



Shaw reveals new artist renderings for Royal George

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival is sharing more detailed designs of its plans for the new look of the Royal George Theatre, showing what the theatre will look like on both Queen and Victoria streets.

The Shaw held a community update event on Friday to provide “more detailed perspectives of the design update” shared on Aug. 11.

“These renderings have been developed since the Aug. 8 zoning amendment and heritage impact assessment refiling in preparation for the Aug. 29 site plan submission to the town,” said Cathy Cowan, communications consultant for the Shaw.

A central part of the meeting involved unveiling five artist renderings of the proposed new Royal George Theatre.

Continued on Page 3

From the 11th province

Politics left at the border as Niagara-on-the-Lake welcomes ‘our U.S. neighbours’



It's been another busy summer for Niagara-on-the-Lake, but this year, some locals say, there's been a tension in the air around stormy Canada-U.S. relations, affecting how some Americans think they'll be received north of the border. PAIGE SEBURN

Paige Seburn | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

It's been a summer marked by tension for Canada and the United States, as tariff disputes and talk of Canada becoming the 51st state show few signs of fading.

While that's made some Canadians reluctant to head south

of the border, it hasn't stopped flocks of Americans from crossing north, a few making Niagara-on-the-Lake a key stop.

Sometimes, the strain bubbles over in emotion: some American visitors to NOTL have gotten sentimental, locals say,

even apologizing or hugging volunteers and employees when thanked for coming.

But local tourism representatives say they don't engage in politics — they simply offer a warm welcome, says Vlad Haltigin, co-lead for the Niagara-on-

the-Lake Ambassadors.

Many Americans who come up to the ambassadors on the street or interact with them are unsure how they'll be received by the Canadians, he said.

Continued on Page 11

Solmar seeks redesignation and panhandle access at Rand Estate

Zahraa Hmood
The Lake Report

Despite rejections by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Ontario Land Tribunal, developer Benny Marotta is trying

again to obtain approval for a residential project on the historic Rand Estate.

An open house is slated for next week, Sept. 2, to discuss plans to redesignate lands at 200 John St. E and 588 Charlotte St. in

Old Town for low-density residential development.

This comes after the Ontario Land Tribunal sent Marotta's company Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. back to the drawing board last October to re-evaluate its plans for

172-unit subdivision on the Rand Estate, following a lengthy trial in 2024.

The tribunal said the developer should take on studies and revisions to its plan to address concerns related to the alteration of its heri-


tage features and its plans to create an access route to the planned subdivision through the “panhandle” on the east boundary of 200 John St. E, among other issues.

Instead, Solmar tried to appeal the tribunal's

decision, which the tribunal denied in January, then dismissed for good in April.



The open house notice says the applicant wants to redesignate lands on the east


Continued on Page 8



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'Historical' design for St. Davids roundabout

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

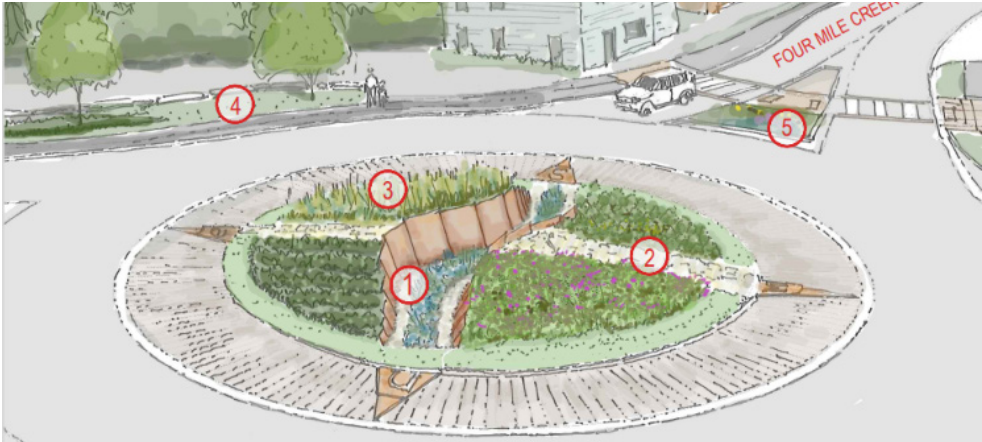
The people have spoken: St. Davids' new roundabout should have a traditional, more low-key look to it.

Niagara Region released survey results on Wednesday on the design of the planned roundabout for York and Four Mile Creek roads in St. Davids, the community's main intersection.

Niagara residents were asked to choose between two design themes: a "historical/traditional" option and an "agricultural and contemporary" option, with the former being the top choice as voted on by 867 participants.

The region says the layout will feature four quadrants representing the Indigenous medicine wheel. A valley will cut through one half of the roundabout with blue ornamental grass planted in the middle, to evoke the Niagara Escarpment and Four Mile Creek.

The other half will include a trail symbolizing York Road and an Indigenous trail.



The chosen design for the St. Davids roundabout is modelled after a four-part medicine wheel with a valley filled with ornamental grass running through it. SUPPLIED

The other design, meanwhile, would've included a large, rounded trellis at the centre of the roundabout, with training vines growing on it, a "visually striking" feature, the region's report states, that would've reflected agriculture's importance to St. Davids.

There would've also been six upright slabs around the trellis on the ground that would've highlighted significant features of St. Davids and NOTL.

The plan selected by survey respondents includes space around the roundabout for seating, decorative planting and a Christmas tree, along with landscaped

areas at the roundabout's entrances.

The agricultural and contemporary theme was chosen for the gateway leading up to the roundabout along York Road.

This section will feature decorative paving designed to resemble a wooden bridge, flanked by planting beds.

Deciduous trees will be planted further back on both sides, which the region says are meant to evoke the War of 1812.

Survey respondents also preferred the traditional design for site furnishings, benches, waste bins, bike racks, lamp posts, informa-

tional signage and grist mill wheel displays.

Participants selected brick-red coloured concrete and contemporary decorative pillars for finishing touches.

The results, presented in a video, said 867 residents participated either in person or online.

The intersection is currently a four-way stop.

The roundabout project has sparked controversy, with some St. Davids residents opposing it due to safety concerns and a debate as to whether it fits the character of the community.

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Shaw unveils new **Royal George** drawings

Continued from Front Page

One depicts the Queen Street courtyard, two show the Queen Street façade, and two show Victoria Street — one looking from and one looking toward Queen Street.

The Shaw Festival members also gave highlights of these new designs.

After the meeting, Jennings told The Lake Report one of his favourite features is the ghost façade that would move the theatre further back from the sidewalk.

This design, he says, allows for construction at the sidewalk level, improving wheelchair accessibility — a key goal from the outset for this redevelopment.

Board committee member Robin Ridesic spoke about the courtyard, located between the ghost façade and the theatre's main entrance.

In addition to offering visual appeal and a communal atmosphere, she emphasized its practical benefits.

"It invites people in," Ridesic said. "But it also just relieves some of the pressure point for our patrons."

Jennings also outlined plans to plant trees along the Victoria Street side to help the building blend into the surrounding residential area.

"We've also been able to work really carefully with the landscaping and arborist folks to be able to keep the big, large trees in the interstitial space between the sidewalk and the road," he said.



This artist rendering shows what the new face of the Royal George would look like from Queen Street. Shaw's executive director, Tim Jennings, says steps have been taken to obscure the fly tower to make it "almost impossible" to see from the road. SUPPLIED

"We're looking at how to make better use of the larger, existing trees." He also said the broader theatre design is intended to make the building visually appealing.

“From the street itself, the fly tower would be almost impossible to see.”

TIM JENNINGS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SHAW FESTIVAL

"There's lots of wood, lots of greenery, lots of brick," Jennings said.

In response to a question about the fly tower — a point of controversy due

to its proposed height and impact on the heritage landscape — Jennings said the updated design make it less visible on Queen Street.

"It's about 100 feet further back (from Victoria Street) than it is currently," he said. "From the street itself, the fly tower would be almost impossible to see."

The updated design, first shown on Aug. 11, marked a significant shift from the original, more controversial proposal.

The Festival also shared a timeline for the project. After submitting the site plan on Aug. 29, the Town of NOTL, the region and the municipal heritage committee will review it through September and October. Site plan approval is expected in October.

Jennings said the festival has been advised to seek site-specific zoning for theatres.

Demolition of 178 and 188 Victoria St. is scheduled for late fall. Demolition of the existing Royal George Theatre will follow in late January or early February.

Construction is set to begin in the spring, with completion expected in summer 2028. Performances are slated to resume in the fall or winter of that year.

The final performance at the Royal George Theatre will be on Dec. 21.

The Royal George Theatre is a 110-year-old building located in the Queen-Picton district. The province has committed \$35 million to the project.

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NOTL's open-air **burn ban** lifted after recent rain

Staff
The Lake Report

Citing recent rain and favourable weather conditions in the forecast, Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services has lifted the open-

air burn ban after it was enacted on Aug. 11.

The burn ban was lifted at noon on Friday, after it was in effect for nearly two weeks in NOTL, as well as several municipalities in the surrounding area,

including St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and others.

With the ban no longer in effect, all open-air burning, including cooking fires, consumer and display-type fireworks and any other

type of outdoor burning is now allowed.

The town thanks its residents for their patience and co-operation.

Residents with questions can call the town at 905-468-3266.



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Have your say on playground upgrades

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is asking residents to help choose new playground designs for Memorial Park and Simcoe Park, with voting open until Sept. 9.

Public feedback will “directly determine” the final design for each park, said the town’s Aug. 26 news release.

The Memorial Park options differ in size and features: one reduces the mulch footprint and reinvests savings into more play components, while the other keeps the existing footprint with fewer additions.

At Simcoe Park, one design proposes a single play structure for ages 18 months to 12 years old, while the other splits equipment into two structures — one for toddlers and one for older children — to create age-specific play experiences.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa



One of the options for a new playground at Memorial Park. Residents can vote for the designs online. SOURCED

says the goal is to make sure the projects reflect what the community actually wants.

“Before they move ahead with something like, especially park amenities,” he said.

“You don’t want to build amenities with public money that doesn’t get used properly.”

The projects replace equipment installed in 2005

at Memorial Park and 1997 at Simcoe Park. Both were approved for replacement through past council budget cycles.

Zalepa said council wants to close gaps in local amenities by updating equipment, improving safety and “meeting the needs today for people” — not only with play structures but also with services and events.

“That’s a big part of what

council’s strategic plan spoke to,” he said. “The improvement of amenities and services with regards to parks.”

Aligning with the parks and recreation master plan now in development, Zalepa said the upgrades are also part of council’s push to expand park activities for all ages, from youth to seniors.

“I think this is just an effort to continue to build on that,” he said.

“The feedback will be helpful,” he added. “I’d love to hear what ideas people have.”

Regardless of which design is chosen, Zalepa hopes for one simple outcome: “that we meet the needs of the people that want to use them,” he said.



“I think that’s the key thing.”

Residents can review the designs and vote online at jointheconversationnotl.org/playground-engagement, or scan QR codes posted at both parks.

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See ya **next year**, soccer



Another Cristiano Ronaldo in the making. Four-year-old Gideon Korevaar gives it his all on the soccer field, playing for the green Timbits team at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club's last day of its summer season on Aug. 25 at the Virgil Sports Park. This year's season saw 320 players, split up over six teams. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Unclear when speed cam **vandalism** reported

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For police to investigate vandalism of Niagara-on-the-Lake's automated speed camera on Niagara Stone Road, the Niagara Region must first report damage to its own property.

