage designation include not only buildings but also bridges, cemeteries, gardens, parks, archaeological sites, landscapes, streetscapes, trees and other natural features (with a cultural component), etc.

Consider the fact that many cemeteries which today could be designated under the historic/associative classification would not pass muster under the revised criteria of the new act.

Also note that, not considering private corporation holdings, municipal cemeteries alone comprise over 25,000 acres in Ontario. And, speaking to private



Premier Doug Ford makes a stop in NOTL to promote twinning of the Skyway bridge. FILE

cemetery companies, using just one example to illustrate the point, the Mount Pleasant Group holds 1,400 acres of prime GTA real estate.

Much closer to home, another example of the impact of the proposed legislation would render the designation of the Dunington-Grubb landscaping at Randwood a no-go.

Even more outrageous is this act's total disregard for the contributions made to our shared cultural heritage by Indigenous, Black and other historically marginalized communities.

An Indigenous archaeological site may be able to meet the historic/associative criteria ("direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community"), but unlikely the physical/design ("rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material

or construction method") nor, very likely, contextual requirements ("important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area").

Similarly, a historic Niagara agricultural Help House would not qualify. Nor would a multitude of other historically important but humble buildings.

Even more puzzling is the proposed act's limitation on listing properties (placing a property on the local heritage register as "of interest"), forcing the removal of any property that is not designated within two years of being listed.

Understand that listing imposes no restrictions on a property owner except for the requirement to provide 60 days' notice of intent to demolish.

In my view this is simply a punitive action directed at municipal-level authority and Ontario heritage pre-

cepts, lacking any practical purpose. Certainly, it has nothing whatsoever to do with building more affordable homes faster.

And insofar as maintaining the character of our beloved town?

Well, if this act passes, you can forget it.

The act will override municipal policies, zoning or plans that prioritize the preservation of the physical character of neighbourhoods.

It will exempt from site plan approval and public consultation all projects of 10 units or less that conform to the official plan and require only minor variances.

The proposal also would establish provincewide zoning standards for minimum lot sizes, maximum building setbacks, minimum heights, angular planes, shadow rules, front doors, building depth, landscaping, floor space index, heritage view cones and planes.

And, it will restore pre-2006 site plan exclusions (colour, texture and type of materials, window details, etc.) to the Planning Act while reducing or eliminating minimum parking requirements.

So here is the morbidly fascinating thing: nowhere in this legislation (that I have been able to find) is there any limitation on the scope of its reach associated with construction of affordable housing.

It doesn't matter whether the developer's intent is to build/sell houses at \$500,000 or \$5 million, this new playing field will apply. Of course, this legislation is called the More Homes Built Faster Act, not "More Affordable Homes, Built Faster Act."

The citizens of Ontario handed Ford a mandate in the spring and he is attempting to use that bat for all its worth to benefit one business sector. Mind you, those same citizens got him to stand down in the recent education workers' confrontation.

Is there the same will in communities across Ontario to oppose this latest draconian move?

Only time will tell if we can make him understand that he is elected to serve the communities and people that make up this province – not a single special interest group.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.

Saving our planet's climate, one **bloated conference** at a time

Dear editor:

One of the bigger news items of the past week was the COP27 United Nations Conference in Egypt.

With the stated objective of saving our planet, this is the 27th such annual conference (hence COP27).

Whether or not it saves the planet on its 27th try, it will likely have saved the jobs and political well-being of the delegates who were shown lined up to have their photographs taken with the president of the United Nations.

It was sort of like when

kids line up to have their photos taken with Santa Claus, but these photos would not have been sent with a Christmas card to Great Aunt Matilda in Calgary.

Rather they're published by the media back home in the country that was paying for their visit to the luxury Egyptian coastal resort, Sharm El Sheikh.

That area has a reported population of 73,000. The conference has a reported attendance of some 40,000.

Some attendees will be paying as much as \$465

per night (well, they won't be – their government will) at the Four Seasons Resort or \$427 per night at the Rixos Sharm El Sheikh ("adults-only").

Those at a lower echelon in their government might instead be staying at the Monte Carlo Resort and Spa at \$260 per night or the Royal Savoy at \$254 nightly.

Those are current prices in Canadian dollars. No indication of whether breakfast is included and these prices are obviously not for suites.

So, what does all this do for the environment? If all these 40,000 delegates and hangers-on flew an average of say 1,000 miles to get to the conference, that's a total of 40 million airplane miles.

And since most long-distance craft have more than one engine, even if each plane had only two engines that's 80 million miles of jet engine exhaust. Ah, the things that we do to save the planet.

Interestingly, there are three conferences that our own prime minister is at-

tending in three separate Asian cities this week.

And U.S. President Joe Biden, having stopped by briefly in Sharm El Sheikh to restate America's commitment to saving the planet, jetted off to one of those Asian conferences. And how many jet engines are there on Air Force One?

These conferences also attract a legion of media reporters, protesters, security personnel, and other camp followers. The reporters are looking for a story.

The irony is that they

and all the other attendees are the story.

Haven't any of these 40,000 people heard of Zoom and other electronic meeting devices?

When it was a popular meeting device during the pandemic lockdowns, global pollution levels dropped significantly.

But, of course, it doesn't get you trips to fine hotels and "the good life" at seaside resorts.

Will we save the planet? Go figure.

*John Sayers
NOTL*



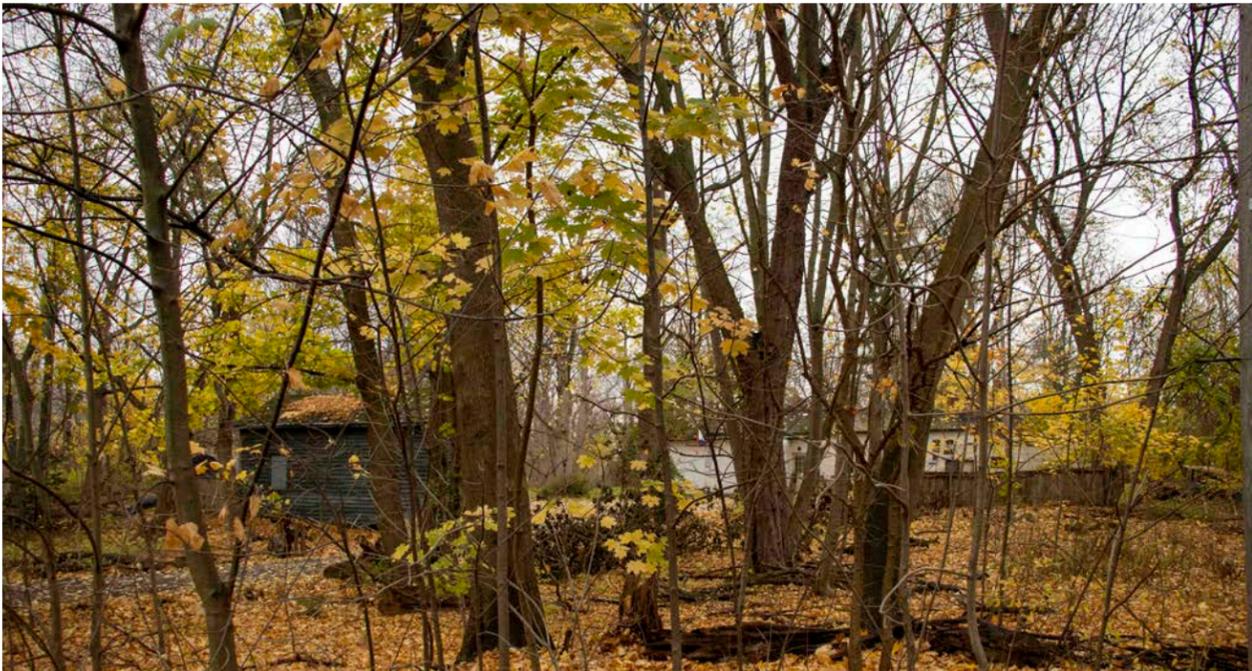
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The Niagara Foundation has half ownership of The Wilderness property and wants to buy the rest. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Niagara Foundation wants to **protect** The Wilderness

Lyle Hall
Special to The Lake Report

The Wilderness, as it's been known for over a century, is 5.5 acres of land at 407 King St., opposite the Commons, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Bordered by King, Mary, Regent and Centre streets, The Wilderness is in a residential area and bordered by single-family houses on the east and west sides. One Mile Creek traverses the property.

Most people walking past the overgrown, deteriorating streetscape on either King or Regent streets would be unaware of this remarkable property with tremendous local and national significance.

But while the value of The Wilderness may be hidden from view, the significance of this land is rooted deeply in the natural, Indigenous, military, political and horticultural history that make this town unique and distinctive.

The History

The Wilderness is a still-intact, privately owned plot of first-growth Carolinian woods that holds great significance to Indigenous and settler history.

