



Virtual Santa — It takes a village | Page 10

## NOTL care home deaths **rise to five** as positive cases surge

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Five people have died after a COVID outbreak at a Niagara-on-the-Lake nursing home. The large COVID

outbreak at Niagara Long Term Care surged over the past two weeks.

It grew to 90 active cases as of Wednesday, including 68 residents and 22 staff, executive director Chris Poos told The Lake Report.

In addition, four residents and five staff have recovered, Poos said. A week ago there had been 25 cases and one death at the Wellington Street facility.

Niagara public health statistics on Wednesday

showed 95 active cases in NOTL and 238 cases since the pandemic began. However, there also are nine confirmed cases at Pleasant Manor in Virgil and The Lake Report was unable to clarify the discrepancy in

the active case numbers.

Last week at this time, NOTL had 62 active cases and 181 total.

Vaccinations continue to be rolled out to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake's three long-term care homes, de-

spite troubles with the supply chain and outbreaks at the two facilities.

At Upper Canada Lodge, where there have been no positive tests, residents were

*Continued on Page 3*

## Canadians **escape** at NOTL airport



Cassandra Vinckers and her dog Fancy prepare to board a helicopter to Buffalo from the Niagara District Airport. As part of the service, her vehicle is waiting in Buffalo so she can drive down to Florida. RICHARD HARLEY

Julia Sacco  
The Lake Report

Canadian snowbirds wanting to escape to the southern United States have been flocking to Niagara-on-the-Lake to hop on a helicopter for a quick flight

to Buffalo — then hopping in their car and heading to warmer climates.

It's a seamless but not inexpensive option — and it doesn't violate any government COVID rules, says Great Lakes Helicopter general manager Dwayne

Henderson.

Flights cost \$1,200 plus tax for up to three passengers and they'll also transport your vehicle over the border (by car carrier) to meet you. That's another \$700 — or \$1,600 for larger vehicles. From arrival

in NOTL to getting in your car in Buffalo is about four hours, he said.

The same flying rules apply to the chopper flights as scheduled airlines flying from Pearson airport

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Maria Dos Santos, the first long-term care resident in NOTL to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. SUPPLIED

## Upper Canada Lodge resident **first** in NOTL's care homes to get vaccine

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Maria Dos Santos was the first long-term care resident in Niagara-on-the-Lake to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

She received her first dose of the two-part Pfizer vaccine last Thursday, with Dr. Tim Bastedo of the Niagara North health team at her side.

Marg Lambert, Upper Canada Lodge administrator, said as of last Thursday almost all residents had been vaccinated. The home is waiting to hear from Niagara public health to confirm the official date for the second dose of the vaccine.

So far, the facility, operated by the Region of

*Continued on Page 6*

## Friends of Ryerson Park ask for **big changes**

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will look at solutions to problems with excess traffic and parking in Chautauqua.

In the meantime, councillors have asked staff to report back with a tem-

porary solution by April, to help curb traffic during the 2021 season.

The decision was in response to concerns from a resident group called Friends of Ryerson Park. The group was formed in 2020 to tackle the traffic issues it says have been increasing for years and

to preserve the "integrity of the unique Chautauqua neighbourhood."

The group says it has support from 300 Chautauqua residents from 146 households — out of 195 total households in the area, along Lake Ontario in the western end of Old Town.

Chautauqua resident John Scott presented the group's report of concerns to councillors Monday.

Among the long list of issues were that Chautauqua's short, narrow streets are being blocked by an influx in parked cars,

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Stunning sunsets are part of the attraction to Ryerson Park. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY



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# Snowbirds use **helicopter** to escape to the sun

## Flights cost a cool \$1,200, plus \$700 to bring your vehicle

*Continued from Front Page*

to Florida. It's been so busy that some days Great Lakes, based in Cambridge, Ont., has four helicopters ferrying people over the border from Niagara District Airport.

"We've probably done 250 runs and we will probably have between now and the end of February close to 150 so close to 400 (flights have dispatched)," Henderson said in an interview.

"We've had people travel from Nova Scotia, lots from Quebec, Montreal, lots of 613 and 705 area codes," he said.

Henderson said the people using the service are "typically retired snowbirds" in "reasonable good health."

The flights from Niagara District Airport abide by all COVID safety protocols, he said.

The limited contact and being able to pick up your car on the other side are attractive options for customers, he said.

"You don't have any security lineups and you have no customs lineups, the only interaction you have with anybody is the pilot and, of course, that's all masked and the aircraft is cleaned," he said.

In Buffalo, customs officials come out to the helicopter and clear passengers without having to wait in line.

"You're in a private waiting area. We have the entire Niagara District terminal when we're there so you have no other passengers and then when you go over to Tac Air in Buffalo there's virtually no one else there," said Henderson.

Flights usually operate four times daily, Thursday through Monday, beginning at 7:15 a.m.

"You show up at 6:45 in the morning. We take the keys to your vehicle, we do your COVID screening, you go in, sit down, we offer coffee and donuts, you sit there and wait for your helicopter," said Henderson.

"You take off and 20 minutes later you're landing in Buffalo."

Despite criticisms from some quarters, Henderson insists that Great Lakes Helicopters is no different than flying out of any other major airport on a plane during the pandemic.

"There is no loophole, there is not a rule that we're taking an interpretation of. The rule is that you can fly into the U.S. We're flying into the U.S.," said Henderson.



Top: Cassandra Vinckers leaves for Buffalo from the Niagara District Airport. Bottom: Doug and Joan Young head to their helicopter to Buffalo. From there they will drive down to their Florida home. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS



# Fliers feel they can isolate **just as well** in Florida homes

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Doug and Joan Young from Barrie woke up extra early Sunday to head to Niagara-on-the-Lake to catch a cross-border helicopter flight and begin their trek to Florida.

They needn't have worried — there was barely any traffic thanks to the lockdown.

The two own a home in Port Charlotte, Fla., and feel even though Florida is a COVID hotbed, they're

safe in their gated community.

"We'll just stay in our own house, like we're doing here, and at least we can get out and walk and golf," Doug Young said.

"And we figure this situation is probably the best in terms of safety, because all we have to worry about is the helicopter pilot."

The Youngs were on one of two 9:15 a.m. flights, along with their dog Bentley, a miniature poodle.

They said they heard about Great Lakes Helicopter's service to Buffalo from a friend who used it in December. He brought his cat down.

Another couple they know is leaving Jan. 21 and bringing two cats.

"It's the safest way for us to travel," said Joan. "Better than going on a plane and then we don't have our car."

Cassandra Vinckers and her dog Fancy (a lurcher), were on the other 9:15 a.m. flight.

She was headed to Ocala, Fla., where other

snowbirds were waiting for her.

"This is an adventure. It sure beats staying at home," she said. "And it was already organized before this whole stay-at-home thing came into effect."

She emphasized the flights are not violating any laws or pandemic rules. "We're not in direct contravention of anything just yet," she said.

"I feel I can self-isolate in the south as well as up here, maybe better, as there

are more opportunities to get outside and get some exercise with my dog."

Part of the draw of the helicopter flight is being able to bring her large dog.

Doug Young said he and his wife could have taken a plane, but he thinks it's a lot more dangerous.

They said it will be their first time flying since the beginning of the pandemic — and a first-ever helicopter trip for Joan.

They said once they got into their vehicle they planned to drive straight to

Florida, not staying at any hotels.

The only place they'll need to stop is for takeout food along the way.

"We'll probably eat Wendy's or McDonald's all the way so we can just go through the drive-thru," Joan said.

"We're gonna be as safe as we can," Doug added.

"When we're in our own home down there it's like being in our own home here, except we've got nice weather, can sit out, and we're on a golf course."



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# COVID cases rise in care facilities

Continued from Front Page

the first to be vaccinated last Thursday. At Niagara Long Term Care, 33 residents and 18 staff were vaccinated on Saturday, Poos said.

At Pleasant Manor in Virgil, residents of the 41-bed long-term care home were given vaccinations on Wednesday.

Tim Siemens, chief executive of Radiant Care, which operates Pleasant Manor, said as far as he knew no residents declined to get the shot.

He said a vaccination clinic is scheduled Sunday, Jan. 24 for residents in Pleasant Manor's apartments and life-lease units — about 240 seniors.

The vaccine arrives as a COVID-19 outbreak continues at the facility.

Siemens said Tuesday there were nine active cases of COVID-19 at Pleasant Manor, five among long-term care residents and four among staff.

