



## Neighbours say **no way** to farm hub on East and West Line

Paige Seburn  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

To its supporters, the 727 East and West Ln. proposal is a needed home base for Niagara's fruit industry. To nearby Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, it is a five-acre warning sign.

At a June 2 public meeting, councillors heard pushback against Niagara Orchard & Vineyard Corp.'s plan to turn the East and West Line property into its head office and main farm-service site. No decision was made on the application.

The facility would support the storage, processing and distribution of local fruit and include the retail sale of agricultural tools and equipment.

"The applicant said it's just five acres," resident Georgine Adam told council. "We're just five-acreing ourselves out of every agricultural property with that attitude."

Adam and others are worried that if council treats this property as too small to matter, it sets a pattern where more small pieces of agricultural land get used for bigger commercial facilities.

They warned the town could slowly lose the farmland it says it wants to protect.

Neighbours told coun-

*Continued on Page 5*

# NOTL shows off

Studio tour invites people to see the art and workshops of 20 artists



Artist Lynne Gaetz, right, looks on as visitors admire her work at Ronald Boaks Fine Art Studio over the weekend. Gaetz was one of three artists showcasing pieces at the studio as part of the NOTL Art Collective's annual studio tour, which invited art lovers to visit local studios, meet artists and explore a wide range of work across the Niagara-on-the-Lake community. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Andrew Hawlitzky | The Lake Report

**D**ebra Botman pulls a sheet of rice paper from the table, presses heated wax into the grain, then paints watercolour across the surface in careful layers. The true painting only emerges after she irons the wax off at the end.

"You reveal a different story every time," Botman said. "The paint decides where it wants to adhere."

That spirit of discovery was celebrated during the NOTL Studio Tour on June 6 and 7, when 29 visual artists opened their homes and workspaces

across Niagara-on-the-Lake to the public.

Now in its third year, the tour spanned 16 locations across town, giving the public a rare look inside daily routines behind artworks they would otherwise only ever see hanging on a wall.

Botman discovered the joy of

watercolour painting during a paint-and-sip class at 13th Street Winery in 2016 and never looked back.

A decade later, her practice has grown well past traditional watercolour. She layers wax and

*Continued on Page 10*

## Conservation study will examine Four Mile Creek watershed issues

Zahraa Hmood  
The Lake Report

Homeowners in some parts of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been voicing grave concerns over problems with the town's storm-water infrastructure — like in summer 2024, when two large rainstorms caused

flooding in and around the homes of several St. Davids and Queenston residents.

Now, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Town of NOTL say they want to hear about what residents have witnessed, as part of a plan to try and implement lasting solutions.

The conservation authority and the municipality are collaborating on an initiative to study and report on the Four Mile Creek watershed, which covers about a third of the town and captures and collects rain and snow in the area.

*Continued on Page 3*



Flooding at the Virgil Dams along Four Mile Creek in 2024.



**Peninsula Flooring Ltd.**  
13 Henegan Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
(905) 468 2135 | www.peninsulaflooring.ca

**20% OFF STANTON**  
**PRE-MADE AREA RUGS**  
VALID APRIL - JUNE 2026



Pharmacy: 905-468-2121 | Apothecary: 905-468-8400 | www.simpsonspharmacy.ca

Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days:  
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month  
Customers 60+: Every last Thursday of the Month

# Disney rom-com begins filming in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Zahraa Hmood  
The Lake Report

Hollywood is coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake to make its small-town charm the backdrop to an upcoming romantic comedy film set to be released next year by 20th Century Studios, owned by the Walt Disney Company.

NOTL shooting for the film adaptation of the romantic novel "Beach Read" begins this week in Old Town and is set to continue until mid-to-late June.

The project, currently under the working title "Happily Ever After," stars Phoebe Dynevor as a romance novelist alongside Patrick Schwarzenegger, a college rival and literary fiction author she reconnects with following her father's death.

The film will see the two authors, both suffering from writer's block, become next-door neighbours after retreating to a small-town lake house community. They challenge each other to take on the other's literary genre and write a novel by the end of the summer, leading to a blossoming



129 Johnson St. has been taken over for a new Disney rom-com based on the novel "Beach Read," starring Phoebe Dynevor and Patrick Schwarzenegger. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

romance and the confrontation of their deepest secrets, fears and hopes.

Dynevor is best known for her work in Netflix's highly popular Regency-era romance series "Bridgerton," while Schwarzenegger, son of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver, starred in the latest season of HBO's black comedy series "The White Lotus" and opposite Collin Firth in HBO's crime drama mini-

series "The Staircase."

Notable actors and actresses attached to the film include Kevin Bacon, Andie MacDowell, Kristin Davis and Tig Notaro.

Director Yulin Kuang is spearheading the project and co-wrote the film with Emily Henry, author of "Beach Read," published in 2020. The two collaborated on "People We Meet on Vacation," a film adaptation of Henry's 2021 novel of

the same name, released on Netflix in January.

Principal photography began this week in Old Town. Filming will take place in the Chautauqua neighbourhood on June 16, with intermittent traffic stops and production vehicles and film equipment to occupy Mary, Nassau and Dorchester streets on the 15th and 16th.

In parts of Old Town, accommodations have been

made to allow the film's crew to use their spaces for vehicles and equipment.

At the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street, spokesperson Chrystal Haverstock says production company TCST Productions will block off the entire parking lot from June 9 to June 20, parking its transportation vehicles and trucks there for the duration of the shoot.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Legion to raise some extra funds," she said. "It's a short-term pain for a long-term gain."

This will impact the Legion's Thursday fish fry nights and Wednesday food truck supper markets, she said, when it sees its most visitors of the week.

Those evenings, Haverstock will run a shuttle service in her personal vehicle, allowing people to park their cars at the NOTL Community Centre and taking them to and from the Legion.

Parking at the Fort George National Historic Site will also be occupied, though not all of it. Spokesperson Julia Grevic said while Parks Canada has

agreed to provide additional parking in support of the production, the lot will still be available to visitors.

"The production will utilize overflow space in the adjacent field, ensuring minimal impact to public access," she said.

The fort's daily visiting hours will not be affected.

"Welcoming a production of this scale not only contributes to the local economy but also offers an opportunity to showcase the unique character and beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake to audiences around the world," she said.

This isn't the first time NOTL has played host to a film production: it's been a location for several movie shoots, including David Cronenberg's "The Dead Zone" with Christopher Walken and Martin Sheen, 2003's "The Recruit" with Al Pacino, Colin Farrell and Bridget Moynahan and 2009's "Amelia" with Richard Gere, Hilary Swank and Ewan McGregor, along with holiday and romance movies like "Christmas Inheritance," "That Old Feeling" and "The Ref."

[zahraa@niagaranow.com](mailto:zahraa@niagaranow.com)

## Niagara on-the-Lake Realty

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS 1974 • 2024

<p><b>2 VIVIAN AVENUE, St. Catharines</b> <b>\$569,000</b> Thomas Elltoft &amp; Kim Elltoft</p>	<p><b>89 HELLEMS AVENUE, Welland</b> <b>\$1,950/month</b> Socratis Kosmidis</p>	<p><b>4887 MORRISON STREET, Niagara Falls</b> <b>\$2,200/month</b> Socratis Kosmidis</p>	<p><b>OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY 2-4PM</b> <b>21 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE</b> <b>\$1,190,000</b> Christopher Bowron &amp; Nicole Vanderperk</p>
<p><b>304-2190 LAKESHORE ROAD, Burlington</b> <b>\$1,295,000</b> Weston Miller &amp; Thomas Elltoft</p>	<p><b>4-25 SORENSEN COURT</b> <b>\$998,000</b> Thomas Elltoft &amp; Ricky Watson</p>	<p><b>12 STONERIDGE CRESENT</b> <b>\$1,549,000</b> Randall Armstrong</p>	<p><b>8 CLARENCE STREET</b> <b>\$859,000</b> Jane Elltoft</p>
<p><b>26 DIANA DRIVE</b> <b>\$868,000</b> Thomas Elltoft &amp; Kim Elltoft</p>	<p><b>1891 LAKESHORE ROAD</b> <b>\$1,039,000</b> Christopher Bowron &amp; Nicole Vanderperk</p>	<p><b>9-222 RICARDO STREET</b> <b>\$1,840,000</b> Thomas Elltoft</p>	<p><b>107-215 RICARDO STREET</b> <b>\$1,425,000</b> Weston Miller</p>

Christopher Bowron*** ..... 905-327-6704	Nicole Vanderperk* ..... 905-941-4585	Jane Elltoft** ..... 905-988-8776	Ricky Watson* ..... 905-246-3387
Kim Elltoft** ..... 905-380-8011	Viviane Elltoft* ..... 905-988-7494	Cheryl Carmichael* ..... 905-941-0276	Patricia Atherton* ..... 905-933-4983
Randall Armstrong** ..... 905-651-2977	Thomas Elltoft* ..... 905-380-8012	Weston Miller* ..... 289-213-8681	Socratis Kosmidis* ..... 289-668-9324

\*\*\* Broker of Record \*\* Broker \* Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205

246 Four Mile Creek Road 905-262-6996

[www.notlrealty.com](http://www.notlrealty.com)

## Sayonara, Georgie boy



The old Royal George Theatre is coming down, piece by piece, to make way for Shaw Festival's \$85-million replacement. In this photo, taken Friday, demolition crews tear into the back of the Queen Street theatre, while a temporary sidewalk has been set up out front as the final stages of demolition move closer to the street.  
DAVE VAN DE LAAR

**THE FARMHOUSE Cafe**  
Open For Lunch Daily  
Reservations strongly suggested  
Online booking available! Or give us a call to book  
905-468-8814



Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in June!

### CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

**WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR**  
Open 7 days a week  
Wine tastings offered daily  
Walk-ins Welcome for Wine Tasting! Reservations available for group bookings  
1010 Line 2, NOTL, 905.468.8814 [www.CarolineCellars.com](http://www.CarolineCellars.com)



## Public workshop on flooding June 17

Continued from Front Page

They want to examine issues with flooding and erosion, potentially caused by development and more severe rainstorms as a result of climate change.

They are hosting a public workshop on Wednesday, June 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the NOTL Community Centre, where they will share the findings of their ongoing work and hear from people with concerns about flooding in their communities.

The conservation authority announced the initiative October 2024 after NOTL witnessed two major rainstorms with heavy down-pour and flash flooding in June and July, overwhelming sewers, drains, culverts, ditches, storm ponds and streams.