In 1799, the four contiguous lots were presented by the chiefs of the Six Nations to Ann (Nancy) Johnson Claus in recognition of her family's "many deeds of kindness."

Ann's father, Sir William Johnson, as northern superintendent of Indian Affairs

had negotiated with 24 First Nations, the significant Treaties of Niagara in 1764. Ann's son, William Claus, built the first house on the property.

It was wantonly destroyed during the War of 1812 by occupying American troops – a pregnant mother with three young children survived the winter of 1813 in a root cellar on the property.

William and his wife Catherine began construction of the present Regency cottage in 1816 and planted extensive gardens surrounding the house and a later carriage house – all carefully recorded in diaries that amazingly have survived to this day.

The property, which for some time was called "Geale's Grove," remained in the Claus family until the 1880s only to be reoccupied by a family member for a decade early in the 20th century. The name "The Wilderness" apparently emerged at this time.

In the late 1940s, Mrs. Mary Austin Parker, who had spent part of her youth on the property, purchased The Wilderness. Later joined by her daughters, Mrs. Parker was determined to preserve the property for future generations of the public to enjoy and appreciate.

Their dedicated and inspirational advocacy to maintain the property intact with its unique natural and built heritage has been truly remarkable.

Heritage Designation

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake designated The Wilderness a heritage property in 1994. This designation applies both to the heavily wooded land as well as the entire exterior and interior of the house on the site, as well as the carriage house and the archeological remains.

The house was built in 1816. A creek that meanders through the property is protected by a conservation easement.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has strongly encouraged the preservation of this property.

The Wilderness Today The Niagara Foundation has a claim to a half interest in The Wilderness through the will of Ruth Parker, who died in 2013.

The executor of Ruth's estate determined the foundation was the organization to respect her wishes that the heritage elements of The Wilderness be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the public.

The remaining half-interest is controlled by Ken Reid, the former husband of Kea Reid, who was the daughter of Fran MacKay, Ruth Parker's sister.

Both Ken and Kea Reid resided at The Wilderness until Kea died in 2016. Ken Reid, best known to Niagara-on-the-Lake residents as the town's former canine control officer, still lives on the property.

Over the past decade, the property has fallen into a state of disrepair with sev-

eral signs of deferred maintenance. Several large trees have come down and several more require attention.

An inspection of the buildings by JK Joup-pien Heritage Resource Consultant Inc. in August 2018 uncovered several basic maintenance issues ranging from the need to replace the roof to moisture problems throughout the building.

Jouppien stated in his report, prepared for the Niagara Foundation, that "... the property has not had the benefit of consistent and well-managed stewardship."

What's Next? Shortly after Kea's death, Ken Reid initiated legal proceedings to gain control of the entire Wilderness property and sell the land for residential development.

The foundation has responded by proposing to purchase Mr. Reid's half-interest at an appraised value that considers both the heritage and environmental restrictions, to prevent the sale and redevelopment of this heritage asset and remain true to Ruth Parker's wishes. The matter is now before the courts.

Mr. Reid appears to be focused on maximizing value through a development exit. The Niagara Foundation, on the other hand, is fully committed to securing ownership in order to respect Ruth Parker's wishes of preservation for the benefit of the public.

Lyle Hall is president of the Niagara Foundation.



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NOTL REMEMBERS



Top: Hundreds of people gathered in the rain to observe the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old Town cenotaph. Below: Cadet Emily Abt leads her group. Bottom below: Flight Sgt. Mia Redeye guards the cenotaph during the ceremony, unmoving as rain pours down relentlessly. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



Old Town ceremony draws hundreds of people in rain

Continued from Front Page

century ago might have been laid to rest in Flanders Fields.

Cadets, Mounties, firefighters and police officers were among the many who stood in uniform for Remembrance Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By the end of the first ceremony downtown on Queen Street, most of them were soaked to the bone.

Later, glancing around Queenston through fogged-up glasses, Abt reflected on the soldiers who fought in two world wars.

They would have been through “much worse,” she said.

“Remembrance Day is one of the things that you can’t postpone and you can’t skip,” she added.

After spending hours on silent guard in rain-soaked garb at the town’s two cenotaphs, back at the Legion she and the other cadets were ready for a warm bowl of chili to chase out the cold.

Abt was joined by fellow

cadet Shay Vidal, who shared her sense of honour.

The two young people saw themselves as lucky because they never had to go through what their ancestors did.

“War is war and hell is hell,” Vidal said, paraphrasing a line from “M.A.S.H.” – once his father’s favourite TV show.

Vidal thinks war is probably a lot worse than hell.

Standing guard, he said, is “the least we can do.”

He knows his grandfather was a pilot. It’s one of the reasons he joined cadets. He doesn’t know if his granddad went to war.

Many of the people who came out for Remembrance Day were honouring family who could not or would not speak of the things they had seen in war.

Allison McCaughey showed up for the ceremony in Old Town late with her sick daughter in hand.

After seeing so many people in uniform saluting the cenotaph from home on TV, four-year-old Wilamina wanted to come out

and meet one.

Al Howse, the president of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Legion branch, wore a wet smile when he met the little girl in rain boots downtown between the ceremonies.

McCaughey remembers her grandfather and great-grandfather at this time of year.

Her grandfather, Sgt. Earl Alexander McCaughey, didn’t share much with her, but she remembers seeing him at Remembrance Day parades when she was little.

“I think he was proud. I think it was emotional for him, though,” she said.

“But he always showed up.”

Her grandfather was 17 when he enlisted with the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

He served in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany throughout the Second World War.

McCaughey said her grandfather almost served in the Battle of Normandy, but lucked out at the last minute.

Continued on Page 11

NOTL REMEMBERS



Top left: Legion president Al Howse helps set up in the pouring rain. Top right: Flight Sgt. Elias Dau guards the Queenston cenotaph during the ceremony, as water runs off his nose. Middle left: Mountie Evan Malcolm's hat vigorously drips water as the steady rain continues. Right: NOTL fire chief Jay Plato shakes hands with firefighters in attendance. Bottom left: A drenched, cold Flight Sgt. Dylan Critchley stands guard during the ceremony at the Queenston cenotaph. SOMER SLOBODIAN PHOTOS

Steady pool of water pours down over Queenston ceremony

Continued from Page 10

He and his regiment were on leave in Scotland only to be called back into combat for the siege of Normandy, but by the time he and his companions got back to London, the soldiers had already shipped out.

She'll always remember the Sunday night drives with him and her dad when returning home from college classes.

"It's important to honour people who fight for their country," she said under the canopy of a black umbrella.

McCaughey's great-grandfather, Pte. Jack McCaughey served in the First World War with the 12th Regiment York Rangers.

She is proud of her grandfathers, but said it's "sickening" to see the cycle of war repeat itself over and over.

"It just doesn't seem to ever end," she said.

Sometimes when she thinks about what her grandparents went through she wishes and hopes that her daughter can one day live in a world without war.

At the cenotaph in Queenston, Elizabeth Richards recited "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian soldier John McCrae.

The day's rain is "nothing compared to what

(the soldiers) had to go through," Richards said.

She also thinks about her grandfather at this time of year, referring to him as "Pops."

"My Pop's main thing was he proposed to my Nan and they got married the day before (he shipped out)."

Richards' grandfather, Morgan Albert Richards, served in the navy during the Second World War.

He was one of the lucky ones. He came home.

He didn't talk much about his time in the service, though, so Richards remembers him more for the life he lived than for the war he fought in.

"He was definitely like the rock of our family," she told The Lake Report between mouthfuls of warm chilli at the Legion hall in the afternoon.

She also recalls her fam-

ily spent less time together after he died.

Back in Queenston, MPP Wayne Gates watched the ceremony from under an umbrella.

"I start thinking of my dad," he said.

"And then I think of the veterans that gave their lives for this country to allow me to be free," he added.

The living stood bowed on Friday and the rain continued to fall. No one complained.

Women behind museum and Pumphouse nominated for **business awards**

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Seated in the gallery room of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman gushed over her excitement at being nominated for a Women in Business award.

"They sent me an email and notified me that I was a nominee for the culture award, which was pretty exciting. I think it's a great idea that the Women in Business Association do some recognition of women locally here in Niagara," said Kaufman.

"I felt very honoured that I was nominated for culture because we are a small non-profit in Niagara and we have a lot of culture here."

She's in good company. Rima Boles, director of the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre, is nominated in the same category.

They were nominated for a 2022 Women in Business Award alongside several other NOTL women in different categories, including Two Sisters Vineyards, Catherine O'Donnell of Willow Cakes and Pastries, Madison Vine of Andrew Peller Ltd. and Stephanie Reis of Ferox Estate Wineries.

Winners will be announced during a ceremony this Friday, Nov. 18.