He said the home is not aware of any positive cases among residents or staff in the non-long-term care part of the facility.

Siemens said staff have also started to get vaccinations.

"Our staff are elated that the vaccine has arrived in Niagara and that they can schedule vaccination appointments directly with Niagara Health. The Niagara Health appointment booking portal is very intuitive, which makes booking appointments very quick and easy."

While the outbreak is ongoing, the status of "heightened surveillance" for Pleasant Manor's housing program was lifted by Niagara Region public health on Jan. 16, Siemens said.

Poos said Niagara Long Term Care is working with the Ministry of Long Term Care to secure rapid tests for the home.

"This testing produces results in 15 minutes, which will give us real-time information to assist us in managing this outbreak," he said.

"We remain in regular contact with public health, along with other health sys-



Niagara Long Term Care Residence staffer Jessica Sage gets her first shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. SUPPLIED

tem partners, and continue our ongoing weekly testing for staff and previously negative residents," Poos told The Lake Report.

"We are in regular contact with all residents, families and staff regarding the status of COVID-19 in our home, along with twice-weekly family town halls."

Poos said the facility is being diligent in following infection prevention and control measures, including twice daily screening of residents and staff for any signs of the COVID-19 virus, and regular testing.

Residents are also isolated to their rooms, receiving in-room meal service and are being cared for by staff on contact droplet precautions.

"We have appropriate staffing levels and all staff are wearing full personal protective equipment at all times, which is well stocked in the home," Poos said.

"We are thankful for the ongoing support of our families, staff and the community. A special thank you to our local MPP Wayne Gates for reaching out and offering his support to our home."

Poos said the facility has received a lot of support. "We've got lots of staff returning, we have lots of residents on the mend back to us."

Meanwhile, Niagara Health employees were dealt another blow this week, as supply shortages of the Pfizer vaccine resulted in changes to Niagara's vaccination plan.

Now, all first doses of vaccine are to be given to residents, staff and essential caregivers in long-term care and high-risk retirement homes.

"This is being done to ensure there is sufficient supply to vaccinate these individuals by Feb. 15. As a result, there will be a pause in vaccinating Niagara Health's staff and physicians," Niagara Health said in a media release.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health for Niagara Region, said, "It is frustrating that vaccines to Niagara are being reduced again, when we have only just started vaccinating."

"We are directing what vaccine we still do have to where it will save the most lives: long-term care and retirement home residents."

These changes are the result of a significant reduction in Ontario's supply of vaccine over the next several weeks while Pfizer's European production facility retools to increase capacity, Niagara Health said.

"The provincial government is directing all

regions, including Niagara, to prioritize first doses to residents, healthcare workers and essential caregivers in long-term care and high-risk retirement homes by Feb. 15 to protect those populations with the highest disease burden," the hospital group's statement said.

Lynn Guerriero, president and interim CEO of Niagara Health, also expressed frustration at the shortage.

"The interruption in supply is deeply disappointing and impacts on our plans to continue vaccinating Niagara Health staff and physicians who are on the front line against COVID-19."

Guerriero said she supports the province giving priority to "those most at risk in our long-term care and high-risk retirement homes. As soon as we have available supply, we will quickly ramp up our efforts to vaccinate as many staff and physicians as possible."

Long-term care residents who have already received a first dose of the vaccine are expected to receive a second dose within 21 to 27 days from the first, the government guidelines say. Health care workers who got their first shot must receive the second within 42 days.

So far, there is no plan for Niagara to receive the Moderna vaccine, the hospital statement said.

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## Editorial: **Kudos** during trying times

Ricahrd Harley  
Editor

It's ages past Christmas, but it's not too late to appreciate the efforts of local Santa wannabe and Lake Reporter **Tim Taylor** to raise funds for **NOTL Palliative Care**. During the pandemic, Taylor went to extreme lengths, partnering with Niagara College's broadcasting program to bring his virtual Santa to the people and kids of NOTL.

Kudos, Tim. Your passion for this town and helping others is unwavering.

In the spirit of thanks, we'd like to recognize some other community heroes for outstanding contributions to our town.

So ... Kudos to the Three Musketeers – **Ryan Crawford, David Watt and Paul Harber** – for another great community project to raise money for the NOTL Museum. History and heritage is an important part of our town, and raising money for our museum is a worthy cause. Our museum does an incredible job of keeping history very much a piece of our present.

Kudos to New Democrat MPP **Wayne Gates** for his vocal criticisms of our vaccine rollout.

Niagara has gotten the short stick, it appears. And having people fighting for our region is crucial for us moving forward to ensure residents that need the vaccine the most are at the front of the line and that supplies are stable.

And kudos again to our **long-term care homes** as they struggle to deal with COVID outbreaks and ensuring staff and residents receive the Pfizer vaccine quickly. As well, their

openness surrounding stark details about the COVID-19 outbreaks is refreshing in an era in which many public institutions are less than forthcoming with releasing information.

Vaccines being administered in NOTL is history in the making, and with media access limited, it's sincerely appreciated that our long-term care homes provided photos of these historic vaccinations to our local media.

We wish you the best during these trying times.

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



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## Rifle range **perfect solution** to Chautauqua traffic problems

Dear editor:  
In reference to Ryder Payne's letter, "Old rifle range is a better solution to Ryerson Park traffic woes than Niagara Shores," (Dec. 17), I think that is a fantastic idea.

The old rifle range should be a park. It wouldn't bother anyone and it should never become a housing development.

I'm sure there are many developers who are keeping an eye on it for just that purpose, thus permanently removing it as a solution to the growing shortage of green space here.

Green space in NOTL is being overrun by out-of-town visitors. All summer and fall the parks are overflowing with families.

Presumably, we want to keep the visitors but also keep the town habitable for residents.

The old rifle range is the perfect solution. We need more parks and more space in general if we want to preserve the town's character and keep it a pleasant place to live.

Opening up the rifle

range, which was mothballed years ago by the federal government, would definitely solve the Ryerson Park/Shakespeare Avenue thoroughfare problem because it would pull people to a better place, making the Chautauqua area a better place for its residents.

**Jackie Bonic**  
NOTL

## Make sure those **most at risk** get vaccine first

Dear editor:  
I am writing regarding your front-page story "NOTLer gets COVID vaccine," Jan. 14.

I think drugstores should have local waitlists categorized by risk.

Whereas I'm very happy for the young woman (who was helping care for her mother in a Hamilton nurs-

ing home) having received the COVID vaccine, it would have been more appropriate to write about a front-line worker receiving one of those precious first vaccine doses since they provide vital care to many patients at once.

In this particular case the essential care was already being provided to the pa-

tient by medical staff in that facility.

Once the front-line workers in each care facility are vaccinated, doses must be extended to the next-in-line high-risk population. This can be achieved by calling any drugstore as by this time surely they have compiled local waitlists categorized by risk. And if

not, why not?

Among us there are vulnerable friends and family of generous age with severe health conditions who most definitely should have been offered the vaccine and I would have happily taken them to the facility to get that dose.

**Valeria Sebella**  
NOTL



## Correction: Gaios on 'Family Feud' at **7:30** on Jan. 25

Last week's story about the Gaios family's appearance on "Family Feud Canada" said the show is airing at 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 25.

In fact, the episode airs at 7:30 p.m. on CBC and CBC Gem.

The Lake Report apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the error.

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# OPINION

## Ford had 10 months to plan vaccine rollout



Wayne Gates  
Special to The Lake Report

Anyone following COVID-19 knows this virus is particularly vicious for those in the senior age bracket. This is why we've taken measures to try to prevent community spread through the younger generations.

The ability of this virus to spread in those without symptoms makes it particularly nefarious. This means kids who get the virus at school may not even feel sick before seeing their grandparents and transmitting it to them with potentially deadly effect. Given

this, we see no valid argument against vaccinating areas with high concentrations of seniors as a priority.

Here in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, one in four residents is over the age of 65. In the Niagara region, we have the third-highest population of seniors in the country. We are an at-risk community if COVID-19 spirals out of control here.

As we work night and day to stop outbreaks at NOTL care homes, this danger is real. The good news is this can and will be stopped when we can vaccinate our seniors. There should be no delay in achieving this.

This is why the news that shipments of the life-saving Moderna vaccine were diverted away from Niagara is perplexing at best and downright deadly at worst.

Premier Doug Ford has had 10 months to prepare for this vaccination campaign. Ontario should have

developed a system to immediately move vaccines into communities at risk.