Some residents suffered through backed-up sewage in their homes and other property damage, as documented in The Lake Report's "Summer of the Flood" series.

Geoffrey Verkade, the conservation authority's senior manager of integrated watershed strategies, says the project is in its initial stages and that everyone involved is gathering information through technical studies to understand the watershed's changes and impacts to NOTL.

"We're engaged in a lot of this work because there was



Severe flooding at the Virgil Dams in January 2024. The water rose above the walking bridge, covering it with fast-moving water and spilling onto the nearby grass. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

a lot of resident concerns raised over the years about the ongoing issues, or issues getting even worse with things like climate change," he said.

He said the hope is to "diagnose" the problem and find ways to address current issues by collaborating with the owners of private properties through which the creek runs.

"There's way to make enhancements within the watershed," he said. "That might not be directly a municipal infrastructure situation, but it might be some stewardship action on the land that could reduce some of those risks."

"Community knowledge and lived experience, they're critical to this process."

Verkade said the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has already done geomorphic assessments of the watershed: researchers measure and analyze how the flow of water through Four Mile Creek erodes

areas of the creek, impacting its form.

This has revealed that sections of the creek are "unstable" and prone to erosion, sedimentation and localized flooding.

"Those hazards are tied to altered channel form, drainage constraint and land use pressures."

The issues residents are dealing with, he said, are not because of any singular cause, but a whole host of causes coming together.

As part of this project, the conservation authority hopes to update its floodplain mapping, which marks out where water will go during a particular flooding event.

The conservation authority is meant to protect its jurisdiction during specific flooding cases based on provincial regulations, including rare events known as a 100-year storm. Currently, to be considered a 100-year storm in Niagara, 101.6 millimetres of rain must fall in 12 hours.

Some argue the current standard for a 100-year storm doesn't address the increase in intensity, duration and frequency of extreme rainstorms today, which research indicates is a result of climate change. "You don't get 100-year events all the time," Verkade said. "But we are seeing the more frequent ones becoming more intense as well."

As part of the floodplain mapping work, it will create models that consider the more significant possible impacts of climate change and simulate flooding with more intense rainstorms.

"It's running some hypothetical scenarios with the best information that you have," he said.

The conservation authority is aiming to complete the Four Mile Creek watershed study in 2029. To register to attend the June 17 workshop, visit [getinvolved.npca.ca/four-mile-creek-watershed-plan](http://getinvolved.npca.ca/four-mile-creek-watershed-plan).


[zahraa@niagaranow.com](mailto:zahraa@niagaranow.com)

**St. David's VETERINARY CLINIC** [stdavidsvetclinic.com](http://stdavidsvetclinic.com)

Has your senior pet had a check-up lately?



House-calls available ☎ 905.262.8777

**airway CPAP inc** 

**CPAP AND SLEEP APNEA SUPPLIES**  
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202  
For appointment call 289-868-9212.

**HANDYMAN HANS CAN**

Power Washing (Houses, Driveways, Patios, Polymeric Sand, Sealants and Brick-Leveling), Black Top, Deck Staining and Cleaning, Junk, Furniture, Bush and Vehicle Removal, Yard Clean-up, Weeding, Tree and Bush Trimming and Cutting, Home Installations (Grab Bars, Railings, Toilets, Sinks, Door Bells, Doors, Lights, Vents, TVs, Blinds and Hinges), Wall Mounting, Furniture Assembly, Painting, Caulking, Household and Window Cleaning, Organizing and Hoarding Help, Eavestroughs, Drywall, Clogged Sinks and Toilets, Windows, Screens, Taps, Demolition and Moving Services.

**905-246-1843**

Have an opinion you want heard?  
Email us.



Hear conversations, laughter, and life again.

Book a **FREE** hearing test  
**866-474-5701**

**amplifon**  
Hearing Care Experts  
[amplifon.ca](http://amplifon.ca)

**CORKS & CHORDS**  
**LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT**  
**5pm - 9pm • 20% OFF EVERYTHING!**



**AIR CANADA**

**FREE PARKING AT YCM**

**Book Niagara (YCM) to the world on aircanada.com**

Connect to hundreds of global destinations via Toronto Pearson.

Starts June 15.



**STATIONNEMENT GRATUIT À YCM**

**Réservez Niagara (YCM) vers le monde sur aircanada.com**

Accédez à des centaines de destinations mondiales via Toronto Pearson.

Le service débute le 15 juin.



## Classifieds

**HUGE MOVING SALE**  
 925 Queenston Rd., NOTL  
 Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Tools, landscaping equipment, furniture, housewares and more.

# Burton commends change in hospital plan

Paige Seburn  
 Local Journalism Initiative  
 The Lake Report

Just a few months ago, Jim Burton, chair of the James A. Burton & Family Foundation, was urging Niagara-on-the-Lake to rethink its approach to redeveloping the former hospital site on Wellington Street.

Now, he's praising the town for doing exactly that. "I think I want to compliment them," Burton told The Lake Report after council voted to launch a two-stage process to find qualified project leaders for the property at 176 Wellington St., putting aside previous plans to turn the site into a parking lot with 150 spaces.

"I give them great credit for being willing to acknowledge that what they first put forward they've now realized isn't feasible and, so, they're open to other ideas."

For months, Burton and the foundation pushed the town to consider a wider range of possibilities for the site, arguing it should remain a community asset and that the town should



Jim Burton, chair of the James A. Burton & Family Foundation, says he's happy NOTL will accept proposals for the old hospital property. FILE

widen its focus beyond turning it into a parking lot.

Last week, council approved a request for qualifications process aimed at identifying proponents with the experience and financial capacity to redevelop the prominent Old Town property. Staff will later return with the results and a proposed request for proposals before the next phase moves ahead.

The decision reopens the question of what the future for 176 Wellington St. could look like, after public consultation found residents

wanted the town-owned site to serve the community going forward.

The foundation is proposing a community hub that would include arts, culture, education, heritage, daycare, performance and exhibition space, alongside parking and other community uses.

Burton said he was pleased to see the town move away from the possibility of focusing exclusively on the structured parking concept that was explored earlier this year.

"We really do appreciate that the planning group came back with the recommendation they did."

"We were very concerned," he said, "that they might narrow it down to specifically looking at their proposal for that two-storey parking lot, which would have left very limited space left over."

Instead, Burton said, the town chose a path that leaves room for different ideas.

"We wanted them to hopefully be open for all sorts of ideas from all sorts of people, including us and others, on what might be the best choice for 176 Wellington."

Burton also backed the town's decision to use a two-step process beginning with a request for qualifications.

"I respect that," he said. "I've seen it done both ways and we're comfortable with that process."

The foundation is now seeking legal advice about what it can publicly discuss while the procurement process unfolds.

"What we are aware of is once they call for a (request for proposals), a (request for qualifications), you're not allowed to say anything," Burton said. "That part is clear."

"What isn't clear is whether or not we're jeopardizing our position."

For now, Burton stopped short of directly confirming a future proposal, but made clear the foundation remains deeply interested if an opportunity opens.

"What I know I can say now is that we're very passionate about the vision of the project and we will hopefully be able to consider all options as they unveil, or become open to us," he said.

[paigeseburn@niagaranow.com](mailto:paigeseburn@niagaranow.com)

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

[www.notlstudiotour.com](http://www.notlstudiotour.com)

Sotheby's  
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
 Canada

Laura Skene  
 Realtor®

SKYCOMP  
 SOLUTIONS

ARTSPACE106  
 CONTEMPORARY FINE ART & GIFTS

DIXON  
 INK  
 printing | graphic design

STAY  
 NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

STONE ROAD  
 Pharmacy

june  
 FLORAL & GARDEN

Enns  
 WASH & SHINE

ESTD 2002  
 CAROLINE  
 - CELLARS -  
 FAMILY ESTATE WINERY

Angelika & ASSOCIATES  
 LUXURY REAL ESTATE

notl health & wellness

GATTA HOMES

Niagara-on-the-Lake  
 FOODLAND  
 Fresh food. Friendly neighbours.

Handmade  
 PRESENCE

Kennedy  
 Picture Framing  
 Proud partner of the NOTL Studio Tour

Ronald Boaks  
 Ronald Boaks Fine Art

neōbLavender  
 NIAGARA ESSENTIAL OILS & BLENDS



The 5.3-acre property at 727 East and West Line is at the centre of a proposed farm-service hub that residents fear could erode Niagara-on-the-Lake's protected agricultural land and damage the character of the residential road. SOURCED

# Neighbours **shut down** farm hub idea

*Continued from Front Page*

One of the central issues is whether the rural site can handle a farm-service hub with trucks, drainage changes and commercial-style activity without chipping away at the agricultural land and rural-residential character residents say should be protected.

Town staff say the lands were previously used for agricultural production but have been left fallow in recent years.

The property is about 5.3 acres on the south side of East and West Line, between Four Mile Creek and Concession 4 roads.

It is in a prime agricultural area and, more specifically, a specialty crop area.

At the time staff's report was prepared, 25 written comments had been received from residents: 21 opposed to the project and four in support.

Gracia Janes, a longtime farmland preservation advocate with the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, presented a letter supporting the application at the meeting.

The letter said the society agreed with Niagara farm organizations — including the Grape Growers of Ontario, the Niagara Federation of Agriculture and the Tender Fruit Marketing Board — that the proposed facility is a “critical component of the Niagara agricultural economic system.”

But concerns from nearby residents dominated the conversation.

Charlie Pillitteri, chief executive officer of Pillitteri Estates Winery, ques-

tioned why the applicant chose a site surrounded by neighbours already raising concerns.

**“This area was intended to be rural and residential in nature. Many of us purchased our homes with that understanding. It just feels as though that vision is slowly being taken away from us.”**

CHRISTINA CRUZ  
EAST AND WEST LINE RESIDENT

“It’s a commercial building and shouldn’t be here,” Pillitteri said. “It’s poorly designed and it’s extremely irregular in shape.”

Adam said the proposal misses the point of protecting farmland.

“I don’t think this has been a well-respected proposal with regards to, again, enduring and respecting our agricultural properties,” she said.

Former NOTL councillor Jamie Slingerland said he has been a loyal customer of Niagara Orchard & Vineyard Corp. for 25 years, buying fertilizers and sprays for 135 acres of vineyards.

But he said support for the business does not mean support for this location.

“This application has too much on too small of a parcel of land,” Slingerland said.

“It’s a very poor configuration,” he added, “with too

many major conflicts for agriculture and residential properties.”