The Niagara Regional Police Service says it's received those reports and investigations are underway, but no charges have been laid.

Initially, the region would not say whether it had ever reported vandalism of the camera to police — only after a follow-up email from The Lake Report did it confirm incidents in July were reported.

When the newspaper went to police and asked exactly when the region filed the reports and how many times, the records unit said the information would only be released through a freedom of information request.

"We will not offer this information to you via email," said a records customer service representative in an email.

By press time, the region had not answered additional follow-up questions about when the reports were filed, how many were submitted, the dates of the vandalism itself, or whether the reports were made before or after the newspaper began pressing for answers.

Since May, The Lake



RIP, speed camera. Someone has placed memorial flowers where it once stood. PAIGE SEBURN

Report has reported on the camera outside Crossroads Public School in Virgil being cut down from its post on four occasions, with the last vandalism happening on July 7.

This month, it vanished from the site — it has yet to be returned.

"At this stage, incidents are being examined collectively, with consideration given to any potential links between them," said Niagara Regional Police Const. Luke Lindley.

"If further vandalism occurs, each report will be investigated and any new information will be assessed in connection with existing cases."

The month is almost over, but the region said the camera is still on this season's enforcement schedule and expected to return before the program ends in August

— even though its post has been cut to less than half its original size and now sits empty, topped with flowers.

Also slated for completion by the end of the month is the installation of closed-circuit television, which the region confirmed in July it was moving forward with.

Both the region and police say investigations only move forward when the property owner — in this case, the region — reports the damage.

Scott Fraser, the region's associate director of transportation planning, explained when and why the region reports incidents.

"Minor incidents may not all result in filing a police report," said Fraser in an email.

The region takes "the additional step of reporting vandalism" to the police, Fraser said, "based on the severity of the incident, cost of damage and whether public safety is affected."

Or, "when there is physical damage to a unit or when repairs are expected to exceed two to three days."

When it comes to cost and its role in deciding whether to report, Fraser said, "There isn't a specific dollar threshold for reporting."

He said all vandalism, regardless of whether it is reported to the police or not, is reported to the camera vendor, Redflex Traffic Systems (Canada) Limited, which installs and

maintains the cameras and handles repairs.

The region "treats all instances of vandalism seriously" and recognizes the impact on public safety, said Fraser — damaged cameras can cause altered driver behaviour, like speeding up, and cut wires may pose a hazard.

When asked whether vandalism to regional property, such as a speed camera, would go uninvestigated by police if the region didn't file a report, police spokesperson Const. Rich Hingley said, "That is correct."

"If the owner of a property does not wish to make a report of damage to their property, then a report would not be on file," he said.

If officers observed the damage themselves, they would contact the region — the investigation would stop if the region chose not to proceed, he said.

The region takes this approach "to effectively deter and manage vandalism while conserving police and regional resources," Fraser said.

Police encourage anyone with information about the speed camera vandalism to contact police directly or provide anonymous tips through Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477.

Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for details leading to an arrest. paigeseburn@niagaranow.com





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More secondary suites for NOTL? Town asks locals for regulation ideas

Dan Smeen
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is updating and expanding its rules around accessory dwellings in town, also known as secondary suites, granny flats or coach homes, and it wants to hear from the public about what those rules should be.

An open house on the topic was held Monday, led by town planner Victoria Nikoltcheva.

This comes as the town is reviewing a draft of its new official plan, which it says will have updated rules around accessory dwellings.

Accessory dwellings are self-contained living spaces within or next to an existing home, such as basement apartments or backyard suites. They typically include a bed, kitchen and washroom.

Nikoltcheva said the town wants to "further encourage" a "diverse mix of housing stock" in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Last year, the Ontario government passed Bill 185, which cut zoning barriers for building additional dwelling units.

As the town revises its official plan, Nikoltcheva said, the town wants to bring its rules around accessory dwellings in line with the province's rules and plans.

The open house session on Aug. 25 focused on gathering feedback on what she called "house-keeping amendments" — proposed changes to the town's official plan and zoning bylaws.

The official plan, currently in draft form, is being updated from the 2019 version, which did not conform to regional and provincial policies.

One proposed change would be to create rules around building additional dwelling units on rural properties, which the current official plan does not account for, Nikoltcheva said.

In 2019, the province introduced Bill 108, which included the concept of additional dwelling units in provincial law — around the same time, Niagara-on-the-Lake approved its current official plan.

"The town's official plan contains policies for 'secondary housing units,'" Nikoltcheva said.

"But the official plan amendment will update such policies to better align with provincial direction established over the last several years."

She added that the revised plan will also include a new definition for secondary dwellings.

Marah Minor, the town's communications co-ordinator, said the proposed definition would be: "a separate and self-contained dwelling unit with a separate access, kitchen, bathroom facilities and sleeping areas that is secondary to a primary dwelling on the same lot."

Also, an accessory dwelling can be inside or attached to the main dwelling on a property, or a secondary building detached from the main house.

Minor also said that the proposed zoning bylaw amendments have a "differentiation" for the definition of an accessory dwelling based on whether it's on urban or rural lands.

The town's zoning bylaws would regulate additional dwelling units based on factors such as size, setbacks, lot coverage and other provisions, Nikoltcheva said.

Secondary dwellings can be in urban and rural areas, each subject to different regulations.

In urban areas, additional dwelling units can't take up more than 45 per cent of a property's land.

Up to two units are permitted on detached or townhouse properties, while duplexes are allowed only one.

On rural properties, additional dwelling units must be attached to the main dwelling. The number of permitted units depends on the type of land.

Properties on prime agricultural land may have no more than two units, while those in agricultural or rural areas are limited to one under the Greenbelt Plan.

One off-street parking space is required per unit in both urban and rural settings.

No decisions were made at the open house. A public meeting on the matter is scheduled for Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. in Niagara-on-the-Lake council chambers.

daniel@niagaranow.com

Rural speed limit drops to 70 km/h

Dan Smeen
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If you're heading out through Niagara-on-the-Lake's farmlands this week in your car, you might want to mind your meter.

Speed limits are officially down to 70 kilometres an hour from 80 km/h on all the rural roads the town owns, in what the municipality says is an effort to stop injuries and deaths on the road.

Town staff installed the 70 km/h signs along dozens of rural roads in NOTL's farmlands, while Niagara Regional Police began enforcing the new speed limit.

Council voted in July to make the maximum speed limit allowed on town-owned rural roads 70 km/h and to lower the posted limits of 80 km/h to 70 km/h.

This change doesn't affect any roads the region owns, such as Niagara Stone Road, Concession 7 Road, Line 4 Road or Four Mile Creek Road.

A media release from the town issued Aug. 21 states that this is part of an effort to eliminate serious injuries and deaths and make these rural roads safer for residents, cyclists, tourists and farm vehicles.

This effort, led by Niagara Region, is called the Vision Zero Road Safety Program.

The town will get \$134,484 from the regional program, which it is to use for road safety projects and initiatives, according to the town's recommendation report on the speed limit change.

Replacing the signs will cost the town around \$33,000, which will be paid for through the money it receives from the Vision Zero program.

In the media release, chief administrative officer Nick Ruller cites research collected by town staff that shows that a 10 per cent drop in speed can reduce fatal collisions by up to 40 per cent.

"Bringing forward opportunities like this helps council make informed decisions that strengthen safety and quality of life for everyone in Niagara-on-the-Lake," he said.

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Notice of Study Commencement and Public Information Centre #1 2026 Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update

The Study

Niagara is projected to see significant residential and employment growth by 2051. We need to plan to ensure we have the water and wastewater infrastructure to support this growth, including watermains, sewers, pumping stations and treatment plants. Niagara Region is currently reviewing these infrastructure needs and wants your feedback.

The Process

The study follows the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA), an approved environmental planning process for infrastructure projects. It will complete the Phase One and Two of that process, which will look at different options for how the Region provides water and wastewater services and recommends the best options. We may also consider other smaller scale projects (Schedule B).

For More Information

Niagara Region encourages the public to actively participate in this planning process. Information about the project will be made available on Niagara Region's website as part of Public Information Centre #1. It will provide an overview of the study, including the problem and opportunities to be addressed, existing conditions within the study area, the alternative solutions and evaluation criteria considered, as well as the recommended alternative solution.

Public Information Centre #1

Public Information Centre #1 will be held in an online format. To view the presentation and additional information materials, please visit the project website below beginning on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 9 a.m.**

niagararegion.ca/projects/water-wastewater-master-servicing-plan-update

Niagara Region welcomes feedback on the information shared in Public Information Centre #1. An online survey will be available through the project website and comments will be received until **Wednesday, October 3, 2025, 5 p.m.** Comments and feedback can also be provided to members of the project team via email.

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Personal information collected or submitted in writing will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodation for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

This notice was first issued on August 28, 2025.

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niagararegion.ca/projects

SORE says application **already denied**

Continued from Front Page

boundary of 200 John St. E. to “low density residential” from “agricultural” and establish a site-specific exception to create “primary and emergency access” to the land.

At the time the appeal was dismissed in April, the town’s director of community and development services, Kirsten McCauley, told The Lake Report that Solmar could submit a new application, or, if Solmar sold the property, another developer could.

However, community group Save Our Rand Estate, one of the parties in last year’s hearing against Solmar, is calling parts of this latest application unnecessary and is criticizing Solmar and Marotta for what it says is an attempt to go back to the town with a part of the application the tribunal already denied.

In a letter to the town clerk from Aug. 25, group representative and attorney Catherine Lyons says the part of the application that looks to redesignate the subject lands to “low-density residential” from



Solmar is looking for the town to approve road access to its planned subdivision on a panhandle of land on the east boundary of 200 John St. E., while representatives from Save Our Rand Estate say Solmar already has the Ontario Land Tribunal’s rejection of the proposal. FILE

“agricultural” is “completely unnecessary,” as the tribunal’s final order from last October already approved this change.

“The (official plan amendment) redesignating a portion of the subject lands ... is in full force and effect,” she says in the letter.

The only part of the tribunal’s ruling that no longer applies was the option it presented the developer to revisit its plans and make revisions, which, as the town states in a notice for the open house, “no longer has standing.”

The bulk of SORE’s criticism, however, is that Solmar, it says, is going back

to the town with its request to create an access point for a future subdivision on the panhandle of land on the Rand Estate property.

In its October ruling, the tribunal said the panhandle next to the neighbouring McArthur Estate is too narrow for a proper entrance, referred to as being about the size of a lane driveway, making it unsafe for “present and future inhabitants.”

“That Mr. Marotta has the audacity to again ask council to approve a panhandle subdivision street after all that has transpired leaves us speechless,” says a statement from SORE published Aug. 26.

“A panhandle subdivision road is a non-starter,” it adds, stating that the group believes the tribunal will “make short work of this latest attempt to impose his will on the town and the Rand Estate.”

The statement cites town planner Denise Horne’s report from 2023, which notes that there are many mature trees in the panhandle that would be cut down to make way for the subdivision street.

The tribunal echoed the report in its ruling, stating that in several instances, trees, sometimes more than 100 years old, contribute to the cultural heritage landscape of the property and may not be removed, even for the construction of new roads and paths.