Instead, we hear stories of vaccinations being halted over the holidays, much to the dismay of anyone whose livelihood depends on the end of this pandemic. Simply put, there can be no excuse for these delays and mishaps and every day lost is a day more lives are at risk.

As the opposition, we dutifully fulfilled our role and raised this issue as many times as we could, offering solutions we thought were feasible. The fact that none of these underserved ridings are of one party tells us that this is not a co-ordinated effort but generally a failure to have a plan ready for when the vaccine came.

This disbelief is not just shared by members of the opposition. Even our local physicians and surgeons have taken the time to raise

their voices and demand Niagara gets its fair share of vaccines in a timely manner.

We believe front-line, essential workers should get the vaccine first and that hot spot areas should be given the resources and assistance they desperately need.

However, after having 10 months to prepare for this vaccination campaign every senior in our community should know when they can expect to be inoculated.

Furthermore, our doctors must be heard and we must have our fair share of the vaccines. Any other answer to these problems is an abdication of leadership in these crucial times and leaves people without answers.

The legislature must be recalled and this vaccine rollout must be immediately addressed. Our seniors and our town deserve to know when this pandemic will end for them.

## Restaurants can't be expected to hold seats for locals

I would like to add my comments to the letter from Bernd Christmas, "Restaurants should give NOTLers priority," (The Lake Report, Jan. 14).

My husband and I were both born at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Cottage Hospital some 75 years ago.

We would never think that restaurants should give exception to us when wish-

ing to dine.

If we wish to dine out and call for a reservation and are declined because the restaurant is already booked up, we would realize that next time we should call earlier.

What right do we have to expect a booming business to leave tables open for the likes of us or, heaven forbid, to give us a table while cancelling a reservation already

made by an "outsider," just to keep us happy?

Restaurant owners are not mind readers and do not know when it might strike us to go out to their establishment.

We are proud when they are busy and now these days and months that they cannot operate as usual we are more than happy to call in for curbside pickup or to dine in

when we are again allowed.

I trust your comment came about from frustration and that you have now reconsidered. I trust my comment made here today is agreed to by the majority of NOTLers, as I feel it is extremely important to keep all of our local businesses thriving.

*Susan Pohorly  
NOTL*

## More ways NOTL retailers can treat locals better

Dear editor:

I wish to add to the comments of Bernd Christmas in his Jan. 14 letter, "Restaurants should give NOTLers priority," with respect to his local restaurant views and experience.

Many local merchants from my own family experience fail to recognize you as a regular, address you by name or thank you for your business even after years of being a regular daily or weekly customer.

Another issue, often expressed in coffee shop conversations, is residents having to pay tourist prices in Old Town's Heritage District.

For example, a dessert pastry item on Queen Street cost-

ing almost \$3 can be purchased in both St. Catharines and Stamford in Niagara Falls for \$1. Another item, cocktail napkins, on Queen Street cost \$7.99 but just \$4.95 in Virgil. Neither of these comparisons reflect sale or clearance pricing. A surprise to some and a little known fact - at least one business exchanges U.S. dollars at par.

I have in the past, to encourage local shopping, suggested all businesses offer a discount if a resident can show a local driver's licence or other identification. Local discounts have selectively been offered in the past with an approximately \$40 promotional card, but this practice should be eliminated.

Additionally, one-hour paid parking stickers should be free to senior citizens. The one-hour parking is also insufficient to support local businesses and should be extended to two hours. This would let locals park, shop or enjoy a quick lunch without incurring additional parking costs.

In concert with these proposed changes I submit that several dedicated parking spots be assigned for locals behind the Old Courthouse. (I no longer purchase a parking sticker as I found the parking spaces taken by visiting tourists.)

None of the above proposals have been adopted to

encourage more local shopping. To quote Mr. Christmas, locals only become important when all the tourists are gone.

Despite my comments with respect to our town's shortcomings, I am fortunate and will continue to support our local businesses. The other option is unthinkable.

However, I also would like to give a big shoutout to John Wiens, owner of the NOTL Golf Club. His friendly and always courteous staff and golf members for many years have provided enjoyable and affordable services to our community.

*Samuel Young  
NOTL*



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# Staying **active** during lockdown



William and Veda Swan, 7 and 5, spend time outdoors at the Rye Street Park playground on Friday. RICHARD HARLEY

## Upper Canada Lodge residents **get vaccines**

*Continued from Front Page*

Niagara, is the only NOTL long-term care home that has not had an outbreak of COVID-19, according to public health officials.

“The team worked hard to get everything in place right away to ensure the home was prepared to run the vaccine clinic,” Lambert said in response to questions from The Lake Report.

“The experience unfolded smoothly, including receiving all of the required consents and health examinations from doctors to confirm if it was safe for the resident to receive the vaccination.”

She said the process only took about two hours.

“Public health staff were on-site to assist with preparing the vaccine for the residents and completing the necessary paperwork. The resident vaccination clinic was organized by Denise Murphy, our director of care who invited Dr. Tim Bastedo, medical director to participate along with our registered staff of the home,” she said.

“Following the vaccinations, our nursing staff were completing follow-up checks on every resident throughout the day and of



Upper Canada Lodge on Wellington Street. RICHARD HARLEY

course documentation in the residents’ charts.”

When asked if any residents opted out of the vaccine, she said for privacy reasons she couldn’t give specifics, but that 96 per cent of Upper Canada residents were vaccinated.

As for staff vaccinations, she said the home is working on booking appointments for staff to get their vaccination at the St. Catharines hospital site, with about 80 per cent of staff booked already.

“We are encouraged by how the process has gone so far. It has provided a feeling of optimism for everyone

living and working at Upper Canada Lodge,” Lambert said.

“It was very exciting when the vaccine arrived at the home with all the staff cheering as it made its way into the home.”

She said residents were also excited to get their vaccination as it gives them hope that in the future things may be able to get back to normal and they can once again visit with and hug their family members.

“The vaccine is one extra step to protect our residents and staff from having serious outcomes if they get COVID-19 and, of course,

we will have to do the second dose and wait another two weeks before we are at maximum protection,” Lambert said.

For now, the Wellington Street facility will continue to maintain all of its infection prevention and control practices and testing.

“It is extremely important that everyone continues to wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, keep your social contacts just to your household and stay home if you are not well. This is another step in the right direction as we cannot let our guard down now,” she said.



Legion members sell poppies in November. FILE PHOTO

## Legion receives **\$10,800** in COVID relief funding

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 in Niagara-on-the-Lake has received \$10,800 in federal COVID relief funds.

The money was part of \$20 million set aside to help legions across the country through the Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund.

Rhys Beak, chair of grants and bursaries for the NOTL legion, said the money is earmarked for operational costs and the legion will be using it to upgrade its air filters and purchase UV lights to help kill viruses and bacteria.

“These specifically will attack and remove viruses, similar to the COVID virus and that sort of thing. So it’s something long-term that will keep the air in the legion fresh and protect the health of our members, veterans and guests.”

He said the legion will purchase the equipment from Britain Mechanical Group on Read Road.

He expects the equipment to be installed sometime in the first quarter of this year. The legion submitted the application for funding in November 2020.

It’s an investment the legion wanted to make because COVID-19 will likely be around “for some time,” he said.

“Everyone’s looking to improve their health and this is just part of that.”

He said it takes about \$2,500 per month to keep the legion operating.

Beak notes legions

normally do not receive any federal funding but are self-sustained by fundraising efforts.

“We basically raise our own money and donate it and spend it as we will, under certain conditions, of course,” he said.

“We normally raise more than enough through our activities, especially as you know, the fish fry, to not only cover all our costs but allow us to generate extra money which we distribute in donations throughout the area, to veterans and groups like the air cadets and that sort of thing.”

Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli said it’s important to help support the legion.

“COVID-19 has hit many of our community-based and not-for-profit organizations hard, including its impact on the work and efforts being performed by our five Royal Canadian Legion branches located in the riding. Since the spring, my Conservative colleagues and I have been advocating for support to our legions, so I was pleased to see funding finally flow to branches, such as General Nelles Branch 124, as part of the assistance provided to Dominion Command.”

The legion executive committee said it would like to thank all those who have supported its popular Thursday fish fry, which has been its main source of income throughout the pandemic.

The fish fry is cancelled until at least spring.

When it resumes, notices will be posted in The Lake Report.