Slingerland also challenged the drainage plan, saying the proposal would change how water moves across the property.

“Their own mapping shows you that they’re raising the levels and that they’re changing the direction of water to go south, then west and then back north again. It doesn’t make sense. Just send it north,” he said. “Away from us.”

Christina Cruz owns 724 East and West Ln., the property directly across the proposed development. She said she understands the importance of agriculture in NOTL but the proposed facility does not match the character of the “neighbourhood that currently exists.”

“This area was intended to be rural and residential in nature. Many of us purchased our homes with that understanding,” Cruz said.

“It just feels as though that vision is slowly being taken away from us.”

Lawyer Tom Richardson, speaking for the applicant and its principal, Arnie Lepp, said the proposal has received letters of support representing more than 100 farmers in the Niagara Peninsula.

He said the application has been revised since it was first submitted and the applicant has worked to respond to issues raised by others.

“This application has lived the subject of three submissions,” Richardson said. “Each offering ad-

ditional solutions to issues raised.”

The drainage engineer, he added, has reviewed new concerns raised by Slingerland and that more answers would be coming.

“The email you received from Mr. Slingerland today now raises further issues based on the revised plan provided to him on May the 14th and responding to further answers provided to him on June 1,” said Richardson.

“Our drainage engineer advises there are answers to all the points in the email dated today,” he added. “Those answers will be provided to staff for their recommendation report.”

Councillors also pressed for more information. Coun. Gary Burroughs questioned whether another site in town could be used.

“I know it’s prime grape-growing area,” Burroughs said. “I’m just wondering if there was another place, that was less productive, that might be used in the town.”

Coun. Sandra O’Connor asked how much of the business comes from outside Niagara. Stephen Bedford, speaking for the applicant, said the main role of the facility is to move locally grown Niagara fruit outside Niagara, but said he would follow up on the tools and equipment side of the business.

Council received the information report. Town planning staff will now continue reviewing the application before bringing back a recommendation at a future meeting.

[paigeseburn@niagaranow.com](mailto:paigeseburn@niagaranow.com)



**MM LALANDE LAW**  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

---

**Wills & Estates, Real Estate, Collaborative Family Law**

Summer moving season is here! Whether you're buying or selling, MM Lalonde Law is happy to help with the legal details so you can focus on settling in. New home, new chapter... maybe it's time to get your estate plan in order too? Let's get you sorted this summer!



**FREE PARKING & WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

**WILLS & ESTATES SEMINAR - June 24, 6:00-6:45pm**

**“Will Planning 101”**

**Call or email to register!**

 (289) 868-9687     [mmlaw.ca](http://mmlaw.ca)  
 [mml@mmlaw.ca](mailto:mml@mmlaw.ca)

**KARAOKE**

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**JUNE 14: 2- 6 P.M.**

WITH KJ CHRISTIE HAILS!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 

CASH BAR

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION | 410 KING ST. | 905-468-2353

**PROUD TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA**



**TONY BALDINELLI**  
MP | NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: [tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca)  
905-353-9590

FORT ERIE OFFICE: [tonybaldinelli.mp.ca](mailto:tonybaldinelli.mp.ca)  
905-871-9991

[facebook.com/tonybaldinelli.mp](https://facebook.com/tonybaldinelli.mp)

**Proud to support local news!**



**WAYNE GATES**

MPP Niagara Falls proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake  
905-357-0681

**Advertising inquiries?**  
[Emailadvertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:Emailadvertising@niagaranow.com)



**GREENVIEW LANDSCAPE**

**LANDSCAPE AND LAWN CARE SERVICES**

---

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario  
[greenviewlandscape.ca](http://greenviewlandscape.ca)

**289-407-6635**  
[isaac@greenviewlandscape.ca](mailto:isaac@greenviewlandscape.ca)



## Lounge Specials

Something special, every day of the week!

\$8\*  
MIMOSAS  
All-Day Sundays\*

\$12\*  
MUSSELS  
Mondays, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.†

\$5\* CORKAGE  
All-Day Tuesday, Wednesdays  
& Thursdays

\$8\*  
5 OZ WINE SPECIAL  
Daily\*

BOOK YOUR TABLE



*Restaurant • Wine Bar*

\*Price subject to tax and gratuity. While supplies last. Please visit our website for details and restrictions.  
†With food item purchase. \*With beverage purchase.

niagarasfinest.com | 905-468-4588 | 209 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

# Sailing into the sunset



Sailors return to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club after a Wednesday night Shark Series race as the sun sets over Lake Ontario, casting their boats in silhouette against an orange-lit sky. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



**DOMINION LENDING CENTRES**

## YOUR LOCAL MORTGAGE EXPERT!

### WHY CHOOSE ME?

With 20+ years of mortgage expertise, I deliver tailored solutions by shopping multiple lenders to secure the best fit for every client.

Specializing in purchases, refinances, renewals, investment properties, and alternative lending including private and reverse mortgages (55 years +).

Proudly serving Niagara-on-the-Lake with trusted, local insight.



*Aly*  
**SADAF AZAM**  
MORTGAGE AGENT LEVEL 1

**416-937-2005**

www.mtgbyaly.com  
info@mtgbyaly.com  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

**DOMINION LENDING CENTRES**  
CLEAR TRUST MORTGAGES 12806

### MY SERVICES

-  **Bruised Credit Solutions**  
for clients with credit challenges
-  **Equity Lending**  
Access the equity in your home for investments, renovations, or consolidating high-interest rate loans
-  **Reverse Mortgages**  
Homeowners 55 years + can access home equity with minimal qualification
-  **Mixed-Use Property Financing**  
Mortgages for properties that combine residential and commercial spaces
-  **Farm Financing**  
Mortgage solutions designed for rural and agricultural properties

**AND MUCH MORE!**

 **MORE CHOICE**  
Access to multiple lenders for better options

 **BETTER SOLUTIONS**  
Tailored mortgage solutions for your needs

 **CLEAR TRUST**  
Honest advice. Reliable service. Focused on your goals.

# TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

WITH OLDE TOWNE BUILDING CO.

**We are remodeling experts!**

Whether it's a stunning **kitchen**, a spa-like **bathroom**, or a functional, stylish **basement**, we will bring your vision to life.

Quality craftsmanship, modern designs, and a hassle-free experience. Let us make your dream space a reality!




**CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION**



**Brandon Noel**  
**905 - 325 - 2766**  
www.oldetownebuildingcompany.com

*Olde Towne*  
**Building Company**

# Zalepa says Rand conflict **no longer applies**

Paige Seburn  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's mayor says the conflict of interest that once kept him out of parts of the Rand Estate debate is no longer relevant to the latest development proposal before council.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa previously declared a non-pecuniary conflict on matters related to access from the Rand Estate onto Charlotte Street, nearby where he lives.

But after sitting through last week's public meeting on the latest application, he says the circumstances are different.

"That was for a decision around access from a property onto Charlotte Street," Zalepa said of his previous conflict declaration. "I'm like three doors down."

He said legal advice, backed by the integrity commissioner, led him to declare the conflict at the time.



Despite declaring a conflict on a Rand Estate proposal in 2023 due to living close to the properties, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa has decided not to declare a conflict on another proposal by the same developer for the same properties. He says each proposal is different. FILE

"The proximity of my house to that access point is quite significant," Zalepa said. "That was potentially and probably a non-pecuniary conflict."

"I went and got my own advice and I'm very comfortable with that."

Zalepa declined to provide documentation of the legal advice he received.

But he remains confident in his decision not to declare a conflict on the current application.

"At this point, (the Charlotte Street access) is not relevant," he said. "If there were a decision point or access again on Charlotte, I would be consistent and declare that non-pecuniary conflict."

He said conflict declarations must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and noted that even after declaring the original conflict, he continued participating in Rand Estate discussions involving matters he viewed as affecting the broader community.

"During the discussion around the heritage attributes of the general property, I participated," Zalepa said.

"Those heritage attributes and those properties affect just as many residents as they do me."

"So, it's a different matter," he added.

Asked what he would tell people who might see his decision to participate now as inconsistent, Zalepa said "each decision to declare a conflict has to be weighed on and evaluated with the set of situations around the particular application and the circumstances."

"In this case, they're all different," he said.

[paigeseburn@niagaranow.com](mailto:paigeseburn@niagaranow.com)



### June is Migraine Awareness Month



**If you suffer from migraines, do you know there are over the counter options?**

Talk to one of our pharmacists about it 😊

Stone Road Pharmacy  
905-468-3000  
1630 Niagara Stone Rd.

**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

# Jolly June Jamboree

Saturday, June 13th

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\$10 per person

Includes tea or coffee and scones with jam



## Jumble Sale

Jams, preserves and baked goods also available for purchase

**Grace United Church**  
222 Victoria St, NOTL

# MCC THRIFT

## Give your home décor items a second life.

Donate to your local MCC Thrift Shop!

### DONATION HOURS

Monday - Wednesday	9 AM - 5 PM
Thursday - Friday	9 AM - 8 PM
Saturday	9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

[mccthriftontario.com/stcatharines](http://mccthriftontario.com/stcatharines)

# Pickleball Club celebrates 10 years with tournament

Andrew Hawlitzky  
The Lake Report

The sound of paddles smacking against hollow, plastic balls and echoing off the walls was Saturday's soundtrack at the Meridian Union Arena, as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club celebrated its 10th anniversary with a members-only tournament.

The milestone arrives, however, while the club's outdoor courts remain closed and the town has no confirmed site for replacement facilities.

More than 80 members competed in the Tin Cup Pickleball Tournament across women's, men's and mixed divisions, marking a decade that saw the club's formation and growth from a handful of players to roughly 575 members.

The Virgil Sports Park pickleball courts have been closed since the town ordered them shut for the 2026 outdoor season in February, and the Town of NOTL has yet to identify a permanent replacement site.

The town agreed in April to repay the club \$13,748.17 for its share of noise-reduc-



Jerry Eitze returns a shot as partner Ron Pychel watches during the Category 4 final at the pickleball tournament. The pair went on to win the match and earn gold medals in their division. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

tion panels installed when those courts reopened in 2024. A parks and recreation master plan review is expected to address future

court locations, though no timeline has currently been set.

"The biggest challenge right now is just making

sure that we have enough facilities to accommodate our members," said Dragana Simao, the club's board president.

Club membership peaked in 2024 with 740 members but Simao said the NOTL Pickleball Club capped the number of registrations it was accepting to protect playing time for existing members.