The public open house on Sept. 2 will take place starting at 5 p.m. A public meeting in front of council will follow it on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

The Town of NOTL did not respond to questions from The Lake Report by press time, nor did the legal representatives for Solmar at the past tribunal hearing, attorneys Sara Premi and Mark Flowers.

zahraa@niagaranow.com

Grace United Church’s **festival market** is Saturday

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

On Saturday, Aug. 30, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can have a hot experience at Grace United Church.

Yes, it’s the annual festival market, featuring a vast array of jams, jellies and sauces plus a bake sale, treasures sale and a silent auction. Either before or after, treat yourself to a breakfast at the food tent.

So, what is particularly hot? It’s habanero sauce.

Among the jams, jellies and marmalades made lovingly by specialist members of the congregation, you will find habanero pineapple sauce, in an exciting Just Darned Hot version.

There’s only a limited-size batch of these hot wonders. The early bird gets the best selection.

It’s true that you can’t find many truly home-baked goodies these days. But you will at the Grace United bake shop.

Cookies, pies, cakes and muffins are just a few of the choices made with loving care by members of our congregation. We

don’t have any pictures, because (surprise, surprise) the goodies have not been made yet.

The silent auction returns this year because of its popularity. There are great opportunities for the canny bidder, or the chance to buy it now for the impatient.

The organizers are putting together an enticing range of unique goods and services, including jewelry, baskets of premium wine and treats (see: a rare 2009 classed growth Margaux from a local private cellar), an afternoon tea for four at a fine restaurant, and other special experiences.

And you won’t want to miss the annual treasures sale. Early hot items that have arrived include solid brass bookends, Orre-fors glassware, a vintage George Jensen carving set, a large old cast iron pot and a vintage View Master collection.

Mark your calendar for Saturday and join us for authentic hot sauces, jams, baking, a treasures sale, a silent auction and farm-fresh produce.

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Notice of Study Commencement

Pollution Prevention Control Plan

What is this Study About?

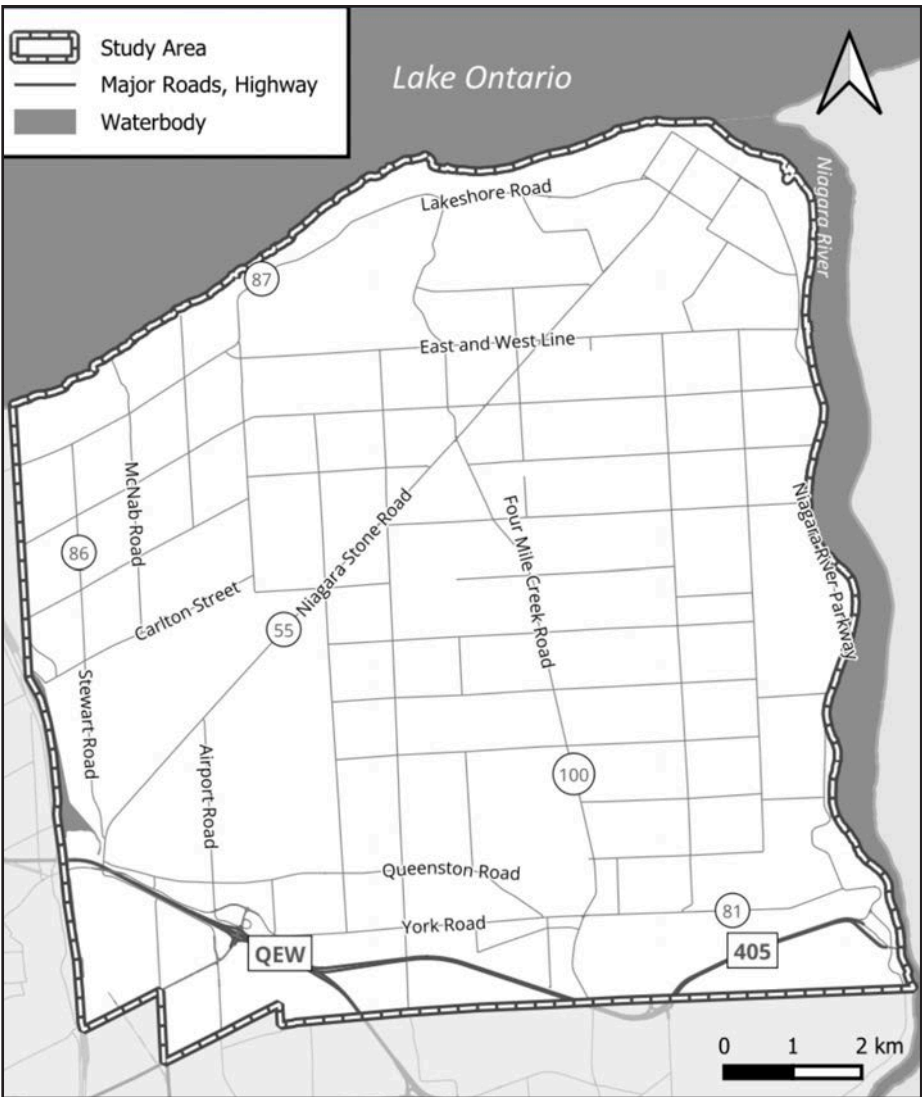
The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake have retained GEI Consultants (GEI) to update the Pollution Prevention Control Plan (PPCP). This update study will serve as an opportunity to review the previous 2012 PPCP recommendations and the status of recommended structural and non-structural work. The update study will develop a holistic long-term management plan that clearly outlines the short and long-term servicing strategy to manage the wastewater system and future growth in Niagara-on-the-Lake expected by 2051 and beyond, while demonstrating to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks that the system performance adheres to the F-5-5 requirements.

How is this Study Undertaken?

This study will be undertaken as a Master Planning Study satisfying Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment process (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, 2015, 2023 and 2024), which is an approved process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. This study will include an evaluation of alternatives to support the long-term sustainability and management of the wastewater systems.

Your Input is Important:

Niagara-on-the-Lake encourages the public and stakeholders to actively participate in this planning process. Notification of an upcoming Public Information Centre will be advertised on the Town's website, in the local newspapers, and notices will be mailed to stakeholders and interested parties within the study area. When the study is completed, a PPCP report documenting the study process will be prepared and made available for public review and comment.



Anyone who wishes to comment on or be involved in this study may reach out to a member of the Project Team:

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For more information on this study, please visit the project website at: www.jointheconversationnotl.org/pollution-prevention-control-plan or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is committed to ensure that all Town services, programs, and facilities are inclusive and accessible. Please contact the Project Manager if you need any accommodations to provide comments and/or feedback for this study.

This notice was first issued on August 28, 2025

With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record of the study. The study is being conducted according to the requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

FROM THE 11TH

U.S. visitors talk a bit about NOTL

By Maddy Gordon

U.S. travellers are still visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake in high numbers, despite a sharp decline in traffic from Canada to the States. We asked some of them what brought them here, how they travelled and how they enjoyed their stay. Here are some of the things people said.



Archie Reyes
Boston

Reyes drove but was meant to fly before the Air Canada strike resulted in his flight being cancelled. He was in town to help two friends who recently moved to Toronto. He also has family in Mississauga. He said NOTL is one of his regular vacation spots. “We always go to the Prince of Wales hotel because it’s a signature part of the town to take photos with,” Reyes said. “We like to drive around the vineyards for sightseeing ... We always take our newbies to Niagara Falls, NOTL and then Toronto.”



The Stewarts
Milwaukee

The Stewart family, Jessica and Doug and children Meridyth and Ethan, drove for two days and made one stop in Michigan before landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They visited Niagara to see the falls from the Canadian side and decided to take a detour to Niagara-on-the-Lake while they were in the region. “We came a long way to see the falls, so we stopped in Michigan at the halfway point,” Doug said. “We decided to come do some sightseeing and check out the town.”



The Brodericks
Boston

The Brodericks, Lexi, Mike, Abby and Karen and Liam, drove for about eight hours to visit. They came to Niagara to see the falls and came across Niagara-on-the-Lake. “We were visiting the falls and found this place nearby, and it’s a lot more quaint,” Mike said. “We really liked the chimney cakes at the Budapest Bake Shop.” The family said they enjoyed NOTL but aren’t keen on coming back because it is “so out of the way from Boston.”



The Kravitzes
San Francisco

The Kravitzes, Dave and Shelli, took a five-hour flight to get to Niagara for a group tour around the region. “We’re actually not spending the night here [in NOTL], which I’m so bummed about. This is incredible, it’s so beautiful,” Shelli said. “It’s definitely on our list for a place to come back to. What grabs me is the aesthetics and the flowers. It just feels very hometown-ish.” “It’s beautiful. I like all the shops and galleries and so on, and all the flowers,” Dave said.



The Luedtkes
Annapolis, MD

The Luedtkes, Dawn and Eric, drove 10 hours over a few days, stopping in Ithaca, NY for a few nights before arriving in NOTL. They were celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary. Dawn had visited Niagara-on-the-Lake before and wanted to bring Eric. Dawn loves theatre, so she also came for the Shaw. The couple saw “Blues for an Alabama Sky” and “Anything Goes” while they were in town. They stayed at the Prince of Wales. “It’s a beautiful town. We live in Maryland, which has a similar sort of older feel. Historic,” Eric said. “I’d love to come back because it’s the kind of place where I feel like you don’t get everything in one visit.” “It’s a very neat little town,” Dawn said. “We have Fort McHenry, they have Fort George, so opposite sides of the War of 1812.”



The Broths
Atlanta

The Broths, Karen and Rick, took a 2.5-hour flight to Canada. The couple was visiting for a horse race in Toronto and decided to check out Niagara-on-the-Lake while they were in the area because a friend recommended it. They also made it a priority a stop at the Shaw. “We were recommended to come here by a friend,” Karen said, adding she would come back to town. “The wineries, just the flowers, it’s so clean and everything looks so nice.” “The wineries are nice, like Two Sisters,” Rick said. “It’s nice, it’s very quaint.” “You guys are our little brother, we’re family. You are the 51st state and Donald Trump’s daddy, and you guys need to deal with that,” Rick added.



John Newcomb
Memphis

Newcomb flew from Memphis and ended up in NOTL. He was in town for a family reunion and decided to explore the downtown area along Queen Street. “I think it’s pretty interesting because this is pretty north for me. Visiting the north is special to me because I like moose and maple syrup — the key things,” Newcomb said. “We’re already planning next year to come back to Niagara, so I’ll probably be back in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We just have a lot going on so it’s kind of hard for me to get out here.”



The Villarreals
Pittsburgh

The Villarreals, Robert and his daughter Gianna, drove to NOTL, crossing the Peace Bridge. The family is in town for the second time. Their first visit was last summer and afterwards, they knew they wanted to come back. They took a walking tour, went to a winery and ate lots of food. “The promenade here (Queen Street) with all the flowers, the way they’re set up in the houses and the way they take care of their gardens, it’s all just really appealing to my wife,” Robert said. “I think the Irish Harp pub is a nice touch.”

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H PROVINCE

American travel to Canada remains strong

Continued from Front Page

The ambassadors focus on a simple message, he said: “We are delighted you’re here. Thank you for visiting. Tell your friends we’re open for business and we’d love to see you.”

“It’s that personal interaction that’s so critical,” he added.

Fellow co-lead Laurie Harley said that “probably around 40 per cent of the overall people” the ambassadors see are from the United States, but “it’s all over the map.”