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# Icewine festivities **cancelled**, but celebration of drink lives on

Staff  
The Lake Report

With COVID and provincial stay-at-home orders, welcoming visitors to NOTL this month for the annual Icewine Festival has been derailed.

But the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an association of wine producers in the area, still wants people to pay homage to “this rare and exquisite gift from Mother Nature.”

There is now a virtual Icewine Trail, with participating wineries offering wine packages for direct delivery

and virtual experiences that can be enjoyed at home, said Brianne Hawley, marketing manager for the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

At [www.icewinetrail.com](http://www.icewinetrail.com), wineries are featuring deals on their icewines and some include culinary treats, like dark chocolate, artisanal popcorn and icewine truffles.

And while there is no Icewine Village on Queen Street this year, wineries are hosting virtual tastings instead.

“Our member wineries are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of

the community so there was no question that we would need to be prepared for a virtual celebration of our iconic icewines in the new year,” chair Andrea Kaiser said in a news release.

“While the last nine months have been trying for all small businesses, the support across the country to buy local has been inspiring to all of us and we continue to be open to sell all of our wines, including icewine, as an essential service and will still be offering online sales with delivery as well as curbside pickup.”



A glass of icewine on an ice table during last year's Icewine Village Festival. FILE PHOTO

## OUR ANNUAL ICEWINE CELEBRATION

While a visit to historic Niagara-on-the-Lake this January for our annual Icewine Celebration will not be possible, we still plan to pay homage this January to this rare and exquisite gift from Mother Nature. Icewine propelled Canada onto the world's wine stage nearly three decades ago and has become inextricably tied to our winemaking heritage as it continues to garner global acclaim.

All month long the **Icewine Trail** will be 'open' with participating Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries offering exceptional Icewine themed wine packages for direct delivery and virtual experiences that can be enjoyed at home.

### ICEWINE PACKAGES

In the month of January enjoy savings on classic Icewine delivered directly to your door as well as exceptional wines paired with Icewine culinary delights or recipes.

### VIRTUAL ICEWINE EXPERIENCES

While we will not be hosting the Icewine Village in Niagara-on-the-Lake in person this year, we will be hosting virtual tastings instead. Some Virtual Icewine Experiences are complementary with the purchase of some of our Icewine packages.

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Robert King at his Niagara Parkway home. RICHARD HARLEY

## NOTLer questions why police **shot** fleeing suspect

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Robert King has questions about why police needed to shoot to kill during an incident that left 27-year-old Martin Gordyn dead on Jan. 5. Niagara Regional Police shot Gordyn in Niagara-on-the-Lake after a car chase that started in Niagara Falls.

King, who lives on the Niagara Parkway near where the shooting occurred and saw the police chase go by his house, said it's been bugging him and

thinks from the information currently available that police went too far in shooting the man.

Police did not say the man was carrying a weapon, King notes. "And I'm thinking, do we shoot people today for speeding or what's going on? Has this guy killed somebody or something? They didn't mention anything about weapons," he said.

"Had he had a gun, that would have been mentioned right up front. They want to cover their ass right away."

Despite the incident

being investigated by the Special Investigations Unit (the province's police watchdog) he said he feels if residents like him don't come out and question the incident, it will be "swept under the rug."

Shooting the suspect, he thinks, was unnecessary if he wasn't armed.

"They went way overboard. First of all, chasing him with about six cop cars," he said. "They've got to be held accountable. I mean to kill somebody is a pretty big deal."

He said with events like the killing of George Floyd

in the U.S., it brings up a lot of questions for him about the use of police force in today's society.

Killing an unarmed man is equally outrageous, he thinks.

"(It) kind of bothered me that these things go on in Ontario."

He was critical of regional police forces in particular.

"We complain about the American police and what goes on in the United States and I know it's terrible in itself, but I think our (regional police) system is even more corrupt."

## Grace United wants its **parking spaces** back

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Grace United Church doesn't want to wait another decade to get what it says are its own parking spaces back, and be able to put up signs to make that known to the public.

David Gilchrist, trustee for the church, outlined to NOTL councillors the headaches church staff and members face.

He said three parking spots located directly in front of the church on Victoria Street have been hijacked by tourists and non-church members, creating a problem for members and staff to find parking, hindering fundraisers and generally making life difficult. (A fourth space has a sign saying it is reserved for the pastor.)

There are no parking spaces behind the church.

Gilchrist said the church has been complaining for years and that 10 years ago town staff promised the church it would look into it and come back with a solution.

"Well, we're 10 years older now," Gilchrist told council last month in requesting the town to allocate the spaces to Grace United and to allow the church to put up signage to mark the spaces.

Church member Mary Snider dug up two documents from 1960 that support the church's claim to the parking spots, Gilchrist said. One is a June letter



David Gilchrist. FILE PHOTO

from the town in response to the church's request to build a retaining wall in front of the church. It said the matter was forwarded to a committee. Another is a July receipt that shows the church paid \$100 for a cement curb. "Our congregation is asking council to designate these things, as was originally intended, for the use of our church community, and allow us to sign them as such. These parking spaces should be removed as being considered any part of the public parking in the old town," he told council.

Council asked for a staff report on the parking spaces by February.

In an interview with The Lake Report on Jan. 3, Gilchrist said the church is still hoping the town will designate the spaces for the church.

"That indentation was created to allow us some spaces at the front of the church, which for decades worked well," he said.

"But with the changes that have gone on the town since then and the increasing number of — I'm putting it down to little businesses and restaurants

and condominiums that are popping up.

Over the years, as restaurants and businesses grew in Old Town, along with condominiums and apartments, the church spaces are often occupied.

"There's not enough parking for those restaurant employees and the condominiums and the apartment buildings overtop of the Shaw Cafe. And now we have these people that are coming to work and using those spots on a regular basis — all day — because there's no signage whatsoever."

The church didn't wait for town approval and put sign posts in before the snow fell in 2020.

"That kind of got us in trouble. The town staff wasn't too pleased," Gilchrist said, so the "reserved" signs are covered with white bags now.

"But we wanted to get them in the ground before the snow fell."

He said the church hired PVS Contractors to mark the lines for the posts.

"And then we even had the town survey come as well. So we had an area that we could put these posts

before it snowed and before the ground froze. We had rented the equipment to do it and we went ahead and put the posts in, and then attached the signs to them."

"The town has changed, of course, but some of our members are really getting frustrated at the fact that they can't attend meetings and normal church functions. And it just becomes a real hardship to do anything at the church now because of that parking problem."

Gilchrist said there have even been problems at funerals.

"At Allan Derbyshire's funeral, someone pulled into the first space as the funeral director was setting up," Gilchrist said. He was asked to move his vehicle and refused. The funeral director had to follow him to the store where he worked and call a bylaw officer to have him move the vehicle, he said.

"That's an example of what we have to deal with," he said.

"For the last few years for our Festival Market on Labour Day weekend, I've had to park my car and sit in it overnight to ensure parking cones remain in place," he said. "Other mornings, I have to run over early to set them up and stay there so that the spaces are available when needed in the morning."

It bothers him that it is "often young people that simply are too lazy to walk a block to work if they can avoid it."



Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst. SUPPLIED

## Friends of Fort George launching fourth **online book club**

Amanda Gamble  
Special to The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George are excited to announce our fourth online book club, which starts the week of Jan. 25.

After the success of our first three book clubs, where over 50 people participated online and through email, we are excited to host another book club for the months of February and March.

Join our Facebook group called Friends of Fort George — Book Club (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/522354385139308/>) where we will be spending time learning about Niagara's early history.

If you are not on Facebook, but would like to join the discussion, we will also be hosting a book club through email.

The fourth book we will be looking at is "Hoping for

the Best, Preparing for the Worst: Everyday Life in Upper Canada, 1812-1814," by historian Dorothy Duncan.

If you would like to join us, we have copies of the book available through our online gift shop and offer free front porch delivery to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We will be posting questions, quotes and pictures each week to this group, you can join us for some historical fun from the comfort of your home.

We can also offer mail orders for other books and items in the store. Visit our online store at <https://friendsoffortgeorge.square.site> or email us at [giftshop@friendsoffortgeorge.ca](mailto:giftshop@friendsoffortgeorge.ca) for more info.

You can follow our main pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for daily historical updates.