The indoor courts at the Central Community Centre on York Road, which opened in October 2023, remain available for public and club-reserved use. Outdoor options exist at Queenston Heights Park, where Niagara Parks Commission operates four courts, but town staff found no suitable park site within the preferred 200- to 500-metre residential buffer that would not displace existing sports fields.

Simao said a dedicated facility would allow the club to better serve its membership.

"In an ideal world, it would be amazing if we could get our own pickleball facility," she said.

Vince Serratore, who has been with the club since it started 10 years ago, said the sport reshaped his health and social life after he arrived in Niagara-on-the-Lake knowing no one.

He said he lost about 60 pounds after taking up pickleball and said the connections he made through the club have stayed with him for a decade.

"Now if we had our outdoor courts open, it would be another story," said Serratore. "But it's nice that we can do an in-house tournament like this."

The town and the club were each fined \$1,000 in 2022 after a neighbouring resident took them to provincial court for a noise bylaw violation. The courts reopened in June 2024 after council amended the bylaw to exempt recreation on town-owned property.

The club was founded in 2016 and incorporated as a non-profit in 2017. Members come from across the region, with the majority living within the town, though the club also has players from St. Catharines and as far as Grimsby.

The parks and recreation master plan is expected to provide direction, but chief administrative officer Nick Ruller told council in April that no date has been set for the review to begin.

andrew@niagaranow.com



**MAUI JIM TRUNK SHOW**

Join us for an exclusive Maui Jim Trunk Show featuring the 2026 Sunglass Collection  
Bring a friend and embrace the Aloha Spirit !

**JUNE 18TH**  
**12 P.M. - 4 P.M.**

  
**DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES**  
**OPTOMETRY**  
— Sight for Life —

**358 MARY ST.**  
**NOTL**

COLOR YOU CAN FEEL  
PolarizedPlus2 Sunglasses

# A SAFER ONTARIO MEANS

# BUILDING NEW JAILS

Learn how we're  
protecting the province  
at [ontario.ca/SaferOntario](https://ontario.ca/SaferOntario)  
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



# 'Sleuth' uncovers the dark side of male competition

**SLEUTH**  
\*\*\*  
(out of five)

*Courthouse Theatre, 1 hour, 55 minutes, one intermission. Ends Oct. 9. By Anthony Shaffer. Directed by Peter Fernandes.*

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

You can leave the magnifying glass and deerstalker hat at home, but a stethoscope might be useful. Anthony Shaffer's "Sleuth" is quite unlike any mystery thriller you might have seen before, including Agatha Christie. And, as it happens, Shaffer was a screenwriter on three of Christie's films featuring Hercule Poirot.

"Sleuth" is another cup of English tea. More gin, with twists and turns shaken in a plot of ferocious gamesmanship between two highly competitive males over a woman. The game may be satirical, but it is also deadly. If well-played, it will also be a game between stage and audience. If there has been a murder, where is the body?

Andrew Wyke is an aging mystery writer ensconced as lord of his Norman manor house in rural Wiltshire. His life is to live the part of the clever detective of his

award-winning stories, St. John Lord Merridew. He is Wyke's alter ego.

As the ring-master of inventions and deceptions, Wyke is supremely confident that in the real world of crime, who could possibly outthink him? Certainly not the plodding police. They are sure to be baffled. But what if there is more than meets the eye, even if private?

Wyke is a man full of jealous rage. He is an insufferable, bigoted, upper-class snob writing for noble minds and intent on committing the real-life murder of his wife's ignoble lover. He has invited Milo Tindle, the young, suave and successful son of a poor, Jewish Italian immigrant, to the manor to challenge him. Wyke will play control and humiliation to put this jumped-up pantry boy in his place.

The charade plot is simple. Just follow the rules of the game. Entice Milo with a big money reward to stage an act of burglary. Milo will find the hidden safe and steal the wife's jewels which will be fenced. Wyke will claim the insurance. Milo will have money to support the wife and Wyke will be free to be with his mistress. What can go wrong? Plenty.



Sepehr Reybod as Milo Tindle and Patrick Galligan as Andrew Wyke. DAVID COOPER

Shaffer brilliantly uses a theatre technique for a complex plot requiring two elements: discovery and reversal. The discovery of information about a character changes the situation to its opposite and in "Sleuth," those reversals make a captivating play.

Patrick Galligan is all in and forceful as Andrew Wyke. He is clearly having a great ruthless romp with this role. Sepehr Reybod's casting as Milo would hardly entice an entitled wife to abandon silks, furs, champagne and her Harrod's account.

Philip Mayfield's rumples Inspector Doppler was not always understood due to his slumped back to the audience and an exaggerated gruff voice meant to be authoritarian but soon found tedious. This was unfortunate in a script where class accents, grammar and enunciation are relevant.

Sim Suzer's set design of a cozy Norman-style cottage with wood paneling, a leaded window, fireplace and stairs, worked well in the confines of the Courthouse space. Given Wyke's obsession with games, why so few board games or toys?

The Jolly Jack Tar puppet, supposed to shock when animated by a hidden button, was almost a non-event. He seldom laughed and perched inertly on a bureau, looking suspiciously like the Tiny Tim puppet rejigged in a sailor suit. John Gzowski's original music and sound were effective.

Anthony Shaffer wrote "Sleuth" with the encouragement of his identical twin, Peter Shaffer, the famed playwright of "Amadeus" and "Equus," both writing studies of the male psyche in conflict with another.

Sleuth premiered in 1970 in Brighton, followed by 2,359 performances in London and 1,222 on Broadway receiving the Tony Award for best play in 1971. Shaffer's acclaimed 1972 film adaptation starred Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine.

Anthony Shaffer always considered "Sleuth" to be his main event, a metaphor for pre and post-war British society. The pre of the upper classes being those supportive of fascism and attracted by Nazism and Hitler as a bulwark against rising communism. Hence, the subtle toast of "prost" instead of "cheers." Post-war Britain was economically broke, and immigration was increasingly feared as a lower-class threat to white status and privilege.

"Sleuth" now appears prescient to "mogging," a trendy term used in the current misogynist, online manosphere. It refers to the highly competitive, aggressive gaming of individual men who seek alpha superiority to dominate other men based on physical "looksmxing" appearance and status.

No clever dialogue required. See the play instead. Much more fun.

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

# No medium off-limits at this year's tour of NOTL artists' studios

Continued from Front Page

pigment onto rice paper in a technique called batik, where each stage locks colour in place and the final result only appears after the wax is ironed away. She also works with Indian ink to add deep, contrasting blacks to her paintings.

Alongside this work, she sells a line of golf-themed greeting cards year-round at three golfing pro shops in Florida, and at Handmade Presents in Garrison Village.

Elsewhere in town, on King Street, pastel painter Cathy Cullis works from a home studio shared with her husband Rick, a landscape oil painter.

Cathy works from photographs taken on trips



NOTL artist Ron Boaks in his Niagara Stone Road studio. He was one of several artists involved in the NOTL Studio Tour, an annual event by the NOTL Art Collective.

over the years, building up colour in layers on sanded paper, a surface rough enough to hold soft pastel without letting it slide off.

"I get a sense of the place while I'm there, just soak it in. And then years later, you can look at the photograph and still feel the same

way we did when we were there," she said.

Rick switched from other mediums to oil paint in 2017 after more than 40 years of painting. He described being drawn to how oil handles, and to working without solvents. One painting in his studio came directly from his backyard, where he spotted an ancient beech tree on Davie Street and felt the pull to put it on canvas.

"I was standing on my back deck one day and thought, 'I gotta do that,'" he said.

Meanwhile, over on Rye Street, fibre artist Carolyn McKenzie spent the weekend at Fiberful, her studio packed with coloured wool, silk, beading supplies and a rare industrial roller,

welcoming visitors who had likely never thought of felt as an art material before.

McKenzie spent the weekend explaining an art form most people only know from accidentally shrinking a wool sweater.

Felt starts as raw Merino wool, the same fibre used in quality knitwear. McKenzie layers it by hand, wets it, then works it until the fibres lock together and the whole piece shrinks and stiffens into a durable fabric.

She then adds stitching, beading and pieces of silk to finish each work. The process sounds complicated, but McKenzie said a single afternoon at a friend's house was all it took to know she had found her medium.

"I came home with this

piece of fabric that was sort of wild. I just looked at it and said, I have to do more of that," she said.

Most finished pieces get cut up and sewn into practical objects like bags and pouches. Some she cannot bring herself to slice.

Visitors could handle her work freely, delighting in the soft subtle changes in texture. McKenzie encourages it, since finished felt is practically indestructible.

"People have walked in here all day and they're not shy," she said. "I just pick it up and tell them it's fine. Because wool, once it's in this form, is completely durable. You can't hurt it."

The NOTL Studio Tour returns June next year.

[andrew@niagaranow.com](mailto:andrew@niagaranow.com)

THE LEGION PRESENTS.... LIVE MUSIC CASH BAR

**WEDNESDAY FOOD TRUCKS SUPPER MARKET**

JUNE 3- SEPT 16 FROM 4:30-7:30PM

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124 | 905-468-2353 | LEGION124@GMAIL.COM

Legion Branch 124 Niagara-on-the-Lake



# Chautauqua's art and gardens on display

Clockwise from top: Mary Kilmer shows off the many varieties of irises in bloom at her Addison Avenue garden, one of several Chautauqua neighbourhood stops featured on this year's Art & Garden Tour; Jo-Ann Fraser demonstrates her weaving skills in a garden on Oak Drive; and artwork by Troy Miller is displayed in his Japanese-inspired garden and working studio on Shakespeare Avenue. The tour features a mix of new and returning gardens, artists and musicians throughout the Chautauqua neighbourhood. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



**SPRAGUE INTERIORS**  
Elevated Interiors for Life's Next Chapter.



REACH OUT TO  
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY.



**905.687.2192**  
NEW LOCATION  
4 Nihan Drive, St. Catharines  
info@spragueinteriors.ca  
www.spragueinteriors.ca

**St. Davids-Queenston United Church**

1453 York Rd., St. Davids  
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca  
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek  
Rental inquiries: 905-262-5242

Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Also online,  
visit our website.



# WORLD CUP KICKOFF FESTIVAL

Celebrate the start of the World Cup with a day of soccer, community, and fun for all ages!

 **SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026**  
9:00AM - 2:30PM

 **CENTENNIAL ARENA SPORTS PARK**

 **SOCCER, AND FUN FOR ALL AGES.**



**CALLING ALL NOTL SOCCER PLAYERS!**

Visit our website for a detailed festival schedule [notlsoccer.ca](http://notlsoccer.ca) | Instagram [@notlsoccerclub](https://www.instagram.com/notlsoccerclub) for more details.