Volunteer ambassadors, though self-managed, work closely with the town’s destination marketing organization, Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, sharing on-the-ground visitor feedback to help guide its tourism planning.

“We are the feeling. We are the emotion,” said Haltigin. “Essentially what one would call raw data.”

American trips to Canada went up in July: StatsCan

Travel data released Aug. 11 by Statistics Canada shows fewer Canadians returned from the United States in July than in June, while U.S. visits by car to Canada grew from month to month.

The Shaw Festival, which normally counts 28 to 35 per cent of its audience from the U.S., is tracking toward the lower end of that range this season, said executive director Tim Jennings.

At the same time, international attendance is up

about 50 per cent — a shift Jennings credits to more cultural tourists choosing Canada this year.

He said American audiences at the Shaw are generally more reserved about politics this year, though some have been frank — apologizing, or voicing support, for their country.

Michelle Handley, the manager of clothing store Hatley on Queen Street in NOTL, said “all kinds of American customers” are stopping by the store.

“They all are apologizing,” she said. “Mortified as to what’s going on over there.”

“They’re all like, ‘We’re so sorry,’ and we’re like, ‘Well, it’s not you,’” she said. “It’s politics.”

Some American customers have even been brought to tears, said Handley, especially when receiving one of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce’s postcards for visitors, which has an illustration of American and Canadian characters sitting on a park bench holding hands.

“A lot have been touched by that,” she said.

Sometimes, Handley said, she hears Americans say, “We don’t want to go back home.”

Amidst “an amazing summer” business-wise, with every day feeling like a Saturday, Handley said she credits that to more Canadians and international travellers choosing to stay in Canada.

Harley backed Handley’s



observation about international visitors — she said ambassadors have welcomed “more Europeans than in previous years” this year.

Political climate creating ‘a tension’ among some travellers

Front-line staff at the Exchange Brewery, also on Queen Street, said politics don’t come up at all and that they’re still seeing U.S. customers crossing the border for weddings, family events — even for a pint, said spokesperson Sara Divinski.

She said staff “try not to pry or upset” Americans and avoid raising political issues, which visitors don’t bring up, either.

“They’ve been nothing but friendly with our staff,” said Divinski.

While businesses say they continue to see a steady flow of U.S. customers, spring visitation figures from Tourism NOTL tell a more cautious story.

“We did see a decrease in U.S. visitation during

the spring of 2025,” said Brianne Hawley, the organization’s tourism services director, adding it doesn’t have the summer data, yet.

Visitors come from a wide range of U.S. locations, but most come from cities a short drive away, like Buffalo, Rochester, Erie, Cleveland and Detroit.

“We really target our border states,” Hawley said — without using overt “support Canada” messages, she added.

The goal when marketing the town is to consistently brand the destination as “Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada” — a subtle way to reinforce the Canadian identity of the experience.

American visitation varies by location at the Shaw, Jennings said, but Rochester and Pennsylvania numbers are slightly up, Ohio and Florida are a bit down, and most others are holding steady.

Most U.S. regulars plan to return to the Shaw this year, he added, but about four per cent fewer are attending —

roughly half of that decline is people choosing not to travel to Canada because of the political climate, border uncertainty and a desire to support home theatres.

Jennings said American visitors have been more guarded about political conversations this year: “I don’t think it’s lost on anybody that there’s a tension.”

But most just enjoy what the Shaw has to offer — rarely bringing up politics, he said.

Tourism board ‘working hard’ to attract American visitors

From the perspective of the local wine industry, Katie MacCabe, marketing manager at Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, said American visitorship is strong this summer.

Many U.S. guests are spending more than average, often buying wine to take home and share with others, “which has been wonderful to see,” she said.

The tourism board’s executive director, Kathy Weiss, said the board is “investing significantly in marketing to the U.S.”

In February, it allocated \$100,000 toward American advertising for the rest of the year.

“We are working hard to attract our U.S. neighbours,” said Weiss.

With American friends being so close, Hawley said, “it’s a market that’s very important” to the board, so advertisements aim to make them feel welcome and confident about crossing

the border and include radio and streaming ads as well as social media campaigns.

She said people choose NOTL because they want to “escape” and enjoy everything the town has to offer, from wine country and culinary experiences to theatre, culture and history.

No formal tourism board meetings were held to discuss the tensions that arose between Canada and the U.S. earlier this year, Hawley said, because NOTL has “always been a very warm and welcoming and safe place.”

“The one conversation that we did have was, ‘We need to order more postcards because they have been going over so well,’” she said.

Haltigin said ambassadors are happy when they see Americans, especially amid the political climate. The goal is to make them “feel that they can enjoy themselves.”

“Working together consistently and understanding the next steps is very key to a sustainable tourism future,” he said.

Harley said Queen Street stores, walking tours and Queen’s Royal Park draw American visitors to NOTL — “and just enjoying the beauty and the small town environment, especially compared to (Niagara) Falls and the GTA.”

That’s the reason people never want to leave, Haltigin said: “The feeling that Niagara-on-the-Lake creates.”

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Kathy Dowd, Sheryl Comesand Michelle Manco Naples, FL

The three were visiting a friend in Toronto, which is how they found out about Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“We did the walking tour, which we loved, and we’re staying at the Prince of Wales Hotel,” Dowd said. “The next thing we did was we went to the Trius Winery and we had lunch, and it was absolutely beautiful.”

“We couldn’t be this close (in Toronto) and not go. Just riding around your town, I just love it,” Comesand said. “Seeing the border between Canada and America and how we’ve worked together over the years and sometimes not.”

“I learned more about the history, which I didn’t know a lot about,” Manco said.



The Roths Detroit

The Roths, Megan, Dylan and Dan, drove for four hours to get to NOTL. The family was in Ontario for Riverfest Elora, an art and music festival. Dan has a podcast called “Event Explorer” and was covering the festival for it. After that event, they decided to take a quick trip around NOTL.


“We did the Shaw and ate at a little restaurant, which was cute. I didn’t know the Shaw Theatre Festival was in this town and I’m a big theatre person, so that would make me come back,” Dan said.



Beteta sisters Los Angeles


Sisters Shirley and Ashley Beteta flew but had issues due to the Air Canada strike. They were in town because they wanted to take a small vacation and heard about Niagara-on-the-Lake on social media. They also wanted to see Niagara Falls from the Canadian side, which added to why they landed on Niagara.

“I just really like the architecture, I think it’s a very cohesive look altogether and it’s giving a lot of small-town vibes,” Shirley said.



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Shaw Festival announces 2026 lineup

Staff
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival has announced its 64th season, unveiling a diverse lineup of productions set to begin April 2, 2026. Artistic director Tim Carroll said the upcoming season celebrates the power and magic of live performance, with shows ranging from thrillers and musicals to farces, classics and new works.

“This season celebrates theatre itself — illusion, disguise, performance — and all the ways that we delight, mislead, amaze and seduce each other,” Carroll said. “Life is a theatre, and theatre is life. We can’t wait to share the unique thrill of live performance with our amazing audience.”

The season will mark a return to the festival’s roots following the closure



Shaw Festival will host three productions at the Queen Street court house while it rebuilds the Royal George. FILE

of the Royal George Theatre at the end of December. Productions will move to the Niagara District Court House, where the festival first staged performances in 1962. Executive director Tim Jennings said the newly reconstructed space will open with Anthony Shaffer’s thriller “Sleuth,” the first show in the venue,

along with the comedy “Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense” and a special workshop of a new play by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins.

Other highlights include the Broadway musical “Funny Girl,” opening April 24 at the Festival Theatre under the direction of Eda Holmes, and

the farce “One for the Pot,” directed by Chris Abraham and set to premiere May 27. Peter Shaffer’s “Amadeus,” directed by Carroll, opens July 8 and explores genius, jealousy and obsession through the rivalry between composers Antonio Salieri and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The 2026 season also features “The Wind in the Willows,” “Heartbreak House,” “Ohio State Murders,” Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” and the family musical “A Year with Frog and Toad.” More details about casting and creative teams will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Shaw Festival’s 2026 season runs from April 2 to Dec. 23. Tickets go on sale Nov. 1 for Friends of The Shaw and Dec. 6 to the public. Further information is available at shawfest.com.

‘Bathe in the forest’ at the Pumphouse

Staff
The Lake Report

An upcoming exhibition at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre will explore the restorative power of nature through fibre arts.

“Forest Bathing: A Solo Exhibition by Ann Marie Patrick” runs Sept. 3 to 29 in the Joyner Gallery. The show features a collection of textile and fabric-based works that reflect the artist’s experimental ap-

proach to dyeing, printing and combining different materials.

Patrick, who lives near Lake Huron, said her inspiration comes from time spent walking in the woods, experiences that left her both refreshed and creatively renewed.

“In today’s anxiety-ridden world, we strive for balance and inner peace,” she said in a media release.

“Being in and becoming part of nature helps rid us

of turmoil and reminds us of the serenity around us.”

The exhibition includes pieces designed to evoke the colours, textures and sensory details of the natural environment. Patrick said she hopes viewers will feel some of the same calm she finds in the forest.

Her work has been shown at galleries across Ontario, including in London, Bayfield, Stratford, St. Thomas and Burlington.

She has also taken part in national events such as Quilt Canada and the Festival of Threads, where she received the 2016 Award of Excellence in Innovation.

Patrick is a member of the Studio Art Quilt Associates, the Canadian Quilters’ Association and several local textile arts groups.

An opening reception for Forest Bathing will be held Sept. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m., with remarks at 2:30 p.m.

Art contest gets young creatives off devices

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

The student-run Nature, Play and Mind Club is encouraging fellow young people to ditch their devices and enjoy what the outside world has to offer.

It hosted an art contest this Aug. 24 at the NOTL Community Centre with the theme “the Magic of Nature,” leading to many creative portrayals of the outdoors, ranging from whimsical drawings to pieces calling for environmental activism.

Twelve-year-old Varnit Rore founded the Nature, Play and Mind Club to create a space for kids to meet beyond the digital world.

“This club is about bringing kids out of their screens,” Rore said. “My mom does not give me any screen time, so I got



Kuhu, 13, creates a drawing.

creative.”

“I thought, ‘What if I make a club where people can get off their screens and play with each other instead of playing on their laptops and iPads?’”

The art contest included kids ranging from four to 17 years old. Each age group had a first, second and third-place prize.

One artist entered in the “Rising Artists” category was 13-year-old Kuhu, who turned her entry into a call for action.

“We should try not to litter on the Earth, protect it

and also save trees from being cut down,” Kuhu said.

Other artists drew from their favourite parts of nature, such as seven-year-old Malina.

Her drawing included a cat, birds and flowers, and she said the inspiration for the imagery was what comes to mind when she thinks of nature.

Rore said the event was a success because of the number of kids who showed up to flex their creative muscles.

“From a small concept and turning it into a big community, it makes me feel so happy,” he said.

In addition to Rore’s leadership, the event was also organized by Skyler and Sophia Gao, ambassadors for the Nature, Play and Mind Club.

The idea behind hosting an art contest originated at

a Canada Day event the club held, where Rore said he realized how much kids in town enjoy the arts.

“A lot of kids in Niagara-on-the-Lake love art,” he explained. “We went and did Canada Day, got lots of people, and then we thought, ‘Maybe we should do an art event.’”

The first-place prizes were \$100, the second-place prizes were \$50 and the third-place prizes were surprise goodie bags.