Kaufman began her career with the museum in 2009 after completing a master's degree in public history at the Western University. In her time at the museum,

Kaufman has revamped it from the inside out.

Beginning with a small staff of only herself and Amy Klassen, the organization has grown to welcome two more staff members and numerous volunteers.

"Our organization when I came here was a lot smaller. Smaller staff, smaller community outreach, smaller budget," Kaufman explained.

"Since that time we have worked hard to build a relationship with our municipality, making sure that the town council knows about us, advocating for more funding for heritage, specifically the museum because we do house their collection here."

The museum, which boasts an impressive collection of over 50,000 pieces, now runs with the help of an all-female staff of four.

"All of the women who work here are very strong, passionate historians and they're all very passionate about getting involved with the community," Kaufman said proudly.

With the help of about 100 active volunteers, this powerful team of women completes an average of 80 programs and events each year.

The team has also worked hard to connect with the community throughout the pandemic with outreach and online programming, both of which have been successful.

"It has helped us get our name more out to the community," Kaufman said.

Inside the museum itself, a big goal of Kaufman's has been to maintain a range of history that caters to a variety of interests.

For the museum's two yearly temporary exhibitions on local history, the focus is oftentimes on the War of 1812 and military history, but an effort to change things up is always appreciated by visitors.

"We try to change it up with some domestic history or even women's history. We've got stuff on textiles and costumes and clothing, waterfront history, World War One history and artwork from our collection as well," said Kaufman.

A nomination does not mean Kaufman's hard work is slowing down by any means. Going forward, her main focus will be on capital expansion.

As she put it, the museum is "bursting at the seams" and needs more space for its collections and programming supplies.

More funding would allow for more storage space and a more open meeting space for programs. Accessibility is another main focus in that regard, with a goal of becoming 100 per cent accessible by 2025.

"Once we get that built, there are so many more opportunities that we will have when we have the space to be inclusive," Kaufman said.

"We are really excited about changing up permanent exhibits to be a lot more not only inclusive but interactive."



Top: Director and curator Sarah Kaufman stands beside one of the exhibits on display at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Her work at the museum has landed her a nomination for a Women in Business Award. JULIA SACCO
Bottom: Rima Boles was nominated for a Women in Business Award thanks to her outstanding leadership skills in the role of director at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. SUPPLIED

Calling in from her second-floor office at the Pumphouse, overlooking the Niagara River, Boles says she is "extremely honoured to be nominated."

"I was thrilled to find out I was selected as a finalist. I can't wait for the awards ceremony," she said.

Boles has been at the Pumphouse for eight years and has received multiple awards for her leadership of the centre.

"I'm extremely proud of my achievements as a leader in visual arts in Niagara, especially in leading the Niagara Pumphouse Arts

Centre during the pandemic and in making art accessible and increasing opportunities for visual artists in Niagara," she said.

For her outstanding leadership abilities, Boles and the Pumphouse were recognized with a 40 Under 40 Business Achievement Award in 2021 as well as a Spirit of Niagara Award for Community Leadership in 2019, both of which she is very proud of.

The Pumphouse, which also happens to have a small, entirely female staff, is committed to leading the world of visual arts in our

community and Boles' dedication to that goal is clear.

"We aim to achieve this through advocacy, education, exhibitions and outreach as the art hub that connects our community by providing art for all," she said.

"No day is ever the same in this position because we are always working ahead at the next season and that's the exciting part of this job."

Boles said the Pumphouse staff have a strategic plan for the next five years that they are all excited to work on in order to continue on their path of advocacy and education.


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With major vineyard purchase, Dillon's distillery may be coming to NOTL

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

A major real estate deal has paved the way for a potential new craft distillery in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The purchase of 70 acres of vineyards by the Mark Anthony Group includes a parcel of 44 acres that faces onto Niagara Stone Road, between Jackson-Triggs and Stratus wineries.

It's not the first acquisition in Niagara for the Mark Anthony Group. It purchased Dillon's Small Batch Distillers in Beamsville just over a year ago.

This week, Geoff Dillon, founder and now general manager of Dillon's, said, "When this came up for sale, it was perfect. The deal just closed the week before last, so it's quite recent."

In a written statement, he said, "Our commitment to growing our business in the region has led us to the recent purchase of land in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are thrilled to be deepening our roots in this community and excited to bring something new to town."

Asked if the project would be a winery, given the acreage of vineyards, Dillon said no, and pointed out that grapes are also used to make spirits, not just wine.

David Dickson, head distiller at Niagara College, explained, "You can make lots of spirits with grapes, including vodka, gin, absinthe, liqueurs and, of course, brandy."

"Wine makes good-tasting spirits."

Dickson, who was head distiller at Dillon's until



Top: Site of the recently purchased vineyard on Niagara Stone Road, between Jackson-Triggs and Stratus, and across from Garrison Village. Some of the vines have been removed because of winterkill. DON REYNOLDS
Bottom: Geoff Dillon, general manager of Dillon's Small Batch Distillers. SUPPLIED

2018, when he joined the college, said Dillon's already makes a lot of spirits from grapes.

"Craft distilleries go hand-in-hand with wineries, breweries and agricultural tourism," he noted. "Niagara is a leader within Ontario for craft distilleries."

Dickson said the sector is expanding.

"There's been exponential growth in craft distilleries in Ontario. In 2013, there were five and now there are more than 50."

Dillon confirmed he will be the lead on the planned project and he hopes to begin the approval process with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake as soon as possible.

Newly elected Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said he's looking forward to seeing what is proposed on the site.

"It's always exciting to see the confidence in our business community to be coming forward with new projects."

Tim Coons, regional estate manager of Trius Winery and Gretzky Winery and Distillery, welcomes the prospect of a Dillon's craft distillery just down the road.

"Given the quality reputation of Mark Anthony Group and Dillon's Distillers, we would welcome them as new neighbours on Hwy. 55," he said, adding,

"Dillon's has a great reputation for great quality."

Coons also pointed to Anthony von Mandl, the man behind the Mark Anthony Group.

According to Forbes magazine, "Through his company Mark Anthony Wine & Spirits, von Mandl is a leading figure of Canada's alcohol importing and distribution sector."

Mandl is also known as the founder of Mission Hill Winery in British Columbia.

"Just look at Mission Hill winery in B.C. and you see that they tend to do premium quality."

Stay tuned, as they say, for further details.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: GOING "GREEN"

Frogskin is a synonym for this other monetary slang

Last issue: Category: Movie taglines: Clue: 1985: "He's the only kid ever to get into trouble before he was born."

Answer: What is Back to the Future?

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bert Dandy, Maria Janeiro, Daniel Smith

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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'The Hitler Line'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

The façade of the Court House of Niagara-on-the-Lake was festooned this month with red knitted and crocheted poppies made by loving local hands.

Poppies wrapped around poles guided us along King Street to Castlereagh and to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, where more poppies tumbled from tower to ground.

On the lawn were white cards stuck in the earth, like mini-gravestones with the names, rank, birth and death dates of the fallen from Niagara-on-the-Lake in the First and Second World Wars.

The majority were young, in their early twenties, and while we may feel anger that so many youths were sacrificed to the political global ambitions and decision-making of men who would never experience war in the trenches, at sea or in the air, perhaps we can put ourselves in the place

of those who enlisted and consider the "why" of why they wanted to go to war.

Adventure? Joining pals and siblings on a lark? Seeing the world? Getting off farms and out of small towns? Leaving restricted social or economic lives? Patriotism? Sincere belief in a just cause?

Whatever the justification, many Canadians volunteered, taking the risk, leaving lives and loved ones behind. Yes, we feel compelled to remember them but let it not be solely for their sacrifice, which diminishes their choice, their beliefs, their heroism.

It isn't about jingoism. It is about the decision-making of two generations who believed in their communities, their country, their institutions, their faith and one another.

When we wear our poppies, let's think about not only why they went and fought so bravely, but if they survived, the consequences they bore for the rest of their lives. Many could

never speak of what they saw and endured.

For years, veterans could take refuge in the companionship of others in the Royal Canadian Legion branches across the country. Many Legions now struggle to survive.

Our very own Niagara-on-the-Lake branch thrives where much more is on offer than the Thursday fish fry.

Soon, three of us will again judge this year's children and youth entries to the Legion's Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest. Our panel is often touched by the creativity and sensitivity of these meaningful art works and essays submitted from schools in NOTL, Virgil and St. Davids.

The entries often relate to Second World War cemeteries, poppies and loss as names such as Ypres, the Somme, Vimy, Hill 70 and Passchendaele are so frequently intoned during our Remembrance services.

Less celebrated, over-



Charles Comfort, "The Hitler Line," 1944, Oil on canvas, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa.

looked, but equally important, were the battles leading up to D-Day such as those of the 1943-1944 Italian campaign. Also, less heralded but essential to our understanding of the Second World War battles is the artwork created by Canadian official war artists, dug in, witnessing, slogging through rain, mud and ruins to document the action.