 **Martin Sheppard Fraser**  
LLP  
*Proudly serving Niagara for over 130 years*

 **ERICA A. BLYTHE (VAN DE LAAR)**  
**LAWYER**

Social media and AI can be overwhelming with so much information and misinformation. When it comes to planning your future, trusted guidance matters. Live in the moment while preparing for tomorrow with a thoughtful and personalized estate plan. Call me, to discuss options designed specifically for you.

**Wills & Estates, Real Estate and Corporate & Commercial**

email: [eblythe@msflawyers.com](mailto:eblythe@msflawyers.com)  
phone: 905-354-1585

Advertising inquiries?  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

## Learn about **Loyalist descendants** at museum

Zahraa Hmood  
The Lake Report

A local historian and descendant of United Empire Loyalists will share the stories of seven settlers who came to Niagara following the American Revolution during an upcoming lecture at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

Janet Hodgkins will speak June 18 about the experiences of Loyalists who fled the newly independent United States after the Revolutionary War and eventually settled in the Niagara region.

The lecture, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will explore the challenges faced by Loyalists after the war, including persecution, imprisonment and violence directed at those who remained loyal to King George III. More than 60,000 Loyalists left the United States following the conflict, settling throughout British North America, including in what is now Niagara.



The museum's June 18 lecture, led by Loyalist descendant Janet Hodgkins, will share the stories of seven settlers who came to Niagara following the American Revolution.

"These were refugees from a civil war," Hodgkins said in a release. "They were multi-ethnic, multi-racial, soldiers, ordinary colonial militia, Indigenous loyalists, free Blacks as well as enslaved Blacks brought here by soldiers and their enslavers. They were everybody."

Hodgkins said the presentation will focus on seven Loyalists, including some of her own ancestors, whose journeys helped shape the

region's early history.

The lecture will also examine the significance of the letters "UE," an honour granted to Loyalists and their descendants.

A graduate of McMaster University and the University of Western Ontario, Hodgkins worked as a children's librarian with the Welland Public Library. She also serves as program chair and a board director with the Colonel John But-

ler (Niagara) Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and has been president of the Wainfleet Historical Society since 2009.

Hodgkins said she hopes the event will encourage attendees to explore their own family histories.

"This is an invitation to explore your own roots," she said. "Who knows? You may have a Loyalist in your family."

 **Ravine Vineyard**  
**Snack Bar**  
ST. DAVIDS ONTARIO

**Niagara's Best Snacks Start Here!**

**Ravine Snack Bar**  
is open Thursday to Monday, 12pm-6pm



Overlooking our vineyard landscape and nestled beside the Retail & Tasting Patio, the Ravine Snack Bar offers a relaxed and flavourful Niagara experience in the heart of scenic St. Davids.  
Scan the QR code to access our menu and learn more about Ravine Vineyard.

It's a place to gather, unwind, and savour the season—where great food, good company, and the beauty of vineyard life come together.

1366 YORK ROAD | ST. DAVIDS, ON | 905.262.8463 | RAVINEVINEYARD.COM

**WIGE**  
MISKOW GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC LTD.  
THE GENERATOR SPECIALISTS

Sales • Service • Installation  
**905 • 994 • 1715**  
[www.miskowgenerators.com](http://www.miskowgenerators.com)

- Full Service Electrical Contractor
- Customer Support 24 • 7 • 365
- Essential Preventative Maintenance Packages
- All work completed by Qualified Electricians, Gas Technicians and Certified Generac Generator Mechanics
- EASY Financing (oac)
- FREE In-Home Quotations





It's not just a generator  
**It's a power move.**



**GENERAC** | **POWERPRO**

# NOTL Book Expo helps local authors shut out of major stores

Andrew Hawlitzky  
The Lake Report

Thirty-nine vendors, most with roots in Niagara, paid for tables at a new annual book expo Sunday to reach readers who will never find their work on a shelf at Indigo or through an Amazon search.

The inaugural Niagara-on-the-Lake Book Expo ran June 7 at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, organized by Vendors Market Canada under Uzo Kanu, who runs pop-up markets across Ontario.

About 75 per cent of vendors had a Niagara connection, said Nadine Lewis-Stewart, who coordinated the event. Children's authors, historical fiction writers, poets and self-published authors filled the free-entry expo, and two vendors have already signed up for next year.

Bradley Ellis, a children's author and former EFL/ESL teacher, said table fees, stock costs and travel



Norm Myshok, left, and author Mark Wilkie dress as War of 1812-era characters at the inaugural Niagara-on-the-Lake Book Expo on June 7. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

expenses consume every sale, and a poor day can leave an author further behind than when they walked in.

"If you don't go, your books stay in your house," said Ellis. "So you have to be ready to accept the fact that every time you walk in, today could be total pig swell. There's no way to know."

Ellis said he cares about more than just sales, and

that getting children to read matters more than which author they read.

"Every child is like a kernel of popcorn," he said. "They all go in the same pot. Each one pops when it's ready."

Mark Wilkie came to the expo with his debut historical fiction novel, "Before the Guns Roar," a five-part series tracing espionage and political tensions along the Niagara corridor from Fort Erie to

Fort George in the years before the War of 1812.

Wilkie said readers in Niagara are the natural audience for a book set in their own backyard, and events like this are the only reliable way to put it in front of them.

"My thing is keeping the history alive," said Wilkie. "A lot of kids don't know really what happened."

Sarah Mitchell, an attendee who purchased two local history books and a

Niagara-based historical novel, said reading about a place she knows changes the experience.

"When you've walked those streets yourself, the book feels different," she said.

Mitchell reads eight to 10 hours a week and believes competition for attention is pushing people toward shorter and shorter content.

"The best way to get people back into reading is to stop treating it like homework," she said. "Let people read what they actually enjoy."

Michael Chen, a software developer from St. Catharines who bought a poetry collection, said he would put a book back on the shelf if he found out it was heavily AI-generated.

"Part of reading is connecting with another person's perspective," he said. "That's the whole point, and something about knowing its AI just can take me out of it."

Hamilton poet Darrell

Epp made the same argument from the author's side, saying books rooted in specific human experience are the one thing corporate culture and AI cannot replicate.

"People here wrote a book for some reason, something they felt passionate about, something they wanted to share," said Epp. "That's like a little pocket of the human experience that AI and the billionaires can't touch."

Lewis-Stewart said a first-year event lives or dies on word of mouth, and for vendors, walking away with at least one good conversation is a success in itself.

"You can go to Coles, but if you're looking for something particular, you're gonna miss some of these folks here," she said.

Lewis-Stewart said she plans to build a referral network from the vendor list, connecting readers with specific requests to matching authors. The expo is planned to return annually.

[andrew@niagaranow.com](mailto:andrew@niagaranow.com)

ENGEL & VÖLKERS®  
NANCY BAILEY



39 Hunter Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
\$1,578,000

## PRIVATE GATED ESTATE

Discover an extraordinary private estate set on a spectacular, tree-lined property with mature gardens and complete privacy. This exceptional bungalow offers 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a home office, and a 4-car garage, all designed for luxurious living and effortless entertaining. The open-concept kitchen, dining, and living spaces are filled with natural light, while the finished lower-level games room provides endless recreation.

Step outside to your own resort-inspired oasis featuring an inground pool, hot tub, beautifully landscaped gardens, and a charming three-season sunroom overlooking the grounds. A rare opportunity to own an entertainer's dream in one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's most prestigious settings.

Learn more at [nancybailey.evrealstate.com](http://nancybailey.evrealstate.com).



NANCY BAILEY, CIPS, SRES®  
ENGEL & VÖLKERS OAKVILLE  
Broker | Private Office Advisor  
226 Lakeshore Road East | Oakville | Ontario | L6J 1H8  
905-371-4234 | [nancy.bailey@evrealstate.com](mailto:nancy.bailey@evrealstate.com)

©2026 Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Each brokerage independently owned and operated. Engel & Völkers and its independent License Partners are Equal Opportunity Employers and fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act.



# CELEBRATE OUR GRADS!

Send us your photos with full names,  
grades and schools and we'll run  
them in our June 25 edition!

Send to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)  
Grads can be kindergarten, Grade 8,  
high school or college/university.



The  
Lake Report

### LAND WANTED TO BUY

**RURAL NOTL/VIRGIL AREA  
1 - 3 ACRES CASH OFFER  
LOOKING TO CONSTRUCT  
A NEW LOG HOME**

Please reply via Canada Post to:  
**Jim Goodfellow  
P.O. Box 334  
Sundridge ON POA 1Z0**



The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting  
the Thorold Legion, Branch 17 on

**June 18, 2026**

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the  
Provincial Service Officer should contact  
Branch 124, NOTL Legion office by June 16th.

905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

**Stewart**  
LAWYERS  
WILLS & ESTATES

PLAN TODAY. PROTECT TOMORROW.

Compassionate, practical legal services for  
wills, powers of attorney, and estate administration.

905.641.2633  
andrew@stewartlpc.ca

1501 Niagara Stone Rd, Unit 7,  
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0  
By appointment.



**Andrew Stewart,**  
Lawyer

## Butterfly release for loved ones is June 20

Staff  
The Lake Report

Community Palliative Care & Wellness Niagara-on-the-lake will hold its annual Memorial Celebration of Life Butterfly Release on Saturday, June 20, at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

The event will honour people who died in 2025, with a gathering for family and friends to remember their loved ones, followed by a brief outdoor service and butterfly release.

Attendees are invited to bring a labelled photo or collage of their loved one to be displayed during a "stroll through memory lane" inside the community centre at 14 Anderson Lane. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be served.

At 1:20 p.m., attendees will be invited outside for the Celebration of Life service, which will include a reading of the names of loved ones who died in 2025. After the service,



Honour a loved one who is no longer here at the NOTL Community Centre on June 20.

the group will release painted lady butterflies.

Butterflies may also be released in memory of loved ones who died in pre-

vious years, though those names will not be included in the order of service.

The cost to reserve a butterfly is \$25 and there are

only about a dozen left.

For more information, visit notlpc.com, call 905-468-4433 or email notlpc@bellnet.ca.