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

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# Lake Report SHOP LOCAL

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COVID-19 has taken its toll on Niagara-on-the-Lake, and The Lake Report wants to help businesses during these times. We're offering FREE short stories to help remind residents about local businesses. If you would like to be included, simply send us 150 words about your business and a photo to go with the story. We know everyone is suffering and this is just our small part to give back to the community that supports us. Send stories to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

## OLiV Tasting Room

Submitted  
The Lake Report

OLiV Tasting Room, at 122 Queen St., has been a successful local NOTL business since the spring of 2013. Offering premium extra virgin olive oil and true balsamic vinegar, OLiV has provided local residents and visitors to NOTL with a "wow" tasting, connecting the home cook with exceptional flavour pairings and recipe ideas. OLiV flavours are all natural, batch-blended each time and bottled in the Niagara region, making these local, Canadian-made products.

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our



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new online local shopping experience at [www.olivniagara.com](http://www.olivniagara.com). This new online store will provide our regular customers with all of our available products with free shipping or curbside pick-up Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m. Or customers can call to arrange by appointment for a time of their convenience. We of-

fer free local pick-up for purchases over \$30 during this time of pandemic stay-at-home-order.

Please keep healthy and staying safe during this unusual time in our history. We look forward to being able to serve you in person this spring when we will be moving next doing into the old Starbucks location.

## Two Sisters Vineyards

Submitted  
The Lake Report

Established more than a decade ago and awarded "Best Small Winery in Canada" by the National Wine Awards, Two Sisters Vineyards offers guests an evolved, premium wine and food experience in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Owned and operated by sisters Angela Marotta and Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli, the winery reflects their passion to bring people together over pristine Bordeaux-style wines, Italian food and culture.

Though the estate is temporarily closed, you can continue to enjoy the



The estate. SUPPLIED

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## Treadwell

Submitted  
The Lake Report

Since opening our doors in May 2006, our family-owned restaurant has always been driven by the "farm-to-table" concept – emphasizing the best artisan producers from the Niagara region and surrounding areas.

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The grocery store allows us to sell the highest-quality fish, meat, breads and wines that guests have always enjoyed at Treadwell. For more information, please visit our website at [www.treadwellcuisine.com](http://www.treadwellcuisine.com) or call 905-934-9797.

## RiverBrink Art Museum

Submitted  
The Lake Report

Beginning Jan. 21, the RiverBrink Art Museum is offering an online course devoted to the work of Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

Over the course of five weeks, lectures will focus on key works by the highly prolific Baroque painter and delve into the artist's techniques and materials. Director/curator Debra Antonic will alternate weeks with Sandra Lawrence, retired paintings conservator, to provide participants with insights into the artist's life and working practice.

The course is designed for all art lovers who are miss-



RiverBrink. FILE PHOTO

ing the opportunity to travel and experience the work of this great master first-hand. Join us to learn more about the stories, symbolism, and iconography behind some of Rubens' most important works, and to better under-

stand the artist's originality and innovation. The cost is \$60 for RiverBrink members, \$75 for non-members. See the website [www.riverbrink.org](http://www.riverbrink.org) for more information. To register contact [manager@riverbrink.org](mailto:manager@riverbrink.org).

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# It takes a village to create a **Virtual Santa**

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

This story is a very personal tale. It is also the story of how a small group of talented local people worked together to save a little piece of Christmas and support a wonderful local service organization, the NOTL Palliative Care Service.

It was really the pandemic that gave momentum to the need for a Santa who could visit families without going into their homes.

Without the pandemic, I would have continued my normal December practice of donning a classic red suit and visiting local homes and gatherings as good old St. Nick, in return for a volunteer contribution to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service.

For me, it was magic. And for many of the young children I visited, it was magic, too. Far more intimate than going to the mall.

But the pandemic was disquieting to some would-be hosts, many of whom had invited Santa into their homes or businesses for many Christmases past.

Throughout the fall, as the second wave took hold, I fretted over how to save the Santa visit tradition, one so important to a growing list of young families and, frankly to my own sense of Christmas. Not to mention the donations raised in support of palliative care.

I've been portraying Santa Claus for over a decade, first in Toronto, where my work colleagues couldn't resist engaging me, in a red suit rented at Malabar's Costumes, as the annual Christmas party bon vivant.

For the last five years I've spread as much cheer as possible, spending my December, here in Niagara, raising voluntary donations to palliative care.

I happen to have two useful prerequisites for the role — I sport a full, white beard and a big round belly. My father always told me: "Use the skills and attributes you have."

A quick review of YouTube showed the notion of virtual Santa visits was gaining acceptance. But as a self-acknowledged technology luddite, I did not really know how to begin.

My first and probably smartest notion was to follow in the footsteps of Music Niagara, which had developed a pandemic partnership with the faculty and students in the Niagara College broadcast program, creating postable videos of the festival's socially distanced concerts.

The collaboration helped Music Niagara transition to a comprehensive season of online programming and staved off many of the harms of the pandemic.

My only current connection to Niagara College was a friend, John Scott, a former chair of the college's board of directors, and an active and engaged resident of the old town.

"Through my six years associated with the college," says Scott, "I really became familiar with the capabilities of the broadcast program. It didn't take long to get overwhelmed by what the faculty and students could do."

More importantly, says Scott, the college is always search-



It was a cool and windy night in early December when members of the Niagara College film crew found Santa wandering a lonely Queen Street. The crew created three short videos to promote the availability of online Santa visits during the pandemic. SUPPLIED/TIM TAYLOR

ing for ways to work with the community. "If there is something that makes good sense in working with a local business or community group, I'll tell you, they are all ears."

Scott knew exactly what I needed, rather who I needed, at the college, as soon as I asked for help.

He knew Peter "Dutch" VandenBerg, a program coordinator and teacher in the broadcasting program — radio, television, film of the college's School of Media — would help me wade into the confusing online world.

VandenBerg has been coaching/teaching students at the college for 11 years. A former Niagara College broadcast student himself, coming back to the school after some years in the private sector was an easy transition. His mother had also been on the faculty in continuing education.

Scott describes VandenBerg as having a quiet enthusiasm and a self-deprecating humour, a description demonstrated when I asked him to explain what he does at the school: "I get paid to watch TV for a living."

More seriously, he describes his role as a locksmith. "My job in life is to unlock the potential of the students I teach, the full value they can bring to the industry I love."

VandenBerg and his co-producer on many projects like these, Carly Root, a special events adviser in the office of the president, hatched a plan to create one or more promotional videos that would be posted on the internet to attract families to the new "Virtual Santa."

As co-producers, the two encouraged a number of senior broadcast students to submit ideas on how to make Virtual

Santa come to life in film. After receiving a number of proposals, they chose a producer and director and six additional students to make it happen.

Root, a 14-year veteran of Niagara College, is a project manager, a kind of jack-of-all-trades. Her official title is coordinator of the office of the president.

In practice, when special events such as COVID-inspired online convocations or VIP visits come along, Root is the one often called on to make sure the events come off without a hitch.

"I love projects like Virtual Santa," Root says. "Without the projects the community brings to us, we would be limited to the scope of the internal projects. We would lose important networking opportunities."

Fast-forward 10 days or so. The student crew had conceived, written, filmed and edited three separate short videos celebrating the arrival of a local Virtual Santa: one to demonstrate how a Virtual Santa visit would work, one to showcase our beautiful pre-Christmas town and one to highlight the valuable work of the local palliative care organization.

Three distinct stories packed into less than four minutes and 30 seconds.

To describe me, as the focal point of these videos, as a fish out of water, would be a massive understatement.

It was only thanks to the efforts of student producer Sabrina Croteau and her crew that the videos captured the essence, even the joy, of what Virtual Santa could bring. I just did what I was told, but it often took a few takes.

Croteau is just finishing her third and final year of studies.

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Santa greets NOTLers from the set in Tim Taylor's living room. SUPPLIED/TIM TAYLOR

She's been involved in a number of internal and externally inspired projects in her time at the college. "I found this one interesting because it gave us a lot of creative freedom," says Croteau. "Little direction up front. Dutch asked us for ideas – storyboards – showing how we would do it, what the video would look like. I chose the crew from the volunteers."

Croteau was also chosen to work on the collaborative Music Niagara concerts this past summer. She's gone on, through the fall, to work with the non-profit in editing and social media marketing.

But she's unsure of what she will do post-graduation in just a few months. "I love production, being there from start to finish. I would also like to be in audio for the Leafs or Raptors games. But it doesn't look very easy to get started right now."

VandenBerg is obviously proud of his students and the program.