Charles Comfort (1900-1904), painter, sculptor, teacher, was assigned to accompany the First Canadian Infantry Division and the First Canadian Army Tank Brigade. Both would play a vital role in the liberation of Italy as they advanced up the Italian peninsula toward Rome.

Sicily was taken after fierce fighting by Patton's 7th U.S. Army and the Eighth British Infantry, including the Canadians, under Montgomery in July and August 1943.

Mussolini and the Italian government had fallen. The Germans were in control. Christmas 1943, the Canadians took Ortona after vicious "mouseholing" house to house battles.

The battle-hardened Germans constructed two major fortification lines of defence: the Gustav Line and the Adolf Hitler Line which ran east to west, coast to coast, across the Apennine Mountains.

Inland, they held the high vantage point of the

Abbey of Monte Cassino with its sweeping view of the rivers and landscape to the south and its vital position between Naples and Rome.

The Canadians were part of the fierce four-day battle for Monte Cassino, which fell on May 18, 1944. Next, they were to breach the Hitler Line. Under heavy mortar and machine-gun fire they succeeded in defeating German defences, forming a bridgehead across the Melfa River and securing the Liri Valley on May 23.

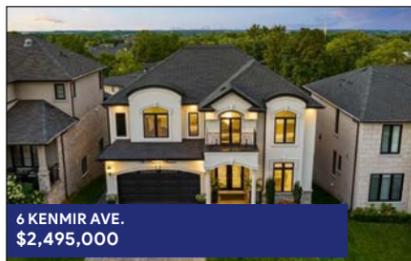
Rome fell to the Americans on June 4, 1944. Less than 48 hours later, the D-Day invasion began with Canadians landing under blistering fire on Juno Beach and moving on to ultimately defeat Hitler.

Charles Comfort would also go on to great achievements in the Canadian art world, including being the director of the National Gallery of Canada and the formation of the Canada Arts Council.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian and writer living in Niagara on the Lake. See her Zoom lectures on Spanish Exceptionalism: El Greco to Picasso, Nov. 10 to Dec. 15 from RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.

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Buen Camino: Memories from a deeply personal pilgrimage

The pandemic interrupted our Hometown Traveller feature, but now that travel has resumed, we invite readers to share their travel stories and adventures. Ideal length is about 600 words – and we'll need pictures. Email editor@niagaranow.com and include Hometown Traveller in the subject line.



Danielle Gault walking the Camino. SUPPLIED

Danielle Gault
Special to The Lake Report

Everyone who embarks on a Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage, it seems, has a different, deeply personal reason for making the journey.

The Camino de Santiago (known in English as the Way of St. James) is a network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

The discovery of St. James' bones around the 820s and the placement of his bones in the cathedral in Santiago inspired a pilgrimage of seekers who wanted to worship one of Jesus's favourite disciples.

Whether your pilgrimage is religious, personal or meant to seek deeper meaning, all Camino routes end in Santiago de Compostela.

There, the bells of the cathedral go off at the top of every hour and every quarter-hour thereafter.

When the bells of the majestic cathedral ring, visitors pay attention. Their lovely, lively tone can trigger a feeling of gratefulness that you are alive.

My last Camino was from Santiago to Fisterra, which is also known as Finisterre.

My late husband Bill and I did our first Camino in 2011 as a challenge we decided to take on. Could we walk 100 kilometres and enjoy ourselves?

Our trek was called a

home-based Camino, which meant we returned to the same hotel each day after walking. This was pleasant as we didn't have to worry about unpacking and getting familiar with our surroundings.

My latest Camino, in 2019, was not home-based but at each stop, my luggage would already be at my hotel. All I had to do was find a restaurant for my evening meal.

As much of Europe eats later, I had to wait until 8 p.m. – which was unfortunate as I just wanted to go to bed and rest up for the next day's journey.

Finisterre is also known as the Costa da Morte (Death Coast), so-called as it was declared at one time

to be the end of the Earth and was the place from which pre-Roman people thought their souls ascended into heaven.

The name is appropriate for me given that I was taking this pilgrimage as a tribute to Bill, who died in 2018.

He was an upper atmosphere physicist who helped develop sophisticated instruments for NASA's space shuttle program.

But he was interested in many things. I called him a Renaissance man because he had a wide range of in-depth knowledge of topics like geography, astronomy, history and more.

He was also empathetic about other people's issues in life as a result of being widowed at a young age.

Our shared life together was filled with wonderful memories. Because he was an international scientist, we travelled to many countries, attending conferences and exploring cultures.

My background was in corporate training and human resource management. I got to give seminars and keynote addresses to folks in places such as New

Zealand and New York state. We both managed to use our work as our hobbies while enjoying travelling at the same time.

As we were both widowed at a young age, when we met through mutual neighbours, we felt an instant bonding due to our grief as well as being single parents struggling to maintain a home life while pursuing our careers. Having those things in common, we got along famously.

Widowhood and a return to my tribute pilgrimage seemed to be a good match, so off to the trails I went for the second time.

The Camino trails are well-marked with either conch shells or yellow arrows. As you walk along on your journey, many pilgrims pass you, and most of them greet you with "Buen Camino," meaning "Good Camino."

You may see the same folks a few times on your trek or find them in a pub having a cold beer or looking for a washroom or getting their Pilgrim Passport stamped to prove they completed another part of their journey.

You have to walk 100 kilometres to get an official pilgrim certificate called a Compostela, so it is important to get a stamp as you arrive at specific locations.

A Camino pilgrimage can be many things to people. It can be a spiritual, physical or emotional event.

I walked for a week with one day off and my journey was only 90 kilometres as I didn't need another certificate. My tribute walk ended in Finisterre and when I got to the end, I opened a big bottle of red wine and poured it into the water by the hotel – a symbolic gesture of appreciation for having such a lovely partner.

When Bill and I did the 100-kilometre English Way Camino from Ferrol to Santiago in 2011, we said that we would like to come back to hike the Camino Finisterre.

Seven years later, when I was 74, I did the Finisterre walk all by myself. It was a blessing, a challenge and a healing journey for me.

You never know what your pilgrimage will bring you. Buen Camino.

Danielle Gault is a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION!



Gary Burroughs



Wendy Cheropita



Sandra O'Connor



Erwin Wiens

We wish to thank Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Sandra O'Connor, and Erwin Wiens for running for council this year and for voting in favour of and approving the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT TAX) during the past council year!

Out of every dollar paid in property taxes the NOTL budget receives less than 5 cents from the tourism industry.¹ The MAT Tax is important as the new council faces shortfalls in infrastructure maintenance, inflationary pressures and high home assessments that threaten to significantly increase taxes for home owners.

Thank you for endorsing the Tourism Strategy in your campaigns and listening to residents. We look forward to residents having an equal say in the town's tourism strategy as it is being developed.

Our suggestion is to reserve the collected MAT Tax as follows:

50% of MAT Tax to reduce capital and maintenance deficits from the high seasonal demands of tourism.

50% of MAT tax for the accommodation industry's DMO to promote low volume high yield tourism. Tourism is good, too much is bad.

1. Sources: NOTL 2022 property tax insert 21.7% of property taxes go to the town levy for its budget. Town treasurer reports only 23.07% of 2021 property taxes are paid by commercial tax payers. Not all commercial tax payers are tourism companies.





Seventeen vendors occupied the St. Davids Lions Club during Saturday's Christmas Holiday Market. JULIA SACCO



St. Davids Lioness Holiday Market brings **Christmas cheer** to town

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Jams, spices, candles, dog treats. If you wanted it, the Christmas Holiday Market likely had it.

Holiday cheer rang in early this year, with the annual St. Davids Lioness Lion Club

Christmas Holiday Market returning last Saturday in support of Project Share and other community causes.

Those who brought in a donation of a non-perishable food item could enjoy browsing a room full of artists and vendors, take in a quick lunch or enter a draw for prizes.

Lioness organizers Diane Pewer and Anna Marie Warriner and their dedicated committee of volunteers put hard work into making sure attendees had a lot of vendors to browse.

"We try to keep a good variety of vendors so we don't duplicate," said Warriner.

She added that with all of the options, Pewer was able to finish up all of her Christmas shopping.

One of the vendors, Linda Thornton, has attended multiple Lion's Club sales, selling her polished stone jewellery and handmade cards.

"The event has been very well-attended," said Thornton.

St. Catharines resident Laura Biernat purchased some cards from Thornton, as well as some gourmet dog treats for her 120-pound German shepherd mix, who anxiously

awaited his treats in the car.

Non-perishables collected during the event will be donated to Project Share.

Warriner noted that all profit from food and draw sales will go toward the local causes.

"The money always goes back into the community."