As the school year approaches, the club seeks to continue advocating for connection beyond electronics.

“I want to see more kids in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s parks, that’s one of my biggest end goals,” Rore said.

“Another one is that instead of kids playing video games, kids connect with each other outside.”

‘Murder-on-the-Lake’ kills fourth wall for a fun experience

MURDER-ON-THE-LAKE

(out of five)

Royal George Theatre, 2 hours 30 minutes, one intermission, ends Oct. 4. Written by Rebecca Northan and Bruce Horak. Directed by Rebecca Northan.

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Where to begin? This was such a joy. The audience all in, listening intently and exploding with appreciative laughter. The fourth wall gone.

Murder-on-the-Lake is compelling improvisation at its best, with quick-thinking actors diving into their characters, embracing unpredictability, listening carefully and exploring underlying emotions.

This is play writ large, the play of childhood, spontaneous, free, therapeutic and all too often lost when, as adults, we become fearful and self-conscious.

This is improv with a plot structure as follows: one year before, Jan and her friends were enjoying

their annual trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake with a stay at Butler’s Bed & Breakfast. Jan was murdered.

Now, the friends have returned to reminisce and celebrate Jan’s life.

At the Niagara Regional Police Department, a new rookie detective is assigned to investigate the crime. That detective will be a willing audience member approached in the lobby before the performance. On the night I saw the show, this was Dave.

Dave was brought up to the stage, given his ID badge, a wire under his jacket, the backstory and instructions by Rebecca Northan as a tough commanding officer. Sochi Fried plays a junior officer whose name sounds like a nod to Jagodowski, a famed Chicago improviser.

Dave is dispatched to the island B&B by rowboat in a fierce storm. His job? To interview all the potential suspects and roll with whatever happens.

Well, Dave was a natural improviser. He had not only agreed to be the detective, but his quick thinking, creativity and comeback



“Murder-on-the-Lake” ensemble members Kristopher Bowman, Cosette Derome and Virgilia Griffith hold a copy of The Lake Report during a production. MICHAEL COOPER

witticisms had the audience roaring with laughter. He was brave and adaptable and there was instant camaraderie with the cast. Dave was in charge, but he was not alone.

For each performance, the actors switch roles in a draw from a hat or bowl, so they are constantly experimenting with different interpretations of their characters. They were outstanding the evening I attended.

Costume colours coordinate with each personality. Bold primary colours and styles of dress designed by Rose Tavormina gave insights into the characters.

As for Dave, he could refer to colours rather than having to remember names.

Kristopher Bowman was terrific as the red guy, hot, sex-obsessed and packing on the PDA with the ex-wife of the deceased. Colette Deromme, dressed in orange, was hardly the bereaved widow as she exuded willing warmth and swooning enthusiasm with her latest squeeze.

Bruce Horak, wearing a regal purple suit with purple patent shoes, maintained a sophisticated presence as a smooth chiropractor who insisted on being called “Doc-

tor.” When Dave asked him a question, he haughtily replied, “I don’t work here.” Dave came back with “Dressed like that; you should.” The audience cheered.

Virgilia Griffith, in hot pink, did emotional swings from sweetness to explosive anger. Martin Happer, the blue guy, serenely took his time to meetings, causing Dave to check his watch. Travis Seeto, the nervous, gawky young manager, was the outlier in pale blue denim.

Jan, as the murder victim played by Rebecca Northan, appeared to Dave as

an apparition that no one else could see. Together, they would try to solve the mystery.

The upscale B&B sitting room, designed by Judith Bowden for “Tons of Money,” was tweaked for this Canadian setting with a stag head on the wall and a bar cart of liquor, including Crown Royale. This appealed to Dave.

The lighting designed by Jeff Pybus and assisted by Daniel Tessy was imaginative and effective. Every time the word “murder” was spoken, lightning flashed and thunder rolled.

Hockey advice to keep the eye on the puck extended to the light, always being on the star performer, Dave. Original music and sound designed by John Gzowski kept the tension growing and abating.

Improv is hard work. If the goal of “Murder-on-the-Lake” is to take very good care of its audience, this production succeeds admirably. It was a very good time.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an arts and culture historian, writer and lecturer living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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#42: Next time you are on a vacation, donate some time or money to a local not-for-profit organization giving back to the community you are visiting in a positive way.

This tiny column gives tips to help promote kindness in our lives and spread joy and happiness.



Contributed by Patty Garriock
"Carry laughter with you wherever you go."
- Hugh Sidney

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Water, please

While we've seen some reprieve from August's heat this past week thanks to the rain, Niagara-on-the-Lake's farmlands were marred by dry conditions for most of the summer. At this farm on Line 1 between the Niagara River Parkway and Concession 2, farmers irrigate their crops on Aug. 20, due to the lack of rain.

DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Opinion

When wireless was also clueless



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist



Plans to erect an 18-metre cell tower in Nelson Park were abruptly quashed this week amid a resident uproar.

Forty-two years ago, many months pregnant, with a four-year-old tugging at her skirt, she moved here. Bought a rambling, iconic pile on King Street when mortgages were 22 per cent. Her parents warned it would end in disaster. But she took her young family forward. "We were blessed," she says now, "all because of this remarkable town." Decades later Trisha Romance was given the inaugural ceremonial key to Niagara-on-the-Lake. It came 40 years after her first studio here opened, after her art was in 400 galleries, recognized globally and after she'd memorialized this little place. That day, she says, "made me cry." She paints these streets where we live because they have beauty. But it is beauty under threat. "This is a battle worth fighting for. Our town's heritage is quickly sliding away," Romance says. "Bit by bit. I believe that everyone living here has a responsibility to preserve it." We all know the recent fights, most of them abandoned. Parliament Oak hotel. Unhosted Airbnbs

on every street. The Royal George mega-build. And suddenly, in her face, an 18-metre-tall white telecommunications tower. On the harbour. In a park. Beside a walking trail. Shadowing tony condos. In the thickest part of town. "Certainly a cell tower on our shore will be a lasting scar," Romance told me. "It will be questioned by visitors long after we are gone. Those looking across from Youngstown will no longer enjoy the view of our beautiful shoreline. We will be questioned, if not laughed at. Who would put a cell tower on the very shore where the War of 1812 was fought?" Signum Wireless, that's who. But this is a battle that's now over. In a surprise statement, town spokesperson Marah Minor says: "The application to build a cell tower in Nelson Park has been withdrawn. The application is now closed and will not move forward." The company's tall spike was intended to increase coverage for a minor cell service provider, and was a flashpoint since sprung on the 'hood. There was a raucous public meeting followed by angry letters to Mr. Editor and council. Signum's spokesperson, Lucas Cuff, cut off our conversation when I called, telling me to email my questions. I did. Days later he had not opened or read the note. Then he ignored the next four calls. No wonder people were cheesed. These towers are federally regulated with the local municipality engaged only in approving the land use. Normal zoning and planning restrictions do not apply. But the town has to OK any project and ultimately lease the land. So what happened? After all, it was a done deal. Town staff, "indicated a general level of support for utilizing Nelson Park for a telecommunications facility," NOTL's Kirsten McCauley wrote in a letter to Sal Badali. He's a director of Graystones, that niche street of condo townhomes — which (along with the King's Point buildings) would have been ground zero for the pointy thing. For his part, Badali was livid. "The site is in the midst of a picturesque public park which has a steady stream of walking and biking visitors daily as they pass through to the river." "Many people visit this park to take pictures of the beautiful scenery and water as seen from Ricardo Street. This is an integral part of NOTL to visitors. Should the tower be allowed to proceed at this location, this will be destroyed." Unknown (since Signum clammed up) is exactly what the tower would have looked like. The one the company built in St. Davids is an exercise in ugly. I asked the town staff for details. A timeline. Some clarity. Planner Connor MacIsaac chose not to respond. Why was the application abruptly nixed? Is the threat gone? Did those who oppose screwing this place up actually succeed? But how did the project become so advanced so fast? And vanish as quickly? What's happened to transparency in this town? Whatever. Let's take the win. "My heart just took a leap for joy!" says Trisha. "May I thank all of those responsible ... I will consider you my lasting heroes. As citizens of this incredible town we must always be alert to changes that do not belong here! God bless Niagara-on-the-Lake!" The romance continues. Garth Turner is a NOTL resident, journalist, author, wealth manager and former federal MP and minister.

garth@garth.ca



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NOTL shouldn't be an amusement park

The following letter was sent to the friends and neighbours of Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Ed Werner. A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

Dear neighbours,
Excessive commercial activities in the rural, agricultural areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake are creating serious challenges for those of us who live and work here.

Despite long-standing concerns, many illegal special events continue to take place, largely ignored by the town.

Instead of enforcing existing rules, the town has spent \$80,000 on a consulting study — while unregulated events continue every week.

Even more troubling, the town has issued special event permits that allow wineries and other businesses to host gatherings in clear



A traffic jam at TASC Tulip Farm. BRUCE ROBB

violation of established policies and zoning bylaws.

The town has recently posted a survey, giving residents the chance to voice their concerns (jointheconversationnotl.org/special-events-in-niagara-on-the-lake). It was open for two weeks, while the consultants have six months to consult with local businesses.

This is backwards.

What we're facing:

- Traffic congestion that clogs rural roads and disrupts daily life.

- Safety risks, such as the grass fire at the Niagara Lavender Festival that destroyed 34 vehicles (CBC, July 8, 2018).

- Excessive event requests, with some operators seeking approval for up to 30 events each. If granted, this could result in more than 2,000 special events per year — far beyond what our infrastructure or community can handle.

To put it plainly: residents should not feel as though they live inside Canada's Wonderland.

This is not an isolated concern. Other communities, such as Port Dalhousie, are also struggling to balance tourism with livability.

After overwhelming crowds on Canada Day, councillors there are now calling for urgent reviews of city events (St. Catharines Standard, Aug. 15).

Niagara-on-the-Lake has

had a special events policy for over a decade, but it has rarely been enforced. Agricultural land is too valuable to sacrifice to unregulated commercial expansion.

Restaurants, paved patios, and new parking lots must be strictly controlled if farmland is to remain productive and financially viable.

Tourism will always be a vital part of our local economy, but unchecked special events risk undermining the very character of our town. Without stronger enforcement, both residents and visitors will suffer — and the town's reputation will erode.

I urge you to complete the survey and share your concerns directly with town councillors.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Ed Werner
NOTL

Addressing concerns over airport expansion

Dear editor:
I read the letter about "airport noise and smog" from your Virgil-based contributor with some interest.

Full disclosure, I was the airport manager of Niagara District Airport from 2007 to 2011.

Here's a letter in response:

Dear sir, this will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter about the Niagara District Airport. I have forwarded it to the chair of the Niagara District Airport Commission for further review.

Strategic direction of the airport is the responsibility of the commission in partnership with the regional municipality and the airport owner, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. My primary responsibility is the safe and efficient operation of the airport facility.

While the commission's response is being prepared, allow me to offer a few

thoughts about the Niagara District Airport.

In the 1950s, the federal government recognized that aviation could be an important part of the development of the Niagara Peninsula.

It took the important step of legislation to protect the airspace at and around the Niagara District Airport to make it usable by all forms of such activity, from recreational to commercial.

Instrument approaches have been developed to provide access to the airport even when safe flying in accordance with visual flight rules was impossible.