"This was a great win. The kids didn't know what to expect, but that was part of the magic: In the middle of the pandemic to find a sense of holiday spirit. It's stuff you can't teach in a class."

Root turns the praise around. "The passion that you saw in the students comes from the leadership that Dutch offers. They wouldn't be nearly as engaged as they are without Dutch's leadership. It's contagious. He just oozes pride for his students."

With the promotional videos in hand and posted online, Virtual Santa needed help to create the look and feel — the "set" — for the online visits and to learn a lot about how to engage and manage a Zoom communication.

Enter a gaggle of local friends and family, much smarter than I am in the world of set design, lighting, computers and such. My first call was to Adrian Goldberg, a local for the past

20 years or so, and somewhat of a guru in the international world of lighting for broadcast. He is, or has been, a lighting consultant for over 400 projects on five continents. He is currently consulting with the federal government on a 10-year project for the complicated lighting requirements of the resurrection of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

Early on, Goldberg and his wife, Syme Jago, came to visit the soon-to-become "North Pole," with lighting and decorations by the box load. Between them, and Mrs. Claus (my wife Kathy), they converted our simple living room into what would be Virtual Santa's online home for almost a month.

And after what seemed like dozens of Zoom rehearsals with anyone willing to play the part, we were ready to make our first virtual visit.

For me, beyond the joy that comes from seeing the children's eyes, the most rewarding part of this year's Santa's visits was being a part of a team of people with the talents, energy, ingenuity and creativity to make it all happen.

The feeling will stay with me for many more Christmases to come.

## Where to see Santa

For more information about the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service or to donate, go to: [www.notlpc.com](http://www.notlpc.com).

Here are links to the Santa for Palliative Care videos:

- \* See Santa in his hideaway and how a video call happens at <https://vimeo.com/488140798>
- \* Get a glimpse of the magic of Santa's Christmas in Niagara at <https://vimeo.com/488141752>
- \* Learn about palliative care and the wonderful work the organization does at <https://vimeo.com/488141557>

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I have a heart that never beats, I have a home but I never sleep. I can take a man's house and build another's. I love to play games with my many brothers. I am a king among fools. Who am I?

Last issue: I am a ball that can be rolled, but never bounced or thrown. What am I?  
Answer: An eyeball

Answered first by: Jason "Riddle Master" Baker

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margaret Garaughty, Pam Dowling, Josh Langendoen, Elaine Landray, Michael Gendron, Sheila Meloche, Margie Enns, Katie Reimer, Greeba-Ann Birch,

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

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# Life in the Pandemic: *Some silver linings*

**Editor's Note:** Life since COVID-19 has changed things for all of us. We've experienced hardships, heartaches, and challenges, but also new and sometimes unexpected reasons to be thankful. This new Lake Report series will share some of the stories of NOTL residents as we all reflect on our experience of life in a pandemic.

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report



Shaw actor Kelly Wong, with his wife Dorette Derome and their daughter Amelia. ANDREW BRODERICK/SUPPLIED

Rewind to early March 2020.

Rehearsals for the musical "Gypsy" were in full swing and the show was moving into the Shaw's Festival Theatre.

It was just the beginning of what was sure to be a very busy season for actor Kelly Wong, a longtime member of the Shaw company.

Casting his mind back, he recalls his reaction when the word came for everyone to stay home, as the lockdown began.

"I was anxious. It all snowballed in my head. We didn't have the information

we do now and everything was a threat. We were on red alert."

Quickly, the troupe shifted to online rehearsals.

"At first we wondered if we'd be back into production in a week or two," he remembers, admitting, "we were a bit naive."

Reality began to sink in, though, when the Shaw pulled the plug on the first part of the season.

Wong decided to pitch a project through a program that provided government funding for creative endeavours. His pitch, for a project called Sherlock Holmes and the Deathly Clock Tower, was successful, so Wong shifted gears.

"From my role as an actor in 'Gypsy,' I did a 180-degree turn, to become a digital content creator, along with a team of 12," he

explains.

Not where he expected to be in the summer of 2020, but Wong says, "It sparked an inspiration in us to create new work and it was very fulfilling."

Wong has gone on to create a range of digital content for the Shaw, including videos for schools and sponsors. He says "it's opened my eyes to a whole new activity in this weird year."

The disruption of Wong's plans for a heavy workload on stage last season had a second silver lining.

"Our daughter was 10 months old when the pandemic started and once things changed for me, I was able to be much more hands-on and present with her."

Wong recalls with evident delight, the joys of being able to spend more time with her.

"She was changing so quickly. She started walking on her birthday and she said 'Dada' for the first time on MY birthday! Her personality is developing so fast. She has a wonderful sense of humour, and she makes us

laugh, consciously, which is amazing."

Alongside that appreciation, is a sense of loss associated with pandemic precautions.

"I have to have my guard up all the time when we go out with our daughter. I miss being able to go to the playground and not having to worry. I do miss those more care-free moments."

Even as the second lockdown pushes into the winter of 2021, Wong has his eye on the next season.

"We're planning for the best and I'm confident the Shaw is putting a lot of thought into making sure when we can perform again, and it will be safe for us and for the audience."

With the vaccine becoming gradually available, Wong feels "there's hope now, a light at the end of the tunnel."

He reflects, "there's so much we've taken for granted, the power of storytelling and sharing in person, whether it's theatre or with friends and family. That's been taken away, but we'll appreciate it even more when we get it back."

## HOW ARE YOU DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC?

We're almost one year into the COVID-19 pandemic and The Lake Report would love to hear from Niagara-on-the-Lake residents about your experiences and reflections on life in lockdown.

What are you doing to pass the time? What hobbies or pastimes have you taken up?

What do you miss? What has helped you cope? What has surprised you?

It's easy to feel isolated during lockdown. Sharing our stories can help to remind us we really are all in this together.

Please send your submissions of up to 400 words to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com).

Shared stories may be published in the newspaper.



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Restaurateurs David Watt (Garrison House), Ryan Crawford (Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill) and Paul Harber (Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery) are cooking up gourmet eats for a museum fundraiser. RICHARD HARLEY

## History in the Vineyard cooks up another gourmet **take-out dinner** to support museum

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George, the Niagara Historical Society and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery have teamed up again to host an at-home fundraising dinner to celebrate Black History Month.

After a successful kickoff in December, the second History in the Vineyard dinner on Feb. 11 will feature gourmet food from three Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurants and a chance to support Niagara's history.

All proceeds from the evening will help support projects of the Friends of Fort George, the Niagara

Historical Society and Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

Paul Harber, proprietor of Ravine, who also sits on the museum board, said he's happy to support local history.

"The history of Niagara is one thing I think everybody can agree on that needs to be protected and supported and always a focal point of what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake not just a great place to visit, but one of the reasons everybody loves to live here," he said.

"It's a great opportunity for two nonprofits to be supported. And everybody to get a really good night in. During these times we really can't do much else, so it's a

great opportunity to try out three restaurants and support two good not-for-profits.

Amy Klassen from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum said the historical society and the Friends of Fort George were "thrilled" with the community support for the December fundraiser.

"We raised close to \$8,000 in support of the Niagara Historical Society and Friends of Fort George, while also supporting three local restaurants: Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, The Garrison House and Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill," Klassen said.

Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George, said, "All three

restaurants are back for this special fundraiser and have prepared a very special menu with lots of choices. The food will be distributed in special containers that can go directly in the oven to be heated up."

With each ticket purchase, diners can buy up to two bottles of Ravine's Sand & Gravel wine for \$10 each. The evening also includes links highlighting Black History Month.

Tickets at \$100 per person are on sale at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-historical-society/events/history-in-the-vineyard-at-home/>

The ticket price includes a \$40 charitable tax receipt.



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## 'Provocative' NOTL Museum lecture explores 19th-century attitudes on abortion

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is kicking off its 2021 virtual lectures with a "provocative" series that will explore 19th-century perspectives on abortion.

The series, called An Atrocious and Abominable Offence, tells the tales of five distinct abortion trials from mid-19th century Victorian England to "illustrate the dizzying attitudes, language and control practised by the anti-abortionists and medical professionals of the day," the museum said in a media release.

The trials were diligently recorded in The Lancet,



The Quack Doctor's Confession. SUPPLIED/BABS WORTHY

one of the world's oldest and best-known medical journals. This gave a public and highly respected voice to the doctors' dilemma.

The series will be hosted by Amanda Balyk, who works as the museum's Tiny

Museum co-ordinator. The series kicks off Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m.