**ST. ANDREW'S ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 20TH, 2026**

323 SIMCOE ST. NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  
9 AM TO 3 PM

**BBQ**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**CHILDREN ACTIVITIES**

**BAKING, MEAT PIES, JAM**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND MUCH MORE!**



CAA niagara | travel

### Discover the world, from bucket-list beaches to once-in-a-lifetime cities

Let CAA Niagara take the stress out of planning your dream vacation and turn it into an exciting, effortless experience. With exclusive Member savings on travel packages and expert help every step of the way, you can enjoy a smooth, seamless experience from start to finish, for less.



Book Your Next Adventure

In-branch | 1-800-263-7272  
caaniagara.ca/travel/find-an-agent

### Travel protected every step of your journey

Protect your dream vacation with travel insurance - we're here to help you choose the proper coverage based on your individual needs. Members also save 10%\* so you can enjoy peace of mind knowing you're covered, every step of the way.

CAA niagara | insurance

Contact Us &  
Get a Quote  
Today



CAA Travel Insurance, an Orion Travel Insurance product, is underwritten by Echelon Insurance. Certain exclusions, limitations and restrictions apply. A Medical Questionnaire may be required if you are 60 years of age and older. Quotes are valid for 30 days.

\*Applies to CAA Members in good standing with dues paid in full by membership expiry date. 10% savings applies to the total premium excluding applicable taxes. Minimum premium applies. Excludes Visitors to Canada Insurance.

# Here's how you can run for council

Paige Seburn  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Frustrated by development battles, worried about traffic or convinced Niagara-on-the-Lake is headed in the wrong direction?

Now is the time to put your name on the ballot.

Nominations are open for NOTL's 2026 municipal election, giving residents a chance to run for lord mayor, council or a local school board seat.

Candidates can file at town hall until Aug. 20 during regular business hours, or on nomination day, Aug. 21, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The next council will help shape the town's future as it faces ongoing debates over housing, heritage preservation and commercial activity on specialty crop land.

As of June 9, Vaughan Goettler and Andrea Kaiser are registered to run for lord mayor, while Weston Miller, Steve McGuinness and



Niagara-on-the-Lake has five registered candidates as of Wednesday evening.

incumbent Coun. Gary Burroughs have filed for council.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor has said she intends to seek re-election but has not yet filed nomination papers. Coun. Erwin Wiens told The Lake Report he has not filed and has not decided whether to run.

Candidates for lord mayor or council must be Cana-

dian citizens, at least 18 years old, eligible to vote in NOTL and either live in the municipality or own or rent property there. Municipal employees must take an unpaid leave if they run.

Nomination papers must be filed in person and include identification, at least 25 endorsements from eligible voters and a filing

fee of \$200 for lord mayor or \$100 for council.

The town is encouraging prospective candidates to make an appointment with the clerk's department.

Election day is Oct. 26, with official results to be released Oct. 27.

More information is available at [notl.com/elections](http://notl.com/elections).  
[paigeseburn@niagaranow.com](mailto:paigeseburn@niagaranow.com)



## HARPER TREE CARE

Pruning  
Planting  
Removals  
Plant Health Care



**Levi Harper**  
**905-324-8609**  
[harpertreecare@outlook.com](mailto:harpertreecare@outlook.com)  
[www.harpertreecare.com](http://www.harpertreecare.com)  
ISA Certified Arborist ON-3141A  
Ontario 444A Certified Arborist

Advertising inquiries?  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

# Father's Day Racing at Fort Erie Race Track

Sunday, June 21 at 12:15 p.m.





full card of live horse racing | children's entertainment | food trucks | farmer's market

# VAUGHN GOETTLER


FOR LORD MAYOR

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF FUNDRAISER

Please join us for the Official Fundraiser in support of Vaughn Goettler for Lord Mayor, Niagara-on-the-Lake

			
<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH</b> 1 - 4 PM	<b>982 LINE 6, WILLOWMERE HAVEN</b> NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE	<b>RAIN DATE IS SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH</b> <i>Visit website for updates</i>	<b>LIVE BAND BBQ BY PIGOUT</b> WINE & BEER




COME MEET VAUGHN GOETTLER

 All donations welcome

Payments & Donations can be e-transferred to:  
[donations@vaughngoettler.ca](mailto:donations@vaughngoettler.ca)

For more information visit:  
[votevaughngoettler.ca](http://votevaughngoettler.ca)

**TRUST. TRANSPARENCY. TOGETHER.**

		
<b>TO RSVP</b> Please email: <a href="mailto:vote@vaughngoettler.ca">vote@vaughngoettler.ca</a> with name, address and phone number		<b>Suggested ticket price \$75</b>



**FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!**  
♥ KIDS ARE FREE ♥



**Publisher:** Richard Harley  
**Editor-In-Chief:** Richard Harley  
**Managing Editor:** Zahraa Hmood  
**Editor Emeritus:** Kevin MacLean  
**Design & Layout:** Richard Harley  
**Advertising:** Megan Vanderlee  
**Contributors:** Dr. William Brown, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Patty Garriock, Maddy Gordon, Steve Hardaker, Andrew Hawlitzky, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Paige Seburn, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar, and many more members of the NOTL community.

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



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 144 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.

**BKind Grateful** #79: Pick up litter every time you go for a walk, even if it's only one piece.

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



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

"To cut with a sharp knife a bright green watermelon on a big scarlet plate of a summer afternoon. Ah, is this not happiness?" - Lin Yutang

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

**Email:**  
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com  
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com  
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com  
**Phone**  
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270  
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646  
**Mailing Address**  
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

## Have a lead on a story?

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

# The anti-establishment man



**THE TURNER REPORT**

Garth Turner  
Columnist

It was probably always a bad idea.  
 "Is this going to hurt me in the long run?" he asks.  
 "Probably. And my family is worried. My mom. They are very worried for me. They told me, you need to figure this out or your future is going to be looking very, very bad."

Family matters to Nicholas Colaneri. It weaves through his conversation. The fact his mom loves Hallmark movies, ironically, led her son into the lion's den. NOTL is a movie set kind of place. He thought he could rescue it.

"I tried everything I could to save the Royal George and make sure policies and rules were followed and upheld," he says. "I am sorry I failed."

Failed, but not finished. Colaneri is the 39-year-old small-time house-builder and son of a winery clan who has lived his entire life in this town and went from being nobody to the David standing before the Shaw's Goliath.

Through his company (and that was a mistake," he admits. "It should have been a community group") he took legal action against the town and the festival to halt the demolition of the historic Queen Street theatre and three other heritage buildings.

Shaw wanted to erect a 53,000-square-foot edifice hulking above the main drag and extending half a block in contravention of every heritage district rule. The Town of NOTL voted



St. Davids house builder Nicholas Colaneri failed in his bid to halt the Shaw's heritage demolitions and massive Royal George rebuild. But he's not done yet. GARTH TURNER

to allow it. Municipal staff accommodated it. Colaneri said no.

He argued the complex was in dire contravention of provincial guidelines and the town's own rules. The challenge, then an appeal of his initial defeat, delayed the project for months. Colaneri lost. The Shaw won. The court said Nicholas' company was not directly involved and lacked standing. So the action was eventually dismissed.

"Tim Jennings (Shaw's CEO) has told donors, media and the community that the court confirmed the town's processes were thorough," says Colaneri. "The court did not make such a finding. It expressly assumed serious justiciable issues existed."

Colaneri claims no preservation costs were ever determined or placed into evidence. He points to the conflict of interest created by the lord mayor sitting on the Shaw's governing board. "As you stated many times," he told me, "the Shaw Foundation holds over \$39 million in endowment while claiming it could not afford preservation. Approximately \$30 million in funding remains unconfined."

But why would he do this? Why divert time and money away from building affordable cottage bungalows to poke the NOTL establishment?

"Queen Street will never be the same," he says. "The change might not be tomorrow, but watch out 15 years

from now, when we won't have heritage any longer. This sets a precedent, so developers like me will be building things to new heights. This will change everything — and we already have big issues, like traffic. We will never be the same. Heritage will be gone."

Colaneri not only lost the court fight but was ordered to pay legal costs the Shaw and the municipality incurred. He says he offered to drop all further action if those costs were removed. He was rejected. And that may have been a mistake on the part of his opponents.

"Do they think that 60 grand is enough to scare me off? For somebody else, it might be. But I don't back down from bullies, even if this hurts me in the long run. I am not so focussed on the future that I'm not going to do the right thing now."

And what can one man do? Maybe get elected? As the lord mayor?

"I don't like politics, but I'm in it now. I'm not a politician. I build houses. But many people have asked me to run, and it would be disrespectful to them not to consider it. To be honest, the system's broken. It needs to be rebroken so it can be rebuilt properly. To be honest, I don't think anybody who likes the way things are would want me in that position."

Nonetheless, Nicholas Colaneri will pass this by his mom. His friends.

"I want my family on board. And the community. The last think I ever want is for people to think this guy just had a political agenda all the time. That's why he did this thing."

"But no. Hard no. I did this because it was the right thing to do. Period."

*Garth Turner is a NOTL resident, journalist, author, wealth manager and former federal MP and minister.*

garth@garth.ca

## We welcome your letters

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

**71 YEARS**  
 FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1955

**Interiors by Better Shade**  
 FURNITURE AND WINDOW COVERINGS

**469 GLENDALE AVE, ST. CATHARINES**

## SUMMER SEAT SALE!

THE MORE SEATS YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU SAVE!

<b>2 SEATS</b> SAVE \$25 OFF EACH SEAT	<b>3-5 SEATS</b> SAVE \$50 OFF EACH SEAT	<b>6+ SEATS</b> SAVE \$100 OFF EACH SEAT
---	---	---





# Chris Allen, the flower guy



Chris Allen watering flowers at the Epicurean on Queen Street. Allen is a regular on Queen Street, taking care of the flowers for several businesses, including the Shaw Cafe, Serendipity, the Irish Harp, Simpson's Pharmacy, and Bosley Real Estate.

DAVE VAN DE LAAR

# Sorry Garth, but money is money

Dear editor: There are opinions and then there are informed opinions. In the case of columnist Garth Turner, there are too many of the former and too few of the latter. Take for example the assertion in his latest column that "Last year, the Shaw lost millions on its operations" ("The Turner Report:

The town that chose to eat itself," June 4). Compare that with the announcement by the Shaw that in 2025 it had an operating surplus of \$172,000 ("Shaw sets record with \$39.5M revenue," March 26). What is factually correct?

In an earlier column, Mr. Turner indicated that the Shaw was dependent on

government grants and on donations by corporations and individuals to produce the end result of an operating surplus and that without those contributions the Shaw had operated at a loss.