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Hidden talent on display at Legion's **karaoke party**. Show to return Dec. 11

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Renditions of hits from "Lay Down Sally" to "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" filled the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion on Sunday afternoon during its first-ever karaoke party.

Bar chair Megan Vanderlee put it together in hopes of bringing in a new crowd of music lovers to have fun as a community.

"We have an open mic and people love it but not everyone can play an instrument," said Vanderlee.

With the help of karaoke jockey Christie "KJ Christie" Hails, the party was great fun for all involved, with many hitting the stage more than once.

Alan Perreault, who leads the Legion's music trivia nights, sang a whopping five tunes, including "Copperhead Road" and "I Don't Look Good Naked Anymore."

"I like to sing and I like to help support the Legion," said Perrault, who is a member of the Merriton branch.

The affair also attracted some community stars, including Alejandra Alzate, known by her stage name Kiyomi Vegas.

Alzate wowed the crowd with her stage presence during a rendition of Madonna's "La Isla Bonita."



Top: Alejandra Alzate, known professionally as Kiyomi Vegas, wowed the crowd at the legion's karaoke party on Sunday. Bottom: Head of music trivia nights, Al Perrault sings his heart out. JULIA SACCO

"I came here today because I love to sing and I love to entertain people," said the St. Catharines singer.

The event wrapped up with flashlights in the air

for a final rendition of Neil Young's "Old Man."

The tentative date for the next Karaoke Party is Dec. 11, with hopes of continuing the festivities on the second Sunday of each month.

For the love of borscht: Bethany Mennonite Church's Triple B Sale sells out again

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Bread, borscht, baked goods and more! All were in abundance at Bethany Mennonite Church on Saturday as NOTLers returned for the beloved borscht and brown bread sale, this year in-person once again.

Co-ordinators Sue Weier and Linda Van Bergen were excited to see just how well sales went.

By 10:30 a.m., the baked goods table was nearly empty and borscht was going fast.

"I thought it was 12 o'clock but it's only twenty to eleven," said Weier.

In previous years, the church would have had a sit-down dinner with borscht being served and available for purchase.



Patricia Andres, Linda Van Bergen and Sue Weier pose with the beloved borscht during the Triple B Sale at Bethany Mennonite Church on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

Throughout the pandemic, slight changes were made, including holding a drive-through sale for the last two years.

Despite the changes, Pastor Herb Sawatzky said the sale remained popular.

"When we did it as just takeaway outside, the first year, we sold out in 45 minutes," he said.

Back in person but without a sit-down dinner, this year's sale was still a great success, he said.

"Borscht is one of our heritage meals and it's a Mennonite dish that appears to be liked by non-Mennonites," said Sawatzky.

"This event is something that our church community loves to do and it seems to

be well received by Virgil and Niagara-on-the-Lake as well."

The money raised by the Triple B Sale will help fund quilt-making that about a dozen church volunteers complete.

The quilts are regularly donated to scores of impoverished countries around the world via the Mennonite Central Committee.

"They've gone to people in pretty terrible situations, including those who have died of HIV. They like to be buried in them," said Sawatzky.

"It's very meaningful."

After Saturday's success, Van Bergen hopes that a sit-down dinner will be back soon.

"We hope (the dinner) will be back in person next year. We have people thinking about it already."



Nadia Zechinelli helps pick up littered cigarette butts at the Butt Blitz kick-off event on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

Volunteers come together for Butt Blitz cleanup

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The cold and wind didn't scare off a small group of volunteers who scrounged around the Bass Pro Shops parking lot Saturday in search of cigarette butts to be recycled.

In just 75 minutes of searching, the group collected 4,705 butts.

Kyra Simone, Niagara co-ordinator of A Greener Future, helped organize what was the kick-off for a community cigarette recycling program.

"Cigarettes are the last socially acceptable form of littering and we tend to forget that they are micro-plastics," said Simone, who is also The Lake Report's environmental columnist.

"It's really important that we shift behaviour and that's also why we're here today, to get people to ask us what we're doing and to start the conversation."

Former Niagara College business student Nadia Zechinelli was happy to help out at her first Butt Blitz at Niagara-on-the-Lake's outlet mall.

"I like sustainability and helping out the environment, so when the college posted about this event, I thought I'd come help out," she said.

"I was wondering how many cigarette butts we would see but there are a lot."

Ann Marie Simone, Kyra's mother, also helped with the cleanup and urged others to pick up butts when they see them.

"Anybody can do this if they have a few minutes," she said. "It's very therapeutic."

All cigarette butts collected will be sent to TerraCycle Canada for recycling, where the material will be sold to manufacturers and used for various outdoor and indoor building materials.

Feeling stumped? Get your perfect Christmas tree this weekend at two Lions Club sales

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree.

Starting this weekend, you can head over to Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil or the St. Davids Lions Club to pick out the perfect Christmas tree for your home.

The Niagara Lions Club will be selling about 450 trees out of Cornerstone Community Church's parking lot starting Friday, Nov. 18.

There's only a short window of opportunity to grab your tree, since they tend to sell out fast.

"Last year we were done by Dec. 7 and the year before Dec. 3," said Terry Flynn, who has been helping run the sale for 25 years.

There will be a variety of sizes, from four to 14 feet tall. Prices can range from \$40 to more than \$200.

Flynn said he gets the trees from Somerville Nurseries Inc. in Everett, Ont.

Fraser and balsam fir trees will be available. The price for the fraser firs will



Terry Flynn sells Christmas trees in 2021. FILE

average about \$85, while balsams will average about \$75.

Prices have gone slightly up due to a tree shortage, said Flynn.

He used to run the sale with John Skubel, who died in 2020. This year, Flynn plans again to have a huge banner up at the church to honour his late friend.

"In his memory, I got this big huge banner that says,

'Niagara Lions Club Christmas tree sale in memory of John Skubel,'"

Flynn hopes to raise about \$8,000 for the community. Last year, the tree sales generated about \$7,500.

The St. Davids Lions Club has its own Christmas tree sale starting on Saturday, Nov. 19. There will be 700 douglas fir trees available.

"We're going a little bit more this year because

we have an option to have coloured trees," said Glenn Miller, known as the "Lion chief" at the St. Davids Club.

The coloured trees will be red and green, and supply is limited.

The Lions will be offering trees ranging from six to eight feet tall, with the average tree costing about \$80. Table-top trees will also be available.

"The profits from the Christmas tree sale go to the Lions Club general account to handle budgeted items for charities that we give to every year and also for requests for funds," said Miller.

At the St. Davids Lions Club, the sale will be from noon to 7 p.m.

At Cornerstone Community Church, the hours of operation will be 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends.

Both sales will continue until they are out of trees.

"I look forward to seeing all the locals at Christmas to say Merry Christmas," said Flynn.

New town council to be sworn in Tuesday night

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's new town council will convene for the first time when it holds its inaugural meeting at the Court House on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Like all regular council meetings, the inaugural is open to the public.

Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7.

Space is limited, though, and seats will be available on a first come, first served basis.

The inauguration is a formal ceremony traditionally held at the Court House.

Newly elected and re-elected councillors alike will be formally sworn in during the brief meeting.

A reception will follow. The new council's first official meeting is not until Dec. 13.

"Outgoing councillors are invited to attend and speak, if they wish," a town spokesperson said in an email.

The new council is comprised of Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Adriana Cater Vizzari, Maria Mavri-dis, Sandra O'Connor, Nick Ruller and Erwin Wiens.

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Disappointing weekend for Jr. A Niagara Predators

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

Despite getting off to a promising start, the Jr. A Niagara Predators had another disappointing weekend, suffering back-to-back losses though they did manage to squeeze out one point.

Playing the North York Renegades in Virgil last Friday night, the Predators were forced into overtime and lost 6-5. The outcome is still an improvement compared to their 9-0 loss to North York a week earlier.

“It was a tough loss. I don’t think there’s ever a kind of good loss, but I’m happy with how they played,” said Predators’ head coach Kevin Taylor.

“They were doing everything we wanted them to do, the only thing they didn’t do is keep a lead. That’s something that we’ll learn through the season is how to win. Right now we don’t know how to win.”

North York started off the scoring but Niagara’s Tyler Gearing tied things up on the power play six minutes



Niagara Predator Declan Fogarty breaks in on the North York defence during the team’s home game Friday. After being soundly beaten by the Renegades in their previous meeting, the charged-up Preds took them to overtime but lost 6-5. At right, goalie Ryan Santini is the team’s player of the month. KEVAN DOWD PHOTOS



into the game. A tally by Dawson Walker three minutes into the second period had the Predators out front but a pair of goals for the Renegades put the home team down by one after 40 minutes.

An explosive third period saw power play goals for Nick Savoie and Leo Savin a minute apart to give Niagara a one-goal lead with

just over 10 minutes to go, only for North York to tie things up at the 10:05 mark.