Balyk is also high school teacher in Niagara and recent graduate of Brock University, with a master's degree history. Her areas

of interest are 19th-century British crime and gender.

The museum said the series will be "provocative and illuminating."

"(Balyk) brings a unique retrospect on the lesser-known aspects of mid-Victorian medical history," it said.

"The practice of abortion has been controversial for thousands of years, with laws that have banned it, approved it, banished those who practised it and even condemned others to death."

Anyone interested in attending can register via the events page on the museum's website, [www.nhsm.ca](http://www.nhsm.ca).



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# School bus in driveway sparks neighbourly dispute

## Neighbour says bus contravenes town bylaw, bus driver says town said it was OK in driveway

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

A yellow school bus parked in a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident's driveway has sparked a dispute with a neighbour over whether the vehicle should be allowed there.

Kathy Latour, who lives at 178 John St. W., said her bus, about half the size of a regular school bus, doesn't harm anyone so she should be allowed to park it at her home.

Her neighbours, Jim Rossiter and his wife Carmen, who live across the street at 169 John St. W., say it's an eyesore that violates the town's zoning bylaws.

Latour said Rossiter complained to the town several times, talked to her landlord (who is her sister) and to her employer, Dan-Nel Coach Lines.

After the conversation with her employer, the bus was moved to the company's compound in the Port Weller neighbourhood of St. Catharines.

Now, when school eventually resumes, Latour said she will have to drive her own vehicle about 14 kilometres twice a day to pick up the bus for her morning and afternoon runs to William Hamilton Merritt, Lincoln Centennial and Prince of Wales public schools in St. Catharines.

Rossiter and his wife moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto last June and said they don't like having to look at the yellow bus from their windows.

"I don't want to see the bus," Rossiter said. "The front of my property is dead to me with that bus there. My front rooms are dead to me with that bus there. People who come to visit me laugh at me because of that bus there. I can't sell the property because the bus is there. How is that fair to me," he said.

"How would you feel if you came in from Toronto, you look forward all your life to buying a place here, you buy it, and all of a sudden you're in front of the school bus parking lot?"



Kathy Latour and her sister Carol Hajas beside a sign that says "I support my local bus driver." The sisters say they're not happy that a neighbour's complaint led to Latour's school bus not being able to be parked in her driveway. RICHARD HARLEY



Jim Rossiter says his neighbour's school bus doesn't meet town bylaws and is not something he or his wife want to look at out their window. He successfully managed to get the bus company to move it. SUPPLIED/JIM ROSSITER

He said he thinks the bus being parked in the driveway amounts to "operating a business" from a residential property.

Rossiter, a law partner with Dentons, one of the world's largest law firms, said aside from him not liking the bus, that it also exceeds the size allowed in the town's zoning bylaw for commercial vehicles.

The bylaw says the storage of recreational vehicles, school buses and commercial vehicles larger than 22.96 feet (seven metres) is not permitted on a residential lot or on-street in a residential neighbourhood.

However, Latour said town staff came to check and told her she wasn't violating any town bylaws.

And Lord Mayor Betty Disero said town bylaw officers have determined the bus doesn't contravene any NOTL municipal statutes.

"They've measured the bus. It meets the bylaw," she said.

However, Rossiter disagrees. He said he measured a bus similar to Latour's and found it to be larger than the permitted size.

The Lake Report attempted to measure the bus as well but it is secured in DanNel's compound and

the company wouldn't allow a reporter onto the premises. DanNel also declined to say how long the bus is.

The Town of NOTL would not provide the measurement taken of the bus and said it had no comment on the issue.

Rossiter said the bus also contravenes another zoning bylaw regarding signage, which says, "There shall be no sign, display or other indicator visible from a public street which reveals the existence of a home occupation or home profession use in a dwelling unit."

Rossiter said he tried to approach Latour's landlord

Carol Hajas to ask her to help do something about the bus, not knowing she is Latour's sister.

He said he was met with confrontation and told, "Go back where you came from" and "How dare you file a complaint with the (town)."

As well, he said he was also told that the sisters are friends with the mayor and "If my tenant loses her parking, wait until you see what happens to you."

In an email to The Lake Report, Rossiter suggested Latour could park the bus at her sister's home, which is around the corner on Simcoe Street.

Latour said it's not about the extra time, but rather "the principle."

She said she's feeling bullied, a suggestion that Rossiter denied.

Rossiter claims the bus issue has been ongoing since before he purchased the house.

"I am told by other neighbours and the previous owners that they had previously chased the school bus away and it would appear that as we are new owners, (Hajas) decided to try us on to see if she might have better luck with us," he said.

However, Latour said she's never been forced to move the bus in the three years she's been driving.

She's gathered 21 signatures of neighbours from 17 nearby households who said they don't mind if she parks the bus in her driveway.

"No one else cares that there's a vehicle here," Latour said.

Rossiter said the petition is meaningless.

Having signatures "from people who do not live opposite the bus saying they do not mind the bus is irrelevant. She has lived here all her life, she is bound to make some friends. I could go down the street in Toronto and get a petition from scores of friends and neighbours saying the bus should not park here – but so what? This does not change what the rules are. We do not in this country of laws govern ourselves with petitions."

Rossiter said as far as he and his wife are concerned, with the bus gone, the issue has "been resolved."

He refused to say whether he threatened to sue the bus company but said he has no reason to sue Latour and has nothing personally against her.

"I can't sue her for anything. She's not doing anything wrong. Her employer DanNel Transportation is conducting a business at 178 (John St. W.) for which they have no permit, which is not zoned, which is not permitted," Rossiter said.



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## We walk on it

Brian Marshall  
Columnist



Georgian Fancy painted pine floor. BRIAN MARSHALL


Like many things, as taste, style and availability changed, flooring has undergone many iterations in form and type over the last couple of hundred years. These days I am continually reminded of that fact as I tread upon the 200-year-old pine plank floors of our Centre Street project. Pine is a softwood which, even given the much harder characteristics of old growth timber, tends to show the dings and marks bequeathed by everyday use. So why would our illustrious ancestors, when surrounded by oak savannah, choose pine? Well, pine was easy to work and the wide, straight

and very long boards went down fast. (Many of the planks in Centre Street span the entire 30-foot-plus distance between the front and back walls.) Further, the oldtimers knew that as decades of foot traffic compressed pine's wood grain, it would become durable enough to out-last generations. Lastly, flooring was considered utilitarian; not a fashion statement. Thus, it was common in the early years of Niagara to leave floors unfinished to stain and grey naturally. And, if one was inclined to do anything with a floor,

the usual address was to paint them in either a solid colour or a geometric pattern design. A pattern painted canvas floor cloth to cover them was also an option. It wasn't until the old growth forests had largely been cut down in the latter half of the 19th century and the availability of cheap pine declined that this attitude changed. As is typical, both then and now, when the cost of something escalates it often becomes a status statement. To answer the increased focus on flooring, while still keeping it cost-palatable,

the Victorian solution was narrow 3/8-inch-thick hardwood strips laid over an inexpensive spruce sub-floor. This hardwood (typically oak) would be finished with light-reflective varnish to draw attention to the fact the homeowner could afford the fine finish quality and, for an extra cost, contrasting dark stained inlay could really set off your fashion statement.

While oriental carpets and their ilk enjoyed periodic favour, the narrow strip oak hardwood dominated the flooring market until the mid-20th century introduction of wall-to-wall broadloom. Combining both a low cost installation for housing developers and low-maintenance up-keep (compared to the required wax and polish of hardwood) for homeowners, broadloom ruled the day until factory-made prefinished hardwood was introduced in the late 20th century. That once again made wood "the" choice in flooring.