Would he make the same argument regarding non-cultural commercial entities that receive hundreds

of millions of dollars in direct government grants or in special indirect tax write-offs to which the auto manufacturers and the oil industry are adept at prying out of pliant governments?

Only in Turnerland is a buck not a buck.

Ron Fritz  
Queenston

# Why destroy what could be preserved?

Dear editor: Regarding the Chapman House on the Niagara River Parkway, people who own or purchase heritage buildings are expected to maintain them for future generations to enjoy. None of these owners, when learning of deficiencies, should consider tearing the building down without first looking at all of the possible solutions to the problems.

Any building important enough to be considered for a heritage designation should be preserved and the owner knew the house was on the heritage registry when he bought it.

If there are problems (although in this case, no specific evidence was provided), solutions can be found by experts knowledgeable in



Letter writer Wayne Murray says people who buy heritage homes should maintain them for future generations. FILE

restorative measures for any deficiencies in the foundations, the envelope or the floor structure.

One of the consultants suggested that the floor structure was unsafe. The

reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) system was studied by the province and Infrastructure Ontario, which simply recommended inspection of the planks every three years,

unless they showed signs of deteriorating, which I don't think was mentioned in the consultant's reports.

If the owner preferred to address the issue now, structural members can be added to provide additional support for the slabs.

Restoration of the house will probably cost a lot less than its demolition and the construction of a new house. I think that the owner should be encouraged to find ways to solve any problems with the house not just to identify them and pretend that they're insurmountable.

All heritage property owners are responsible for finding ways to preserve their buildings, not to find reasons to demolish them.

Wayne Murray  
NOTL



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style  
Category: MOTHER'S MILK

These Asian apes nurse their young for as long as eight or nine years, longer than any other primate.

Last issue category: BEASTLY TELEVISION

Clue: This man's loyal direwolf Grey Wind tragically perishes just like him during the Red Wedding.

Answer: Who is Robb Stark?

Answered first by: Bob Wheatley

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Margie Enns, Becky Creager, Jeff Lake, Jim Dandy, Blake White, Lynda Collet, Emma Balsas, Hedy Wiebe, Katie Reimer, Debbi Irving, Wade Durling, Marla Percy

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)

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

Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at theirishharppub.com

# THIS SATURDAY



ADVANCE TICKETS TILL JUNE 12!  
Price increases from \$25 to \$35 day of the tour! Don't miss our discount!

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION  
Tour of the fabulous McArthur Garden (separate ticket required).



## UPCOMING LECTURES

JUNE 11 Rick Hill Sr. — Behind the Bricks: The Life and Times of the Mohawk Institute, Canada's Longest-Running Residential School

JUNE 18 Janet Hodgkins, UE — Is There A Loyalist In Your Family Tree?

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. At the Museum. \$15 general admission | \$10 for students | Free for members

Visit our website to register!

905-468-3912 | notlmuseum.ca | 43 Castlereagh St. | Open daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

# Amateur hour in NOTL planners' latest decision-making



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

It seems that it is amateur hour in the corridors of Niagara on the Lake's municipal offices. Without indulging in any wild-eyed speculation, how else can one explain some of the actions rolling out of the town's planning department?

Consider the decision by planning staff to accept as "complete" the new application filed by Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. and Two Sisters Resorts Corp. for the development of the Rand Estate property.

Let's leave aside the fact that the application completely ignores many of the recommendations contained within the 2023 report authored by Denise Horne and accepted by this current council in April of that year.

And, we'll shelve the issues that the environmental impact and traffic studies

submitted with the application are based on data that was gathered four or more years ago and can no longer be considered valid.

Indeed, while we are at it, let's toss aside the issues of flawed stormwater management assumptions — adding another 30 per cent to the flows in an area already adversely impacted by flooding — and, the seriously questionable proposed sewer system (which the taxpayers through the town will assume liability and responsibility for) that will, in the event of a malfunction, result in overflow sewage being directed into the One Mile Creek tributary that runs through the adjoining neighbourhood(s).

Moreover, we'll just kick to the curb this current council's (and many NOTL residents) concerns with the proliferation of short term/Airbnb/etc. rentals that divert potential housing opportunities — in a provincial theatre which has proclaimed the lack of housing to be a "crisis" — directly into the hands of real estate investors, which this application certainly does.

And to be clear, in my opinion, this is an application for the development of a resort hotel with 111 rooms augmented by somewhere between 240 and



There is a long list of reasons why the revised Rand plan shouldn't have been deemed complete, says columnist Brian Marshall. But that ship has now sailed. FILE

277 suites that can, should the individual owners elect, be seamlessly booked and rented through the hotel system.

Then we'll forget that this application is not consistent with the provincial policy statement, the region's official plan or the town's official plan.

And, while I could go on, let's concentrate on the fact the current application does not comply with or even, in some cases, completely ignores the decision and specified requirements therein, rendered by the Ontario Land Tribunal last year.

For clarity purposes, provisions and requirements included in a decision rendered by the tribunal

are imbued with the full force of law. In other words, an Ontario Land Tribunal decision creates specific and defined legal parameters that shall and must be conformed to relative to the development of the specific subject property.

For example, the tribunal decision included the requirement for a tree preservation plan to inform any future development overtures — something apparently not undertaken or submitted with this application.

The tribunal specifically required that most of the culturally important Dunnington-Grubb designed landscape be preserved and restored, which the current application skirts around by

suggesting some bits will be preserved and most simply relegated to the trash bin.

The same decision specifically denied the John Street panhandle route as a principal access to the development — again, another legal provision the current application ignores.

The list could continue but I think the situation is abundantly clear.

At the very least, this application should not have been deemed complete until it complied with the provisions of the tribunal's decision.

Instead, it was given the go-ahead.

If council acts with integrity and moves in a fashion consistent with its previous actions relative to the Rand Estate, the planning department's green light will inevitably lead to another costly undertaking before the Ontario Land Tribunal.

You see, a new application creates a completely new file. While this does not void or retroactively change the tribunal's ruling on the original property, an application that is "substantially different" from the prior application means that the entire municipal planning process is restarted from the beginning and the new application will be evaluated on how it conforms to cur-

rent zoning bylaws, official plans and the provincial policy statement.

If the new application is approved by the municipality or granted through a new Ontario Land Tribunal appeal, the new approval simply supersedes the old tribunal decision moving forward. However, until a new, valid approval is granted, the original tribunal decision remains the definitive legal framework for what can be built on the site.

In other words, the new "complete" application provides the developer an opportunity to get rid of those nasty limitations imposed on the Rand Estate development in the tribunal's 2025 decision.

In short, it gives him a chance to get precisely what he wants — within the few short months left in the term of the current sitting council.

But perhaps that is what the current powers that be in our wee town's municipal offices want?

Because the level of incompetence displayed by the planning department, in this case, is almost too overwhelming to be believed.

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

 **Darcy Price CPA**  
Professional Corporation

1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2, Virgil  
**905-468-5300**  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\*Accounting \*Canadian-U.S. Taxation \*Business Services

**Warren**

RENOVATIONS  
905.468.2127  
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**J&S Performance**

SALES & SERVICE  
 **HUSTLER**  
905-468-9735  
901 East/West Line, NOTL



 **LAKE RIVER HOMES**

- Additions
- Renovations
- New Builds
- Finished Basements
- Kitchens/Bathrooms

**SERVING THE NIAGARA REGION**  
Cell: 905-380-4264  
www.lakeriverhomes.ca

**Loewen's Fencing & Decks / Repairs**

- Post hole service
- Dump service
- Concrete pads
- Driveways

Call Peter 289-696-3509

Custom built spaces for **AGING IN PLACE.**

Your Home. Your Comfort. *Your Independence.*

Contact Us to Book an Assessment  
☎ 905-692-5690  
✉ info@diamond-contracting.ca  
🌐 www.diamond-contracting.ca

 **DIAMOND CONTRACTING**

 **amplifon** Hearing Care Experts

Hear conversations, laughter, and life again.

Book a **FREE** hearing test  
**866-474-5701**

amplifon.ca

**RENT MY HUSBAND**  
in Niagara-on-the-Lake

See what he can do for you at:  
[www.rentmyhusband-notl.com](http://www.rentmyhusband-notl.com)  
Or call me, **Marion (905) 321-5776**

 **GRACE UNITED CHURCH**

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO  
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

**Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**  
[www.graceunitedchurch.com](http://www.graceunitedchurch.com)  
Our 203<sup>rd</sup> anniversary | 1823-2026



# Hotel plan for Rand **makes sense** for property

Dear editor:  
There is an interesting feature regarding the future redevelopment plans for the former Rand Estate that needs to be emphasized, which will also help to explain the leverage Benny Marotta has over the Save Our Rand Estate and NIMBY objectors.

Two somewhat carelessly severed subdivisions were carved out of what was a larger assembled Rand parcel, which now leaves Marotta having to manage as part of the hotel proposal. Christopher Street and Weatherstone Court effectively set the precedent for carving up the Rand property.

If you think about it, what Marotta is proposing is actually of benefit to preserving the larger remaining land area as a whole entity, while eliminating the potential future risk of carving out smaller and highly irregular subdivisions.

These two (Christopher and Weatherstone) developments were not thought out well enough to incorporate future planning within these limits of the urban boundary area; these were



Christopher Street and Weatherstone Court were severed from the former Rand Estate in the past. Letter writer Peter Rusin argues the developments set a precedent for carving up the property and should be considered in the ongoing debate over its future.

thoughtless development errors made in the past.

An expansive and more fulsome rationale regarding this issue will be raised at the next Ontario Land Tribunal hearing by me (amongst other technical items) after the expected appeals come in subsequent to the anticipated NOTL staff and council approval recommendations fall in line with some minor development revisions, after taking into consideration all public and technical inputs and some minor site plan tweaks.

The appeal before the tribunal is coming hopefully for the last time before Marotta gets shovels in the ground and finally preserves the future of the remainder of the former Rand Estate.

See the aerial photo and map illustrating the inherently damaging effects of the two subdivision carveouts that will significantly help put the final nail in the coffin of this dispute.

Why are people allowed to occupy the carved-out land areas but not the remainder of the Rand property?

And why is the guy that's running for lord mayor, who spoke as a delegation against Marotta telling staff and council to refuse the Ritz-Carlton application, allowed to occupy waterfront property along the Niagara River that nobody can get access to?

There is a lot of hypocrisy especially in the Old Town district of NOTL that is allowed to flourish in favour of NIMBY attitudes that kind of spoils the mood for others.