Then Anthony Tropea netted Niagara’s fifth of the night but the Preds could not hold onto the lead with Renegade Nikolai Salov forcing the extra minutes that would prove Niagara’s undoing.

“You can’t give those types of teams an opportu-

nity to come back and win and that’s what we did,” said Taylor.

“But the boys are happy and what I’m happy about is 9-0 last game against them and tonight we took them to overtime,” he said.

“We get a point I don’t think anyone expected and what was even nicer is when you lose a game and you come off the ice and the

fans are still clapping.”

But somewhere between Friday night in Virgil and Sunday afternoon in Windsor things changed for the Predators.

After holding their own against North York – who sit in the top spot for the Greater Metro Hockey League’s south division – Niagara lost 4-1 to the (now) 2-15-0 Windsor Aces.

“I can’t even pinpoint what happened, our guys didn’t come out to play,” said Taylor.

“They played so well on Friday and then they just did a complete 180 the other way. There’s no explanation. They didn’t skate, they didn’t hit, they didn’t shoot, they tried to make fancy plays.”

Niagara’s only goal came from Tropea 14:41 into the first period, which tied things 1-1. A goal-per-period for Windsor after that sent the Predators home without a win.

Facing a bench of just 10 skaters, Taylor said the game plan was simple.

“Take the body, wear them down and by the end

of the night you’ll have full run of the rink. And they just couldn’t do it.”

Problems with team dynamics are potentially contributing to losses, though he declined to go into specifics.

“I’m addressing a couple internal issues. From what I’m told, one of the internal issues is what’s bothering the team,” he said.

“There’s some things that have been brought to my attention that need to be addressed and they will be addressed.”

Ahead of their upcoming game at home against the Aces, Taylor is hoping a new addition to his offence will provide some leadership or at least fill a sort of motivational role.

“We don’t have that guy who will just be like, ‘Enough, I’m going to go out and get two goals.’ They’re all waiting for somebody else.”

The Predators face-off against the Windsor Aces this Friday, Nov. 18, at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Hockey people, let ‘Paul for the Hall’ ring out across NOTL



Ross’s Ramblings

Ross Robinson
The Lake Report

Yes, neighbours it’s our chance to get the right thing done. Hockey people are not philosophers, but are always eager to speak their minds quickly and clearly.

Even when they don’t agree, they are certain they are correct. Let’s seize the day. Today.

At this time of year, every year, Canada’s sports pages write about the Hockey Hall of Fame selection process. They often seem to overcomplicate it.

The conflicting arguments are trotted out, often with different quotations from different authorities. After enthusiastic discussions, we agree to disagree, and then we enjoy a cold beer. That’s the Canadian way, eh?

Full disclosure: I didn’t watch the 1972 Summit Series. In fact, I completely missed it because I was in Munich working in the food service department of the Munich Olympic Village. There was no coverage or mention of the Canada/Russia hockey kerfuffle in the International Herald Tribune, which I perused daily.

Mark Spitz and Olga Korbut were the individual superstars, with side orders of Shane Gould and Frank Shorter. Then, tragically, on Sept. 5, our world changed with the Black September terrorist murders of Israeli team members.

It was so awful and we were within 200 metres of



Paul Henderson celebrates the series-winning goal while being embraced by Yvan Cournoyer. The award-winning photograph, taken by Frank Lennon, has been called “one of the 10 images that changed Canada.” WIKIPEDIA

the hostage-taking location.

Sorta put life in perspective and we have never been the same.

Back now to the Summit Series. Not just hockey games, but the conflict between democracy and communism. Oh, how the hype machines worked overtime on our pea brains.

Thank goodness Paul Henderson saved the day

for Canada. In the last three games of the eight-game series, he scored not one, not two, but three game-winning goals. Even now, everyone agrees, “He came up big, eh?”

The last game winner was the biggest goal in hockey history. He had very respectable goal and assist statistics during his NHL and WHA careers. Even the Great One, Wayne Gretzky, says, “It is

asinine that Paul Henderson is not in the Hockey Hall of Fame.”

He has been a great credit to the game of hockey and to Canada. He is 79 years old now and a cancer survivor. This great Canadian has helped countless people live longer and more fulfilling lives.

His “Beamon-esque” goals in Moscow in 1972 should be enough. (American long jumper Bob Beamon, who broke the world long jump record by almost two feet during the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games, was almost immediately inducted into the U.S.A. Track and Field Hall of Fame for “his outstanding accomplishment at a national or international event.”

Follow me as I ramble to a zigzagging conclusion now. Before Paul Henderson is tempted to join NHL MVP Auston Matthews, current Leaf captain John Tavares, and yes, folks the Great One,

Gretzky, as a pitchman for online gambling sites, let’s initiate a movement here in the Niagara Peninsula to force the wise people at the Hockey Hall of Fame to induct Henderson.

The “Paul for the Hall” rhyme is easy to learn and then to chant in unison.

Hockey in general could use some good public relations right now. The suits at Hockey Canada muddle along, unable to determine what is right and what is wrong. And across our Canada, the participation rates for minor hockey continue to dive.

The time for annual debating posturing is over. Can you imagine the awfulness of Don Cherry becoming an “honoured member” of the Hockey Hall of Fame before Paul Henderson?

Anything is possible. “Paul for the Hall” could happily start right here in NOTL.



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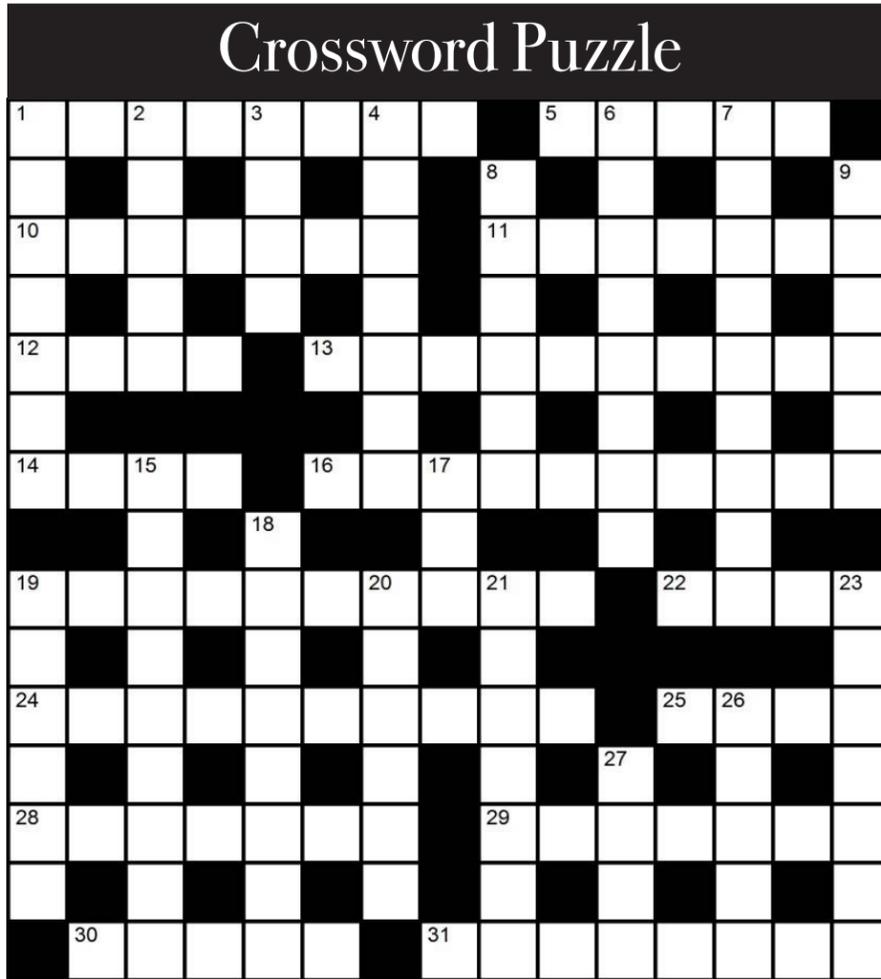


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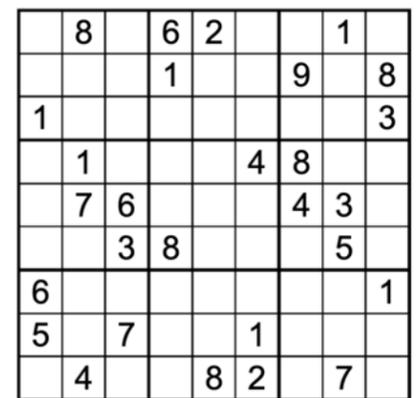
- 1. Beautiful (8)
- 5. Moves through water (5)
- 10. Unconventional (7)
- 11. Pilot (7)
- 12. Pollen gatherers (4)
- 13. When the living is easy (10)
- 14. Otherwise (4)
- 16. Artificial sparkler (10)
- 19. Corridor (10)
- 22. Yorkshireman (4)
- 24. Preceding wedlock (10)
- 25. Precious stones (4)
- 28. Shining (7)
- 29. Hollowed inward (7)
- 30. Bovine mammary gland (5)
- 31. Austrian Alpine resident (8)