Aircraft operators frequently make use of these approaches when conducting medical evacuations (Medevacs) from the region to centres of medical excellence in Hamilton or Toronto.

The airport has also been used as an alternate airport for smaller,

instrument-equipped aircraft flights during periods of widespread low cloud and visibility in southern Ontario.

The Niagara District Airport has been used as a port of entry for international flights. It can also be used by aircraft flying "just in time" freight for commercial entities in the region.

All these activities contribute to the well-being of the residents of the region. They cannot be reasonably done by water transport. Growing traffic congestion on highway corridors is making such activities riskier.

Current rail corridors prioritize freight, not people. The airport could be an integral part of regional transportation and disaster recovery plans.

The recent announcement of the plan to twin the skyway bridge over the Welland

Canal could be a problem for access to the airport.

Depending on the location and height of the tallest part of the new bridge structure and lighting fixtures, the lower boundary of the legislated, protected airspace above might be penetrated.

Instrument approaches would need to be modified and access to the airport in poor weather conditions would be reduced. A modest expansion to the west could be a solution.

Finally, if you want a more accurate perception of what a modest increase in the size of Niagara District Airport might mean operationally, I encourage you to look at airports of the size that the airport could become.

Airports at Kingston, Muskoka, Peterborough, Windsor and Geraldton come to my mind.

Kenn Moody
NOTL

Let's not lose sight of all important issues in town

Dear editor:
As a councillor, I respect and admire the passion of Chautauqua residents who have spoken out about the draft official plan.

Their community cares deeply about preserving its unique character, and their voices are an important part of this process.

At the same time, it is important to remember that this is still a draft — nothing

has been finalized, and council continues to seek public input.

The language and details can — and will — be debated, refined, and shaped through community consultation before any decisions are approved, and it is equally important that attention be balanced across the concerns of residents in all our villages.

I would like to see the

same attention given to issues such as the overcrowding at St. Davids Public School, traffic calming measures and improvements being made, and the need for community recreational spaces — all of which directly affect the quality of daily life for our residents.

At St. Davids Public School, a fifth portable has just been delivered to deal

with severe overcrowding.

Half the playground swings have been removed, classrooms are being set up in the basement, and students are losing half their library space to make room for desks.

This is a serious concern for families, and it deserves as much attention as any planning debate.

Adriana Vizzari
NOTL



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: NAMES IN THE DICTIONARY

Chip a piece of furniture,
or cut yourself shaving.

Last issue category: "MOM & DAD"

Clue: It's defined as an embarrassing, unoriginal attempt at humor — wanna hear one?

Answer: What is a dad joke?

Answered first by: Kimberly Amaral

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Bob Wheatley, Gary Davis, Terry Nord, Jim Dandy, Nancy Rocca, Esther VanGorder, Tammy Florio, Claudia Grimwood, Howard Jones, Wade Durling, Catherine Clarke, Lynda Collet, Jessey Rice, Sylvia Wiens, KC King

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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A few wins for heritage preservation



Brian Marshall
Columnist

There are times when sitting down to write this column, I feel like the harbinger of doom, far too often reflecting on events which threaten the history and social fabric of our country, province and town.

Issues like the lack of affordable housing for the younger generations, missing practical solutions for our senior population that encompass transitional considerations to allow for aging in place, the erosion — often outright destruction — of our cultural and built heritage, amongst other concerns, have tended to dominate the subject matter of the Arch-i-text lately.

These issues must be explored, discussed and become cause celebre amongst the voting public since all are of importance to the

health and continuity of Canadian society at large and our community in specific.

That said, sometimes the negative “press of events” can lead us to believe that there are no “wins” to celebrate.

But, au contraire, there are.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to Canada’s only documented example of in-situ ordinance boundary stones.

For those who are unaware of what these are, the limestone pillars (three-quarters buried beneath the ground) were installed by the British Royal Engineers during the first half of the 19th century as physical survey markers to define the boundaries of military land reserves.

Of the 37 original stones (each carved with “BO” below a broad arrow and a number), 19 have been located — principally due to the efforts of NOTL resident Ted Rumble, who began as early as 2020 to advocate for the protection, preservation and restoration (conservation) of these invaluable historical artifacts.

It took a few years, but in 2023, town council approved a \$5,000 budgetary line to address the stone located at Simcoe Park;



NOTL’s ordinance boundary stones were installed by the British Royal Engineers during the 19th century as physical survey markers to define the boundaries of military land reserves.

however, no work actually commenced.

It wasn’t until the project was endorsed by the municipal heritage committee in 2024 that an additional \$7,500 was allocated by council and a plan for proceeding evolved.

After surveyors carefully marked the exact location, in August, five of the identified stones were carefully excavated, a stable base installed below the marked location, reinstalled in the precise spot, backfilled and permanent metal protective guard rails erected around each of the stones.

Next year, there are plans

in place to address more of the stones and, over time, all of the identified markers will be similarly conserved.

Incidentally, another 18 of the ordinance boundary stones remain missing in action — the original locations are generally known but may be overgrown by vegetation or sunk, rendering them difficult to find.

If you’d like to join the search, you can find further information at artsandculture.google.com, then looking up “Ordnance Boundary Stones of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

That said, should you locate one of the missing stones, do not disturb it and promptly reach out to the folks at the NOTL museum and they’ll get your information to Ted Rumble.

Now, down in the Docklands, at the foot of Turntable Way and River Beach Drive, is the location of the old 19th-century turntable that rotated the steam engines which chugged in and out of Niagara-on-the-Lake during the latter half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

Originally a 60-foot-wide limestone ring, in the early 1990s, the town excavated the street to install underground infrastructure and a fair portion of the limestone

blocks were removed.

While the town promised faithfully to reinstall the blocks and restore the turntable, it never happened and town residents (many from the Docklands) began a campaign for its restoration, which has stretched over three decades.

In the interim, all but seven of the 20 excavated blocks have been “misplaced” or lost. As a result, not only was it necessary for the residents to advocate action from the town, but they also had to replace the 13 missing Queenston limestone blocks.

Enter Frank Racioppo, president of the Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company, who straight-up donated two stones with the potential to yield three or four blocks.

Further, this worthy has suggested that, if sufficient stone is available (the quarry has long since been worked out), something might be worked out vis-à-vis further supply.

This week, after more than 30 years of resident advocacy, the restoration work of the turntable began and will stand at two-thirds restored, with the expectation that the ring will be completely closed and finished by the end of 2026.

It’s a success testament to perseverance.

Finally, the NOTL Senior Housing Advisory Committee — a volunteer-led initiative advocating for the development of senior-focused independent and assisted living facilities within the town — has recently been contacted by a socially responsible developer who is seeking community engagement in a study designed to better understand and serve the senior community’s needs around housing development in town.

And, personally knowing the founder of Elevate Living as an integrity businessman with a record of needs-based community development grounded in new urbanism, this is not a smoke and mirrors public relations gambit.

It serves as another great example of how grassroots advocacy can effect change.

Finally, I’m off to a family get-together for a few days, so I will miss writing next week’s column. I’ll be rejoining the conversation in the Sept. 11 edition of the Lake Report.

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



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St. Davids can't handle more development

Dear editor:
In 2024, NOTL council approved the Tawny Ridge development, which was to accommodate 86 residences split between several Phases.
Before decisions were made, it was and is normal for staff to ask affected/impacted organizations whether they have any issues or objections.
The District School Board of Niagara provided correspondence that stated they had no objections to these additional homes and the additional students that these homes would generate. This formed part of the justification for the approval of Tawny Ridge.

However, in June, it was revealed by Stacy Veld, treasurer of the school board, that St. Davids Public School has been operating well over capacity since 2022.

Clearly, there should have been an objection provided to town council because of this infrastructure deficiency.

How many other developments in Niagara-on-the-Lake have been approved without the full adequacy of the supporting infrastructure?

This new startling revelation raises questions



Letter writer Gienek Ksiazkiewicz says St. Davids already has too many kids in its school and that the neighbourhood simply can't handle more homes until its numerous infrastructure problems are addressed. FILE

regarding the reliability of other sources (other than the DSBN) that form part of other development applications. Is this a process issue, a source issue, or something else?

Perhaps the town's real estate development approvals should have force majeure clauses where either unforeseeable events, undisclosed critical information, or tainted information that negatively impacts the merits of a development can allow the town to extricate itself from approved transactions?

This is a clause widely accepted and used in legal agreements in the corporate world and would benefit/protect the town and taxpayers.

Where are the Town's independent engineering

studies to identify existing infrastructure capacities, upgrades required today, cost estimates, a budget designed to improve the infrastructure, and a schedule for rectification?

Why would council ever green-light developments knowing issues/deficiencies exist and no apparent strategic plan to cope with this problem?

Shouldn't a cost-benefit analysis be conducted to see whether the revenue from these real estate developments is able to pay for the cost of the infrastructural improvements needed to accommodate them?

You would think that the prudent and strategic course of action should have been taken years ago to provide for an infrastructure accounting reserve.

Now it seems taxpayers will have to endure further tax increases to pay for a deficient infrastructure that developers should have paid into in the first place.

An accredited engineer within town staff is sorely needed to critically analyze/review developers' reports, identify risks, mitigate areas of concern and provide normal day-to-day expertise.

Otherwise, there's an internal informational input gap, and an unusually heavy reliance on developer-paid consultant reports with exculpatory language or narrow scope.

Wouldn't it also be prudent for the town to have its own detailed conflict of interest rules and regulations (rather than the municipal conflict of interest rules) when it comes down to outsourcing contracts with consultants, engineers, etc. to avoid any unwarranted criticism?

Until town council has a firm grasp on the town's infrastructure capacities/deficiencies and how to pay for them, all developments where the infrastructure is questionable or inadequate should be placed in abeyance.

*Gienek Ksiazkiewicz
St. Davids*

How about a referendum on unhosted rentals?

Dear editor:
I know that it would fly in the face of the current provincial trend to have only one person in a municipality make decisions, but how about holding a referendum on unhosted

short-term rentals?
Let the residents of Old Town actually have a say as to what is good or not good for the community in which we live.

*Michael Clark
Old Town*

70 km/h on rural roads? Why stop there?

Dear editor:
An interesting story re: "New 70 km/h signs rolling out on rural roads in NOTL next week" (Niagara Now, Aug. 21).

Why did NOTL council decide to do this?

Calculations:
100 accidents at 80 km/h
60 at 70 km/h = 40% less
36 at 60 km/h = 40% less
22 at 50 km/h = 50% less
Why stop at 70 kilometres an hour limits? What are the statistics that made council do this? How many died in NOTL auto accidents?

How long will it now take me to cross Niagara to the Shaw and dine in NOTL? Will I stop going? Will a Zoom performance be as exciting?

Perhaps NOTL council plans to install more municipal speed cameras as Port Colborne and Fort Erie have done?

Is their real goal to add speeding fines to town coffers? It's automated — one kilometre per hour over created the same fine as 20 km/h over in Port Colborne.



These 80 km/h signs will soon be a thing of the past on NOTL's rural roads.

For that matter, maybe NOTL council is farsighted — with the internet, why drive anywhere? Just Zoom and FaceTime.

Let Amazon, et al. deliver everything we need (at higher speeds as the only vehicles on the road).

If we stop driving and flying, climates will cool everywhere. Climatologists learned of lower temperatures from no jetplane contrails in the week after 9/11, when planes were grounded across North America.