*Peter Rusin  
St. Davids*

**FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2026 AUCTION PROGRAM**

Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items For Auction or Possible Purchase

**CONTACT: SWITZER'S AUCTION**  
Toll-Free: 1-800-694-2609  
Or email us: [sales@switzersauction.com](mailto:sales@switzersauction.com)  
VISIT US @ [www.switzersauction.com](http://www.switzersauction.com) for Auction Dates & Details

**CUSTOM DECKS, FENCES, SHEDS, PERGOLAS, GAZEBOS AND HOME RENOVATIONS**

**NIAGARA**  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
**ENTERPRISES**  
EST 2019

289-690-0202  
[niagararce@yahoo.com](mailto:niagararce@yahoo.com)

[www.nrce.ca](https://www.nrce.ca)

**Community Garage SALE**

**Saturday, June 13th**  
**8a.m. - 12p.m. Rain or shine!**  
**The Village, NOTL**  
(across from Jackson Triggs Winery)

**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

**Niagara Peninsula CONSERVATION**  
*nature for all*

**Working together to protect the Four Mile Creek watershed and build a more resilient future.**

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake are planning for the future of the Four Mile Creek watershed — *and we want your input.*

**THE PROJECT WILL:**

- Assess current conditions
- Update floodplain mapping
- Study erosion and water quality
- Assess environmental health
- Consider future growth and climate change
- Identify actions to support a healthy watershed

**Public Information Session / Workshop**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre  
14 Anderson Ln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, LOS 1J0



Visit [getinvolved.npca.ca](http://getinvolved.npca.ca) to learn more.

*Have some fun*



**Across**

- 1. They get in the way (9)
- 6. Long-continued practice (5)
- 10. Macchu Picchu builder (4)
- 11. Resting, like actors (10)
- 12. Canes (8)
- 13. Stretched-out rectangle (6)
- 14. Embellish (5)
- 15. Strong dislike (9)
- 18. Turn on the waterworks (4,5)
- 21. Fleecer (5)
- 24. Showy decoration (6)
- 26. Amount of sugar needed to help with medication (8)
- 27. Diversion (10)
- 28. First name in French fashion (4)
- 29. Worrier's malady (5)
- 30. Advocates of land reform (9)

**Down**

- 2. Communication problem for musicians in narrow streets? (9)
- 3. Rotates around a kind of heater (7)
- 4. Trapped (6)
- 5. 19th century American philosopher (7)
- 7. ---, coulda, woulda (7)
- 8. Eco-conscious (5)
- 9. Raring to go (2,3,2)
- 16. Immensely powerful (9)
- 17. Suffer remorse (4,3)
- 19. Merit (7)
- 20. Hazzarding (7)
- 22. Husband of Eleanor of Aquitaine (5,2)
- 23. Piano (6)
- 25. Standard of perfection (5)

### Crossword Puzzle

1	2		3		4		5		6	7		8	
								9					
10				11									
12								13					
14					15							16	
								17					
18			19				20			21	22		
									23				
24	25							26					
27											28		
29								30					

Last issue's answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
R	E	L	I	E	F	S		S	U	R	V	I	V	E																					
V	O	Y	E	U	R				L	O	N	G	T	E	R	M																			
R	E	V	E	N	U	E	S					R	A	D	I	A	L																		
B	A	N	G	L	A	D	E	S	H						N	A	I	L																	
S	T	Y	E							F	A	I	R	Y	T	A	L	E	S																
S	P	L	I	N	E					G	O	N	E	I	N	T	O																		
A	L	F	R	E	T	O	N											E	N	A	M	E	L												
S	T	R	A	U	S	S												U	S	H	E	R	E	D											

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



GOLFI<sup>®</sup>



#1

RE/MAX TEAM  
IN CANADA\*

# MAXIMIZE EXPOSURE!

Your home, **advertised from Niagara to Toronto** — not just in town.



22 CREEKSIDE DRIVE  
2+2 BED • 3 BATH • 1,591 SQ. FT.  
**\$1,169,900**



16 MILLS LANE  
2+1 BED • 3 BATH • 1,703 SQ. FT.  
**\$1,174,900**



19 OAKLEY DRIVE  
2 BED • 3 BATH • 1,615 SQ. FT.  
**\$1,198,900**



8 FIRELANE 14D ROAD  
2+1 BED • 3 BATH • 1,500 SQ. FT.  
**\$1,249,900**



SCAN FOR A **FREE**  
HOME EVALUATION

Call the brand that gets your home **NOTICED!**

Ask about our **Golfi Home Warranty**. Full protection for one year.<sup>†</sup>

905-641-0308 • Sold@GolfiTeam.com • www.GolfiTeam.com



\*Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2024. †Conditions apply. RE/MAX Escarpment Golfi Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

# Our plan to protect Ontario is fighting for every auto job

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty,  
we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario.  
We're building to protect every job  
in the automotive industry.

That's how we protect Ontario.



[ontario.ca/ProtectOntario](https://ontario.ca/ProtectOntario)  
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



## Obituary

# Peter Bolduc



**BOLDUC, Peter Leslie** — Pete passed Sunday, May 31, 2026, at the age of 83, peacefully, with family at his side.

Peter was a good and kind hearted man.

Doting husband of Vicki, for 60 years, father of Mark, husband Scott, and Daughter

Nicole, husband Joe. Papa to fantastic Grandchildren Ava (Love Bug), Spencer, wife Michaela. Great Papa to delightful great grandchildren (Maven, Emry & newborn Maxton Peter) and a dear brother to Bonnie and Beverley of Maine. Fondly remembered by many family, friends and neighbours. Whether you had just met him or had known him your entire life, everyone who crossed his path spoke of the kind and genuine man he was.

Pete was born in Portland, Maine, served in the U.S. army in Alaska and Nevada nuclear bomb test site, eventually finding himself in Florida, where he found his wife, Vicki.

Pete and Vicki settled down in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where they opened their retail store, the Candle Planter which they operated for many years. They enjoyed spending time between Niagara and Fort Myers Beach, watching the sunsets. Pete had such caring heart for animals — you never knew what critter he was going to bring home to nurse back to health. Also, a seriously talented home cook who foraged the commons for wild mushrooms with one of his many dogs. Right up to the end he was a devoted fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. We will miss him deeply, as will his beloved rescue dog, Sophie. In keeping with Peter's wishes cremation has taken place. Celebration of life to be held in July. Thank you for all the love you gave us.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com).



## Butterflies in the Wilderness

**Top:** Students from Royal Oak Community School gather during the June 9 opening of the first public pathway through the Wilderness. The Niagara Foundation event marked a major step in its effort to preserve, restore and share the historic natural area with the community. The day included a ceremonial butterfly release, remarks on the site's Indigenous past, present and future, a ribbon cutting and a silent art auction called "the Butterfly Effect" to support rehabilitation work on the property. The new path runs from Regent Street to King Street. **Right:** Jaden and Trinity Claus try to coax a painted lady butterfly into flight during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. **DAVE VAN DE LAAR**




# Answer the call.

## Volunteer with Ontario Corps.



Sign up at [ontario.ca/OntarioCorps](http://ontario.ca/OntarioCorps)  
Paid for by the Government of Ontario

# CALL ANGELIKA = **SOLD!**<sup>TM</sup>

CALL OR TEXT (289) 214-4394

## 11 MERITAGE LANE



**NEW**



**\$2,099,000**

STUNNING RENOVATED BUNGALOW OVER 2000 SQFT WITH ENDLESS VIEWS OF VINEYARDS

**SOLD**



7 WINDSOR CIRCLE

SOLD WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!

## 48 CANNERY DRIVE



**PRICE DROP**

**NOW \$747,000!**

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>  
2:00 - 4:00 PM



★ **FREE HOME EVALUATION!** ★  
**CALL OR TEXT ANGELIKA TODAY!**

**TOP RATED AGENT IN  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE!\***

**ANGELIKA ZAMMIT**  
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD



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 REVIEWS FROM RATE-MY-AGENT.COM, A TRIPLE VERIFIED REVIEW PLATFORM  
\*\*TRREB JAN. 1, 2013 TO DEC. 31, 2022, COMBINED UNITS SOLD.

# HOW I **SOLD** MY OWN HOME - IN **3 DAYS!**

*I recently sold my own home at 354 Johnson Street, at the corner of Johnson and Dorchester here in town, and in doing so, I was reminded in a very real way what so many of my wonderful clients go through when they trust me to help them sell their home and move on to their next chapter.*

*This is something I have the incredible privilege of being part of every day in this beautiful town.*

*My only job has always been simple: to sell your home in the least amount of time for the most amount of money.*

*But selling my own home gave me a fresh reminder of the emotional side of what my clients experience.*

*The second-guessing.*

*Did we price it right?  
Are these the best photos?  
Should the video feel more cinematic...or more emotional?  
Does this room need paint?  
Do we replace that...or sell it as-is?  
Should the pool chairs be angled...or perfectly straight?*

*And while those decisions may seem small, when it's your home, they don't feel small at all.*

*Because a home is never just a property.*

*It's where life happened.*

*Where your grandkids ran through the backyard.  
Where birthdays were celebrated.  
Where difficult conversations were had.  
Where dreams were built.  
Where chapters of your life unfolded.*

*Even after helping so many families through this process, I was reminded how vulnerable it can*

*feel to let go of a home that holds so much of your story.*

*And yes, even in one of the most challenging real estate markets in Canadian history, I was grateful to generate a flurry of interest and sell our home above asking in just a few short days.*

*But what stayed with me most wasn't the result.*

*It was the reminder that every time someone calls me to list their home, they are not simply hiring a Realtor.*

*They are trusting me with memories.  
With uncertainty.*

*With hope.  
With a major life transition—and with the property they poured time, love, and resources into.*

*And that trust is something I will never take lightly.*

*If you're thinking about selling in Old Town or anywhere in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I want you to know this:*

*I understand in a fresh way what this journey feels like.*

*And I promise to care deeply about both the strategy and emotion that come with selling a home.*

*After nearly 20 years and more than 1,000 homes sold, I can tell you with certainty: results matter—but so do people.*

*And both deserve someone who truly cares.*

**With gratitude,**

**Greg Sykes**

**GREG SYKES**

SALESPERSON



**RE/MAX NIAGARA**  
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



**354 JOHNSON ST, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE - ASKING \$3,500,000**

**FREE HOME EVALUATION**

CALL OR TEXT **GREG DIRECT**

**905.329.3484**