Down

- 1. Farewell (7)
- 2. Plunder (5)
- 3. Paradise (4)
- 4. Lie (7)
- 6. Restaurant worker (8)
- 7. Marriage (9)
- 8. Opera by Bizet (6)
- 9. Current of air (6)
- 15. Pendent (9)
- 17. Large island in the Channel (1,1,1)
- 18. Computer information store (8)
- 19. Thin and translucent (6)
- 20. Expels (6)
- 21. Disorder (7)
- 23. Oriental (7)
- 26. Fill with high spirits (5)
- 27. Untie (4)



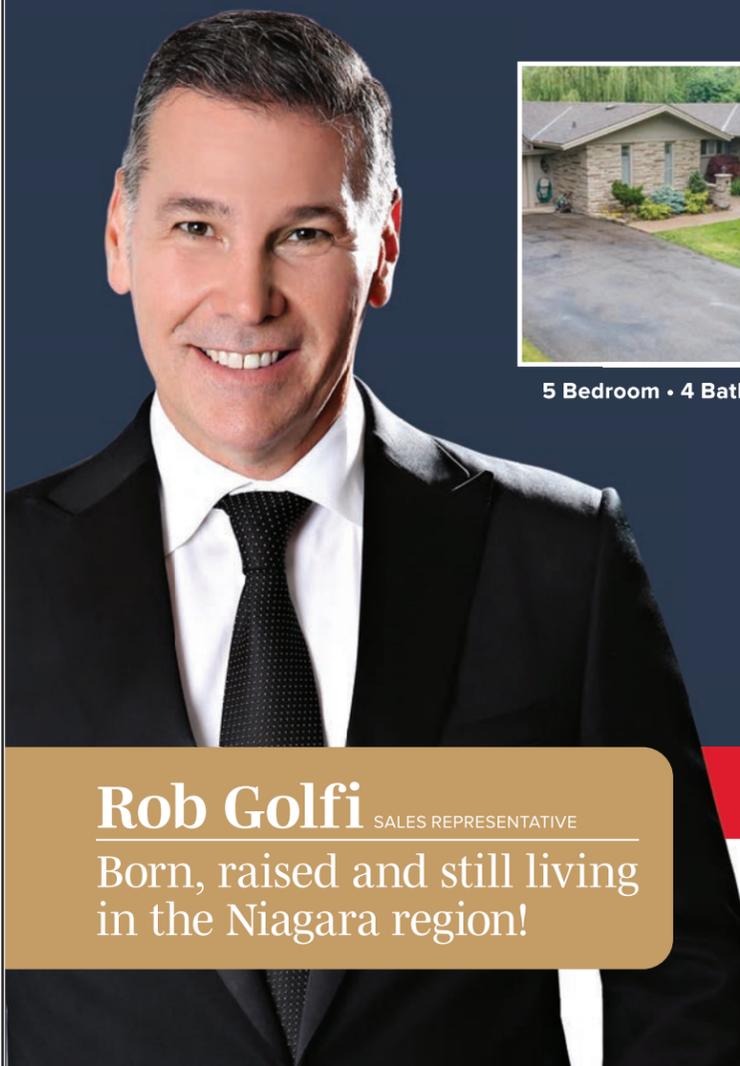
Last issue's answers



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A ‘pacemaker’ for boosting your memory might not be far off



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Brain injuries affected thousands of military personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most involved blast injuries and concussions and left those affected with cognitive and behavioural deficits, and significant impairments in short- and long-term memory.

The findings were not unlike those observed following repeated concussions in sports such as football and the far more common neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s disease, the later stages of fronto-temporal degeneration, Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

In the case of soldiers suffering from memory deficits, considerable re-

search and money have been invested to see whether memory loss could be reversed.

One intriguing proposal was to use deep brain stimulation. In this treatment, small electrical stimuli are delivered through electrodes implanted in selected regions of the temporal lobe where memories are initially processed before becoming consolidated elsewhere in the brain through strengthening existing neural connections and developing new connections.

Our modern understanding of the structural and molecular basis of memory came from Eric Kandel, who shared a Nobel Prize in 2000 for working out the structural and molecular underpinnings of memory.

Kandel’s outstanding studies of memory are recounted in his very readable 2008 book, “In Search of Memory.”

Epileptic seizures often begin in the temporal lobe and should they be unresponsive to drugs or if drugs prove intolerable, one option has been to surgically resect the affected anterior (front)



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part of the temporal lobe, such as Wilder Penfield pioneered many years ago in Montreal.

These days, it’s common practice to implant arrays of electrodes into the suspected temporal lobe before or during the surgery to locate the source of the seizures more precisely.

Those same electrodes also provide a handy means for studying short-term memory because the temporal lobes harbour the hippocampus and dentate gyrus, which are the structures

most involved in short-term memory.

They also harbour nerve cells, which serve as the biological equivalents of GPS by providing handy information about our position (so-called place and grid cells). For the latter work, a Nobel Prize was awarded to John O’Keefe, and the wife and husband team of May-Britt Moser and Edvard J. Moser in 2014.

As Kandel pointed years before in the relatively simple nervous system of aplasia (a giant marine snail

ideal for research on learning and memory), stimuli delivered shortly after an initial memory tend to consolidate newly formed memories.

Here we’ve come to the heart of the matter.

Why not use deep brain stimulation in the temporal lobe of humans suffering from short- and longer-term memory difficulties to help their brains consolidate memories before they vanish – such as “Where did you put those keys?” or “Where did you park your car in the lot at the mall?”

It’s really a pacemaker for the brain or more specifically a pacemaker for memory that investigators are looking at.

So, maybe those of us who struggle to make and hold onto memories will have an assist soon from technology. It’s not far-fetched but might take a few years before pacemaking for memory becomes a practical tool.

However, it’s a wonderful example of basic science (Kandel and others), clinical scientists, physicians, and a big need coming together to

solve an immense problem.

More recently, Rob Reinhart and colleagues from Boston University used weak alternating current stimuli delivered through surface electrodes positioned over the prefrontal cortex to facilitate long-term memories or the inferior parietal lobe to enhance short-term memories.

The stimuli were well-tolerated and probably too weak to stimulate nerve cells directly but probably altered the background excitability of the underlying neocortex. Their preliminary findings were promising because they suggested such weak stimuli could enhance memory.

Perhaps some form of chronic surface stimulation might provide a needed, albeit temporary boost to memory for patients with Alzheimer’s disease. If so, that would be a plus for patients and their caregivers.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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Drawing of King Street in 1856



Here is beautiful pencil drawing, coloured with watercolour, that was created by a former local artist Francis H. Granger. It portrays the foot of King Street in 1856. The buildings in the drawing (from left) include: the Gleaner Newspaper printing office, the Guard House, William Elliot's house (also known as the Whale Inn), and residences owned by J. Dugdale. Fort Niagara can be seen across the Niagara River. The only buildings that still exist today are the Whale Inn and Fort Niagara.

NOTL heritage consultant **Jim Alexander** named Niagara Foundation Living Landmark

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Jim Alexander is officially a Living Landmark.

The heritage consultant, builder, cabinet maker and expert on historic home restoration has been honoured with the Niagara Foundation's Living Landmark award.

The award has been given annually since 2006 to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara.

In introducing him to the 100 attendees at a dinner last Saturday evening, Niagara Foundation past-president Janice Thomson noted that "Jim's commitment to supporting Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage runs deep."

Many organizations, projects and celebrations have benefited from his leadership, she said, including the War of 1812 Bicentennial



Jim Alexander is flanked, from left, by Lyle Hall (Niagara Foundation president), Patty Alexander (Jim's sister), Erica Alexander (Jim's wife), Anna Lee Benjamin (Jim's sister) and Janice Thomson (past-president of the foundation). BEN TAYLOR

Committee, Friends of Niagara National Historic Sites, the Rotary Club, Scouts Canada, various Canada Day celebrations and the citizens committee for Ontario Heritage Years.

He also received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and was NOTL's citizen of the year in 1993.

Alexander's role as president of Old Niagara Workshops Ltd. and his expertise has led to many commissions to restore

architectural elements for historical properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond.

He also has been involved in the restoration of major architectural elements for significant historical properties in St. Catharines, Port Colborne, Niagara Falls and Toronto.

Farther afield, he has been worked on projects for Parks Canada across Ontario and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

"The Niagara Foundation believes that honouring residents who make this town a special place to live should be one of our priorities," said Niagara Foundation president Lyle Hall.