*Lorne White
Port Colborne*

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FALL GARDENING CLASSES STARTS SOON

Joanne Young - Niagara-on-the-Lake's Garden Coach is offering four classes on fall gardening ideas.

Classes will be held each Saturday morning September 6 to September 27 - 10am to 11:30am Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane,

SEPTEMBER 6th - Fall and Winter Plant Show-offs
SEPTEMBER 13th - Starting From the Ground Up
SEPTEMBER 20th - The World of Bulbs
SEPTEMBER 27TH - Putting Your Garden to Bed

Topic and Ticket details are on our website notlhortociety.com/classes

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Women and men duke it out on the links

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Jim and Janice McMacken are back-to-back winners of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's annual Matrimonial Tournament, one of the toughest competitions of the summer season.

The McMackens carded a gross score of 89 and a net 69 to finish ahead of 20 other couples last Friday.

Last year, McMacken credited his wife's stellar putting after the win. This year it was her chipping, he said.

"We had two pars from 100 yards where she put it within two feet," he noted.

The 18-hole alternate shot format features some interesting golf predicaments for couples, usually due to wild-shooting gentlemen knocking the ball into areas of the course that their straight-shooting partners have never visited.

Senior men's champ Stephen Warboys and his



Women's Solheim captain Martha Cruikshank accepts the Pro's Cup trophy from men's Ryder Cup captain Harry Huizer. The women dominated the competition. KEVIN MACLEAN

wife Louise Robitaille, the women's club champion, once again had the best gross score, shooting 80.

But the net format of the tourney means that after handicaps are determined, a couple's gross score minus their handicap is their final total.

A week earlier, in another test of male vs. female sportsmanship, the women's Solheim competitive team trounced the men's Ryder Cup squad to win the prestigious Pro's

Cup tournament, also a handicapped event.

Playing in pairs, the women's team made quick work of the men this time, after several years of losing the coveted cup.

Men's captain Harry Huizer noted, "The women had been waiting five years for this moment and they would not be denied."

"They started quickly in the seven matches and a stunned men's team had few answers to the net birdies and pars that led the women

to a big lead that they wouldn't relinquish."

The match play format awarded groups up to two points for each nine holes and two more for winning overall.

The women's team, captained by Martha Cruikshank, scored a resounding 27-15 victory and earned bragging rights for the next 12 months.

In other action on the links, the top two shooters in the club championships finished atop the leaderboard in Thursday's men's league action.

Ricky Watson and champ James Grigjanis-Meusel both carded an even-par 36 to lead the field.

Other winners: low net Rai Lauge (29) and Jim Garrett (32); Larry Heim (longest putt made on #2); Hugh Hutton (longest drive on #3); Jim Meszaros (closest to the pin on #4) and Robert Yamamoto (closest to the pin on #9).

Gross skins worth \$55 went to Watson for an eagle

on #3 and Al Kavanagh, who birdied #5. Net skins worth \$45: Dave Gagne (#3), John Schmidt (#5) and Garrett (#7 and #8).

In Monday's business women's league, Tracey Peters and Marg Ketcheson shared low gross honours with 45.

Other winners: Jen Kroeker (longest drive #1), Eleanor Reed (closest to the 150 on #2), Ruth Dowsett (closest to the pin on #4), Dee Calder (longest putt made on #7) and Petra Browning (closest to the pin in two on #9).

Julie Smethurst's 32 was the lowest net score in the Tuesday nine hole women's league. Four tied at 34: Shelley Sansom, Bonnie Lamourie, Carolyn Cochrane and Susan Horne.

Suzanne Watson had the lowest gross score, with 45. Lyn Sanders was closest to the flower on the #2 green and Penny Green sank the longest putt on #5.

Val Chubey and Cathy Murray dominated the

18-hole women's league on Tuesday morning, collecting a handful of honours each.

Chubey was low gross (90), followed by Murray and Lisa Allen (91) and Martha Cruikshank (92). Low net winners: Cathy Taylor (69), Sharron Marlow, Murray and Chubey (70), and Ketcheson and Barb Hastings (72).

Marie Ellison was closest to the pin on #4, while Chubey and Murray both birdied #8.

Top putters were Allen (with just 27 total), Murray (29) and Chubey, Ellison and Taylor (31).

Wicked winds on Tuesday played havoc with scores but the weather didn't deter super seniors champ Ted Carmichael from shooting 40 to lead the men's Woofs league.

Jeff Brookhouser was low net with 32 and Grant Williams won the hidden hole with a birdie on the par-3 ninth. Brian Heer notched a birdie on #4 and was closest to the hole.

Two new names on Sports Wall of Fame

Dan Smeenik
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Sports Wall of Fame is adding two new faces to its long row of local figures who've made their mark in the athletic world.

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake sports figures were recognized for their lifelong contributions during a ceremony on Friday at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

David Mines, a long-time coach, general manager and trainer in local hockey and lacrosse in NOTL, and the late Michael Kappel, an international wrestler and rower, were inducted into the town's Sports Wall of Fame.

Mines helped coach the midget Niagara Wolves to an All-Ontario provincial hockey championship in 2017. He also supported his sons' teams in winning provincial lacrosse championships in 2007 and 2008.

His induction took place in the very arena he helped bring into existence in 2003.

Kappel, who died in 2007 at age 51, represented Canada internationally in wrestling four times, earning a bronze medal at the 1979 Pan Am Games in Puerto Rico.



Frank Kappel, left, and David Mines right next to where Michael Kappel and Mines' photos will soon be. They were inducted into the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena on Friday for their lifelong accomplishments in sports. DAN SMEENIK

His brother, Frank, accepted the honour on his behalf and spoke during the ceremony.

"He had an exceptional work ethic," Frank said, adding that he was always a team player even though he excelled in individual sports.

Bob Dick, a long-time friend, schoolmate and Wall of Fame committee member, echoed those sentiments.

"I knew him for 30-plus years," he said. "He was always a team player. ... Whenever something happened, he was the first guy there to encourage you or help you."

The ceremony's highlight was the unveiling of plaques bearing the inductees' photos, which will join others already on the arena's wall.

Mines was joined by his

wife, children, and many friends and colleagues at the ceremony. During his speech, he thanked those who supported him and shared anecdotes that drew laughter from the crowd.

One story came from his early years coaching hockey, when he would ask players what they were most proud of after a game.

"The typical answer (from a player) would be, 'I scored a goal, I blocked a shot, I made a save,'" Mines said. "Jeffrey said, 'I played the whole game without a jock.'"

He later confirmed that Jeffrey went on to marry, have a family, and otherwise not do anything too stupid.

Mines gave special thanks to long-time friend and fellow inductee Al Janzen, crediting him with encour-

aging him to seize opportunities that eventually led to his induction.

Janzen, who attended the event, reflected on their shared experiences growing up and playing sports in NOTL.

"You'll find that there's 20 of us who grew up together and played hockey together," he said.

"That's where we learned ... in almost 50 years of playing hockey together ... It's great every time we're together."

Speakers noted that both inductees shared an appreciation for the people who supported them throughout their careers.

"It's not in my DNA to be front and centre on things like this," Mines told The Lake Report before the ceremony. "It's more of a team approach."

Local dignitaries in attendance included MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates and deputy lord mayor Erwin Wiens, who stood in for Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

They posed for photos with the inductees following the plaque unveiling.

The NOTL Sports Wall of Fame includes a range of athletes and builders, such as former NHL players Zenon Konopka and Willi Plett.

daniel@niagaranow.com



Top: Rob Lipovsky returns the volley as Brad Butler looks on during the men's A final. Bottom: Nancy Marchese hits the ball while Charlene Juray stays ready during the women's A final match. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Tennis duos crowned

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's end-of-summer tournaments are in full swing — the men's and ladies doubles championships capped off on Saturday, Aug. 23, with a few more face-offs planned for the rest of the tennis season. In the men's finals, Rob Lipovsky and Brad Butler defeated Manny Umoquit and Don Pozojevic by 6-4, 6-2. In the ladies, it was Charlene Juras and Nancy Marchese defeating Ann Davies and Amanda Thackray by 6-2, 6-1.

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U7 Roster

Avery Magee	Lincoln Tissen	Vincent Lee
Charlie Stewart	Malcolm Hawley	Wells Frederiksen
Charlie Willms	Maxwell Gobeil	
Cole Flower	Myles Washburn	
Jaxon Pignataro	Sterling Henry	
Julius Lee	Sullivan St.Onge	



U9 Roster

Adrian Hao	Hunter Konopka	Lucas Froese
Ben Kirkness	Hunter Willms	Noah Sticca
Callum Moore	Isaac Mendoza	Reece Nichols
Colton Ferguson	Jaxson Hussey	Thomas Macdonald
Eli Crogan	Kenny Neuhof	Walker Meleskie
Henry Boyack	Levi Thompson	



U11 (1) Roster

Brock Friesen	Kaleb Coffey	Rily Chan-Hill
Colton Dietsch	Logan Nichols	Ryan Riddle
Ethan Sticca	Lucas Froese	Smith Kaposy
Holden Lester	Noah Mendoza	Theo Moore
Jace Gonzalez	Noah Scaringi	
Jona Wiens	Reed Francis	



U11 (2) Roster

Auston Cwierniewski	Declan Del Buono	Lee Jay Allan
Bennett Hope	Declan White	Lincoln Thwaites
Camden Costa	Ethan Bell	Luke Boyack
Connor Cech	Hendrix Paradise	Samuel Crogan lii
Daxton Thompson	James Barton	Tessa Froese
	Lachlan Grant	TJ Gauld



U13 (1) Roster

Bentley Berry	Jaxson Good	Owen Thorimbert
Brody Cech	Jesiah Paul	Quintin Doxtator
Cj Washburn	Kayden Lester	Sylas Hill
Easton Carpenter	Mason Barber	
Jace Szabo	Nash Johnson	
James Froese	Nicholas Riddle	



U13 (2) Roster

Adam Hahn	Hunter Berry	Nash Funk
Blake Bedic	Hunter Grant	Nikolaas Peters
Charlie Fratangelo	Jackson Bergman	Peter Kotsanis
Colton Meleskie	Lincoln Venneri	Rocco Todaro
Conor Bailey	Luke Baumler	
G. Michael Malvestuto	Mac Pickett	



U15 Roster

Ace Washburn	Gionni Todaro	Jax Johnson
Benjamin Eramian	Harlen J Mt Pleasant	Mason Jaeckle
Calan Perrotta	Hunter Froese	Matteo Parlatore
Cole Hahn	Jack Kislasko	Max Plomish
Daniel Farnham	Jack Sartor	Miller Davis
Elijah Paul	Jake Van Spronsen	Ryder Kallies

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- Across**
- 1. Single things (5)
 - 4. Marine calamity (9)
 - 10. Abominable snowman (4)
 - 11. Teacher (10)
 - 12. Form of bowling (6)
 - 13. Termination of a pregnancy (8)
 - 14. Stiffness in the joints (10)
 - 18. Peruse (4)
 - 19. Needless bustle (4)
 - 21. Eye-glasses (10)
 - 24. Statue support (8)
 - 26. Like some mammoths (6)
 - 28. From e.g. Portsmouth or Basingstoke (10)
 - 29. Taverns (4)
 - 30. Opponent (9)
 - 31. Prolonged pain (5)
- Down**
- 2. Cousin of your daughter (5)
 - 3. Capital of Bhutan (7)
 - 5. Minor Biblical prophet (5)
 - 6. Execute (7)
 - 7. Earthquake scale (7)
 - 8. Dark brown (9)
 - 9. Capital of Austria (6)
 - 15. Home (9)
 - 16. Ask for a loan (3)
 - 17. Not sweet (3)
 - 20. Wand showing sovereignty (7)
 - 21. Lounges (7)
 - 22. Frustrate (6)
 - 23. Shutting (7)
 - 25. Kind of month (5)
 - 27. Fabric woven from flax yarns (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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EXPLORING HISTORY
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Diving into fall

It is the last week of summer for many families as school is back in session on Tuesday. Here's a photo of NOTL youth hanging out on the docks as the steamship, the Cayuga, pulls away. To the delight of passengers, these kids would dive off the dock to retrieve the coins they tossed from the ship's deck into the river. In the background, we see one of the sandsuckers coming up the river. These ships removed sand from the sandbar at the mouth of the Niagara River. The sandbar was a source of clean sand, which was ideal for producing concrete. A large amount of concrete was needed for the construction of two projects in Niagara in the early 1900s — the fourth Welland Canal and the massive Sir Adam Beck hydro-electric project in Queenston. Dredging operations began in 1916 and continued until the 1990s.