"As development and density pressures continue to challenge the heritage and built form here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we will continue to be a voice that promotes the history, traditions and culture of the Niagara area," he said.

Looking to the **Stars**

Sagittarius brings us a sense of relief, optimism

Bill Auchterlonie
Columnist

Thursday, Nov. 17: Mercury enters Sagittarius. This will allow us to see the light. Venus and Mercury changing signs almost at the same time is a rare event. Scorpio and Sagittarius are very different energies. Scorpio loves digging in the mud – while Sagittarius is that sense of relief and optimism we get infused with when we reach the other side of an ordeal. Happy birthday to Gordon Lightfoot, the Orillia Oriole, turns 84 today.



Friday, Nov. 18: With the moon in Virgo and Mars in Gemini, this is a stubborn end to the week, even though there is plenty of romantic energy in the air as well. Oddball actor Owen Wilson turns 54 today.



Saturday, Nov. 19: Mars in Gemini is 90 degrees from Neptune in Pisces. The desire to escape is powerful. Slow down and guard against unintended injury to hands or head. She was Alicia at birth. We know her as Jodie. Today Jodie Foster celebrates birthday number 60.

Sunday, Nov. 20: A busy day in every way, defined by a very positive harmony between Jupiter and the sun. Think big. Act big. Plan for the most success and write it down. Senator, vice-president and now the 46th president of the U.S., Joe Biden, born Nov. 20, 1942, blows out 80 candles today.

Monday, Nov. 21: On this, the last day of Scorpio for 2022, Mercury and Venus are together in Sagittarius. Thinking becomes knowing. Charm meets knowing,

too. The danger is it's so easy we can get swallowed up in so much positivity. Mercury conjunct Venus is an auspicious transit that will bring a sense of expansion, optimism and gratitude into our lives. We will find it easier to see the good in ourselves and others. We may also be interested in exploring new horizons, going on an adventure or embarking on a new field of study. "Call Me Maybe" was her debut hit single in 2011. Born in Mission, B.C., Carly Rae Jepsen has won Junos and Grammys in a career that keeps on growing.



Tuesday, Nov. 22: Just about 4 a.m. today, the sun enters Sagittarius. This is the time of the year when everyone feels a bit more optimistic and upbeat. Sagittarius is probably the most anticipated astrological season of the year as the holidays are near and we are filled with anticipation, gratitude and hope for the future. It was Nov. 22, 1963, that U.S. President John Kennedy was fatally shot in an open-air motorcade in Dallas.



Wednesday, Nov. 23: This is a fabulous new moon that is trine Jupiter, her ruler. Jupiter turns direct exactly at the time of the new moon, which is particularly auspicious. There is a sense of optimism and forward momentum in the air. We haven't had such a beautiful lunation in a long time. Jupiter direct, together with an auspicious new moon, makes for a gratitude-filled U.S. Thanksgiving.

My new website/podcast is still under construction. Check it out at www.lutts.com.

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Michael Eagen and Michele Darling are matching contributions made to the Darling Home for Kids. SUPPLIED

NOTL couple **matching gifts** to Darling Home for Kids

Staff
The Lake Report

A Niagara-on-the-Lake couple is matching up to \$50,000 all contributions made to support the only organization in Ontario providing a continuum of care in respite, residential and hospice palliative services to medically complex children and their families.

Michele Darling and Michael Eagen have been the benefactors and guardians of the Darling Home for Kids in Milton since 2007 and in recognition of National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 15 announced the gift-match program.

Ontario's first pediatric hospice and respite centre, the home was built to provide essential care to families facing the daily challenges of caring for a child with complex medical needs. The children require around-the-clock

care and their families need support.

In 2022, Darling helped the home's Embrace Campaign raise more than \$7 million to build an additional 10,000 square feet at the facility.

"As proud guardians for 15 years, our family has watched the Darling Home for Kids far exceed every hope we had starting out all those years ago," Michele Darling said.

"The impact on the families we support is wide-reaching and profound," she added.

"We know that when parents can take a break from the heavy caregiving responsibilities that come with having a medically complex child, they return refreshed and renewed and this in turn impacts those around them in a positive way."

More information is available online at darlinghomeforkids.ca.

Balls Beach Park **closed** for four weeks

Staff
The Lake Report

Balls Beach Park will be closed until early December.

As of Nov. 14, the waterfront park on River Beach Drive in Niagara-on-the-Lake, will be inaccessible so work can be done to improve the drainage in the dock area.

The pathways leading into the park will also be closed.

"Grading and installation of buried stormwater infrastructure are tak-

ing place on-site," town spokesperson Marah Minor said in an email to The Lake Report.

Most of the work is being done by town staff.

"Access to the park will be closed at the west end of Riverbeach Drive, the north end of Ball Street, the pathway entrance off Delater Street, and the pathway at the end of Lockhart Street," she said.

The park is set to open again on Dec. 5, weather permitting.

Fall stars that can **add punch** to your garden



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Gardening Columnist

What a glorious fall it has been. The colours have just been amazingly vibrant this year and have lasted a long time.

We live in such a beautiful area and there are certain plants that really stand out at this time of year.

Here are a few of my favourites that you may want to consider adding to your garden.

Many of our native trees have excellent fall colour. One of the ones that stands out the most in autumn is the red maple (*Acer rubrum*).

They are one of the first trees to start turning their consistent, brilliant scarlet-red colour. The red maple is a medium- to fast-growing tree, typically reaching 40 to 60 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide.

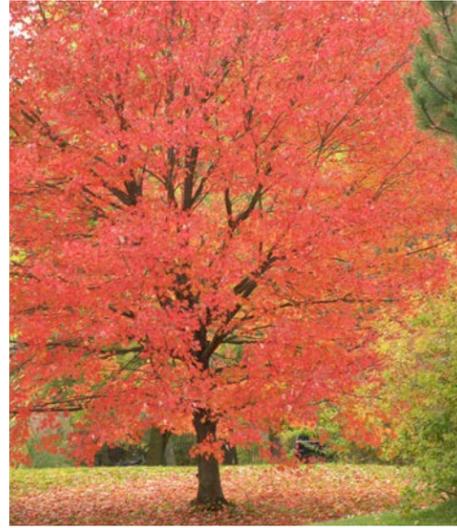
It tends to be more upright oval in form when young, becoming more rounded with age. Several cultivars also are available for sale at garden centres.

Another Carolinian forest tree that is not as well known, but should be, is the blackgum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*), also known as a sourgum tree.

It has become a naturally rare find in Ontario, mainly along the shore of Lake Erie. It is primarily found in low-lying, wet areas, so it is a great choice to plant in poorly drained, clay soils.

A slower-growing tree, it can reach 40 to 50 feet in height with a spread of 20 to 30 feet. Although flowers are not showy, they are an excellent nectar source for bees.

Flowers give way to oval, half-inch long fruits that are technically edible but quite sour (hence the common name).



Left: A red maple tree. Right: Beautyberry in fall. JOANNE YOUNG



Fruits mature to a dark blue and are attractive to birds and wildlife. Its glossy, dark green leaves turn a spectacular wine to scarlet fall colour.

The sweetgum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), although not native, is another tree that has spectacular fall colour, ranging from yellow to orange to dark wine red.

Its dark green, star-shaped leaves are often confused for a maple. When young, the tree has a pyramidal or tear-drop shape, rounding out with age.

At maturity it can reach 50 to 60 feet in height and a 30-foot spread. As the tree ages, the branches develop a corky bark, adding to its winter interest. One cultivar of special note is the slender silhouette sweetgum, which will grow to 20 to 30 feet high, but only about six feet wide.

You can never go wrong with any of the many Japanese maples as far as fall colour is concerned. One variety that is less known is the Shishigashira Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Shishigashira'), also known as lion's mane Japanese maple.

Its unusual small, dark green, crinkled leaves makes it a specimen plant in the summer, but its fall colour knocks it out of the park.

As the fall progresses, the colour of the leaves also progress from gold to orange to a dark burgundy. Its green bark also makes this plant stand out in the winter garden.

There are many shrubs

to help make a fall garden come to life, such as burning bush, viburnums and ninebarks, but let's look at two less-known shrubs with striking fall interest.

Fothergilla is one such shrub. In May, it comes into bloom with unusual fragrant, white, bristle-brush like flowers. That alone makes this compact three to four footer a must in the garden. Adding to that, in fall the leaves are a striking mix of gold, orange and scarlet red.

The last shrub I'll mention is beautyberry (*Callicarpa*). In spring and summer, it is quite unassuming.

Even though the leaves do turn a nice yellow in fall, it is better known for its amethyst-purple clusters of berries that ripen in autumn and remain on the plant well into winter.

The berries are highly desired by many songbirds. There are several cultivars that are sold ranging in size from three to eight feet tall.

So, if your garden is lacking interest in the fall, take a look at these and many other plants to add the punch you need.

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



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