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Achieve a **bountiful harvest** while veggie gardening



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

Vegetable gardening can be one of the most rewarding activities and, at the same time, one of the most frustrating experiences — and that is just trying to find your tools.

It is so rewarding to be able to grow your own food. I grew up on a farm — every year, we planted a large garden that would feed my family of eight for the entire winter. We spent much of our summers preserving food.

Even though shelling peas or peeling corn for days on end didn't seem like a lot of fun at the time, it is something that never leaves you. I am so glad that I had that experience.

The true frustration comes into play when it comes to the different diseases, insects and other critters that can wreak havoc in the garden.

The weather this year, to say the least, has also been quite the challenge — a cold spring followed by a record-breaking heat wave in July. There are so many challenges we do not have much control over.

For the past two to three years, I have been trying to grow more vegetables in containers (no more space left in my garden for veggies).

I know that my plants have really struggled this year. The tomatoes started off OK, but they look like they have given up.

Someone or something has been enjoying my kale, and it isn't me. I was excited to see my first cucumber forming on my vine until it started looking like it might be my one and only.

No matter how bad your vegetable garden is doing, the one thing that I love about gardeners is their eternal optimism — they will always say, "Wait until next year, it will be better than ever." I sure hope so.



The best time to harvest zucchini is when it's young and tender, says garden expert Joanne Young. SUPPLIED

Here are some general tips as you continue to haul in your bountiful harvest this summer and fall:

Pick at the correct time. For some vegetables, this means picking at the peak of ripeness. Others, like tomatoes, can be picked a bit early and will continue to ripen off the plant.

Corn — Pick cobs when tassel turns brown and cob feels plump.

Carrots — Start harvesting when size is large enough to use them. Carrots become sweeter when harvested after soil starts to cool in late summer.

Eggplant — Cut from plant when skin turns glossy and fruit has stopped getting bigger.

Cucumbers — Start to harvest as fruit is large enough to use. Harvest often to keep them producing.

Green beans — Pick when young and tender. When bean pods begin to bulge, it means that the seed is maturing and the bean will be tougher and stringier.

Melons — Withhold water from your melons for about a week before harvesting. This will help the sugars to become more

concentrated and sweeter-tasting.

Tomatoes — Best to harvest before they become dead ripe on the vine. This will help reduce the fruit's skin from cracking, and you can pick them before any critters decide to feast on them. Leave them on the countertop to ripen. Do not twist stem and green calyx off when picking tomatoes. They will last longer if left on.

Onions — Harvest Spanish or cooking onions once leaves have yellowed and fallen over.

Zucchini — Harvest when young and tender.

Harvest regularly. For many vegetables, like green and yellow beans, production will stop if they are left on the plant to mature.

Pick in the morning. There are a couple of good reasons to harvest your vegetables early in the day. One reason is that the temperatures will be cooler, making it a more desirable time for you to be out in the sun. Secondly, your produce will be better hydrated and not stressed. This enhances the quality and flavour.

Preserve your food. Wait to harvest your produce

until you know you'll have time for the canning, freezing or dehydration process right away. Preserving vegetables when they are at their freshest helps retain valuable nutrients and improves flavour.

Cut, don't tear, to avoid damaging the plant and bruising the fruit. Water root crops before your summer vegetable harvest to soften the soil and reduce the risk of marring tender skin.

Happy harvesting.

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society will host a series of public Saturday morning gardening classes with Young at the NOTL Community Centre from Sept. 6 to 27. All classes start at 10 a.m.

Sept. 6: Fall and Winter Plant Show-Offs

Sept. 13: Starting From the Ground Up

Sept. 20: The World of Bulbs

Sept. 27: Putting Your Garden to Bed

For details and to pre-register, visit notlhotsociety.com/classes.

If there's peace on Earth anywhere, **perhaps it's here** in NOTL



ROSS'S RAMBLINGS
Ross Robinson
Columnist

Out along the Niagara Parkway recreation trail, just south of Reif Estate Winery, a plaque mentions a quote from Thomas More. Often referred to as Ireland's national bard, he spent some time enjoying Niagara early in the 19th century.

To paraphrase him, "If there is peace to be found in the world, a heart that is humble may find it here."

Words so foreign to the world we currently find ourselves inhabiting, with global wars and tensions, incessant territorial disagreements, and world leaders determinably unable to find any meaningful common ground.

On Sunday, in the middle of the afternoon, I joined hundreds of contented people finding peace. Walking, running, strolling and cycling from Old Town south toward Queenston.

Next to us was a steady stream of cars cruising along the parkway, many headed up to Niagara Falls or Fort Erie. It was the perfect summer day to be in an antique or classic car.

I was part of a wonderful tableau of Canadiana, with people of all ages, ethnicities, clothing styles and spoken languages. No rhyme or reason to it, it was just happening.

Idyllic, bucolic, pacific, tranquil, stress-free. Thanks for the help, Google Thesaurus. A good first effort, but I will continue to use my thick and dog-eared Oxford large-print paper thesaurus.

Everyone and every group moving at their own pace. Or lack of pace. Some walking, some meandering, and unlike along Queen Street in Old Town, very few people posing for selfies. People seemed to be living in the moment, not



Naomi and Josh.

feeling the need to record the moments.

Then I arrived at Walker's Country Market. One of my favourite places in the world. In business since 1937, with fifth-generation grandson Crossroads Grade 8 student Josh and Laura Secord School Grade 10 student Naomi now scooping ice cream on this busy Sunday. They told me more people prefer cups than cones, especially on hot days.

But my parents always treated us to an ice cream cone. Never an ice cream cup. I know, times and habits change.

Walker's serves Kawartha ice cream, and offers over 20 flavours. Good-sized scoops, too, with no deceptively big air bubble in the middle. A world-class and local example of the expression, "Price is what

you pay. Value is what you get."

There is so much choice here in NOTL when it comes to ice cream. To name only a few, we have Dairy Queen, the venerable StageCoach, McD's, gelato shops for the more cosmopolitan, and more. And yes, the grand daddy of them all, the iconic Avondale, out on Stewart Road near the canal.

But there is only one Walker's Country Market. Their outdoor sign facing the Parkway mentions fresh fruit, bakery, refreshments and gifts. And let us not overlook the unique and precious Wayside Chapel, where thousands of people from around the world pose for pictures. Year-round.

They are always smiling, sometimes one or two people, sometimes larger groups. From all around the world, and these pictures will provide a unique memory of "the big trip to Canada."

Not the overpowering Rocky Mountains or the thundering Falls at Niagara. Just a wee chapel near Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Proprietor Jim Walker, the fourth generation to oversee this classic Canadian independent agricultural enterprise, seems to have it all figured out. So many components to his business.

The Niagara Parks Commission has to hustle to keep up with his always professional and tidy landscaping. And hats off to Walker's for going against the grain and welcoming even non-customers to use their washrooms. Plenty of room for needy females and males. Always a welcoming ambience.

And are they really open year-round? How many people, runners, bike riders out for some exercise, people "out for a drive" or whatever have been saved by the usually open washrooms at Walker's?

The answer? Thousands and thousands over the years. We know many of them have returned another day to pay back the favour.

And not just during the peak tourist season like the McFarland House facilities operated by "the Parks." Always spotlessly clean and supplied.

How lucky and fortunate are we to live in Niagara, so close to Walker's Country Market?

I will ramble to a Sunday afternoon conclusion now. An appreciative shout-out to Nita, one of the hard-working, efficient and anxious-to-please cashiers. She obeys the old food service industry maxim, "If you have time to lean, you have time to clean."

Out front now, we see enthusiastic Zach serving cob after cob of farm fresh corn on the cob. Or is it cob on the corn? He is a Brock grad, who will be returning next week to his teaching job in Port Colborne. What a fab and reassuring Niagara Peninsula story.

When I have found a gem, I tend to milk it. Candidly, I can tell you that two Sunday afternoons in a row this August, I bicycled out to Walker's for an ice cream cone. Both times, French vanilla.

Thomas More described this area as perfectly peaceful. He would be happy to know it's still true.

Let's pause and count our many blessings.

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ANGELIKA ZAMMIT
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD

Cornerstone
Association of REALTORS®

Toronto Regional
Real Estate Board



★  LUXURYHOMES.COM™ ★

Showcasing your luxury home world-wide while working with top brokers in the industry!
Proud member of LuxuryHomes.com



- Free packing of your house / estate cleanup/decluttering services***
 - World class videography, photos and drone footage, high quality hard cover print brochures & advertising in print media
 - Large social media presence and extensive unique marketing techniques
 - Your property will be globally listed gaining world wide exposure and will be seen on all real estate boards in Ontario
 - Home renovation experience
 - Help Elderly Relocate
 - Passionate to be of service
 - We offer a 24/7 open line of communication
 - Several testimonials and 5 star reviews
 - ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 - Respected by colleagues and community
- Long term presence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Local Right at Home Realty Team Office in NOTL (Over 6000 in GTA, #1 independent brokerage in the GTA for 10 years**)
 - Angelika previously owned a highly successful marketing/media business in Toronto for over 20 years. Built relationships with Fortune 500, big banks, CTV, Global, Olympics, Film Festival.
 - Over 12 years of real estate business.
 - Knowledge in all aspects of real properties (waterfront, residential, agricultural, commercial and leases)
 - Up to date on Mortgage trends and state of economy, strategy to sell
 - Contribution to charities
 - Your property is seen on all 23 Real Estate boards in Ontario plus globally listed in over 200 countries

FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK - BRAND NEW LISTING!



14894 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

WELCOME TO YOUR HISTORICAL ESTATE COMPLETE WITH TENNIS COURT, 40 FT IN-GROUND HEATED SWIMMING POOL, POOL HOUSE, & LARGE OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING STONE FIREPLACE



496 MISSISSAUGA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TEAM
Bringing GTA Buyers to Niagara-On-The-Lake
#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA FOR 10 YEARS*

Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE



*Based on closed transactions in the Burlington / Niagara Right At Home Realty Office, 2022, 2023, 2024 **TRREB Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2022, combined units sold.
***FREE GIFT OF 10 HOURS OF PACKING AND DECLUTTERING SERVICES, EXCLUDES TENANTED AREAS