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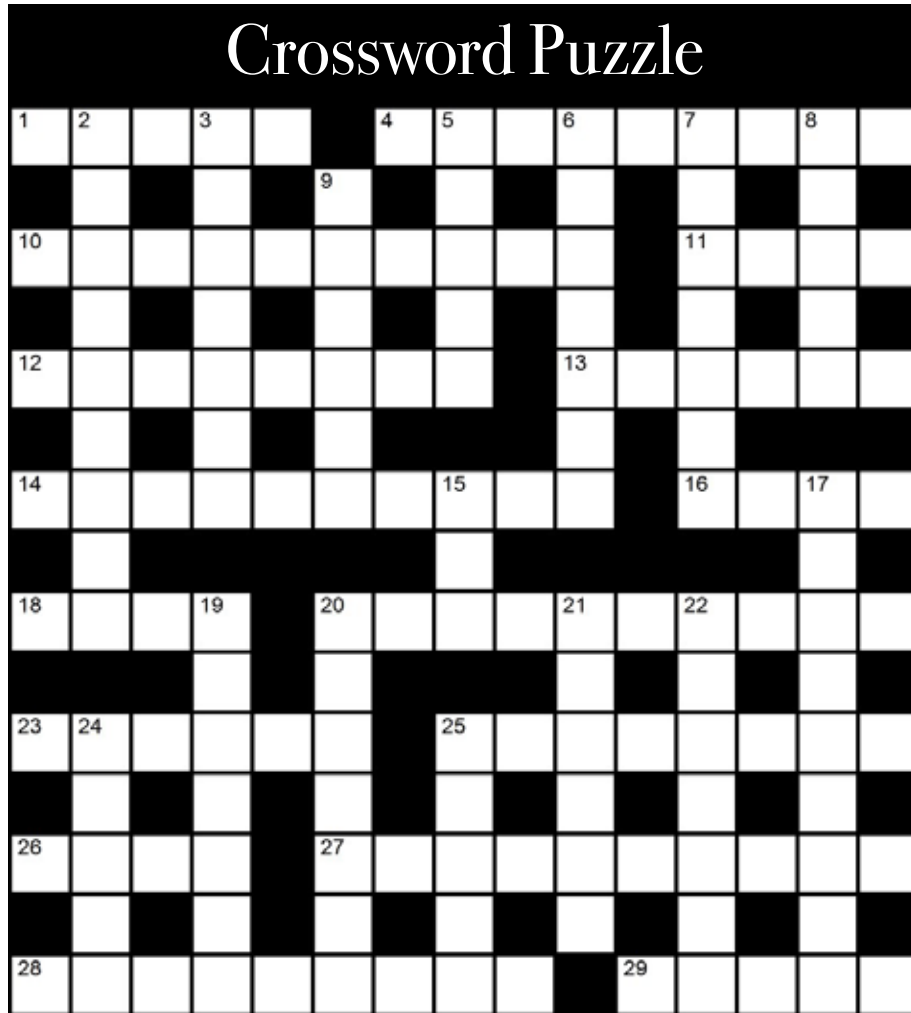
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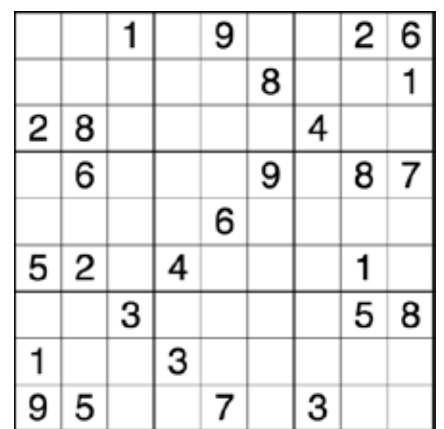
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- 1. Scent (5)
  - 4. Dutch canal city (9)
  - 10. Lively interest (10)
  - 11. Small margin (4)
  - 12. Serious warning (3,5)
  - 13. Animosity (6)
  - 14. Tropical fruit (10)
  - 16. Unspecified in number (4)
  - 18. Singles (4)
  - 20. Place to research (10)
  - 23. Throughout (6)
  - 25. E.g. Aldrin (8)
  - 26. Knave (4)
  - 27. Matrimonial lady-in-waiting (10)
  - 28. Gun dog (9)
  - 29. Customary (5)
- Down**
- 2. Weed (9)
  - 3. Lift up (7)
  - 5. Intended (5)
  - 6. Hardens metal (7)
  - 7. Christens again (7)
  - 8. Item with exchange value (5)
  - 9. Dozing (6)
  - 15. Tennis high ball (3)
  - 17. Salty cocktail (9)
  - 19. Slacker (7)
  - 20. Readable (7)
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Last issue's answers



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# Dr. Brown: We need to get COVID vaccine into community **now**

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

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report



PIXABAY PHOTO

You don't have to be an expert in public health to figure out what's been going on in this pandemic.

One look at the trajectories of the numbers of new COVID-19 cases and deaths beginning last spring and running through to the present in the U.K., U.S. and Canada reveals what happened.

The initial surge last spring rapidly peaked before steadily falling in the face of now very familiar and proven effective public health measures such as wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding large groups and imposed shut-downs of varying severity. By summer the numbers of new cases and deaths were much lower – simmering but manageable.

We were warned in the summer to expect a fall surge and, sure enough, it began in September and coincided with the reopening of schools, colleges and universities, and large social gatherings.

Still, it was manageable – until mid- to late fall

with Thanksgivings north and, especially, south of the border, the fallout from which merged seamlessly into Christmas and New Year's seasons and the related festivities.

The latter, together with the emergence of a far more transmissible virus originating in the U.K., drove the current enormous spike in cases and deaths – more than doubling, even tripling spring's numbers. It got us to where we are now: in the middle of an uncontrolled pandemic.

For which disaster there's plenty of blame to go around. With few exceptions governments from most countries including Canada have been too cautious and too late in imposing lockdowns – perhaps because they feared that locking down before Christmas would upset business interests already reeling from months of the pandemic and a public emboldened by news of highly

effective vaccines, tired of a year's worth of pandemic and looking forward to a festive season. In that sense, we were all at fault.

The price tag has been high, never more so than in long-term care facilities where residents were sitting ducks for the virus because of their age, comorbid conditions, the close proximity of others and the comings and goings of staff, despite testing.

That's precisely what happened here in Niagara and in many countries around the world. In the NOTL long-term care facility where my wife resides, the number of cases testing positive grew from an initial few staff members to involve more staff and, as of Jan. 19, a total of more than 90 residents and staff had tested positive, though most of them are asymptomatic so far. This all happened in less than two weeks.

Fortunately, all residents of the home, except those

who tested positive beforehand, were vaccinated a few days ago. It would be easy to blame individual facilities but that would be a mistake.

The home where my wife resides is well-managed and tries its best to keep families up to date and care for their charges. But in the face of so many community cases, most of them asymptomatic and probably a result of holiday get-togethers, the surprise is not that outbreaks like this occur but that so many facilities managed to keep the virus out for so long – a year and counting.

Probably, the most important lesson learned was that daily screening questions and taking temperatures, coupled with weekly testing wasn't enough to block the occasional "leaker" getting through and infecting staff and residents alike.

We clearly need daily, on-site, before work, rapid testing and reporting using one of the newly developed methods. Even though many of these tests aren't as sensitive and/or as specific as the gold standard PCR test we're so used to, they are good enough and a lot better when repeated every workday.

These days this pandemic is out of control throughout much of the western world, but the hope is that with

the holidays now over and lockdowns in place, the tide will turn and February will see falling case numbers and deaths.

But to really put a stop to the virus we need to vaccinate at least 70 per cent of the population to establish a barrier to the spread of the virus – the herd effect we've heard so much about. That means an all-hands-on-deck approach to getting as many people vaccinated as soon as possible, beginning with the most vulnerable – those in long-term care facilities, nursing homes, over 65 years of age and those with comorbid conditions.

We need to be imaginative and creative in whom we recruit to help and where. There are plenty of retired nurses and a few doctors in the region who could help out and, as NOTL pharmacist Sean Simpson pointed out in last week's Lake Report, local pharmacists would no doubt lend helping hands and perhaps the lead.

As I write this piece, Disneyland in California has been turned into a giant vaccination centre for thousands a day and for the same purpose, the British marshalled Salisbury and several other cathedrals.

The symbolism for the latter is powerful, for in a modern age, those who serve and those who receive do so

under a vaulted ceiling from another age, now in this age finding new purpose.

We could do the same with our churches and public spaces such as the NOTL Community Centre. That's the kind of thinking and doing we need to get the job done of protecting our community and, most importantly, bind the whole community together to a common purpose. This is not a time for whining and blaming – this is a time for reimagining how we get this done as a community and do it.

Adding urgency to the matter is what those who track the genome of this virus keep warning us about – it's a very real possibility that a much nastier version of the virus might emerge somewhere in the world, one the vaccine creators haven't seen yet, forcing them and us to scramble all over again.

That's why it's so important to stop this virus everywhere – and soon. This is a worldwide pandemic and demands a worldwide solution, not just a western, Chinese, Indian, Russian or other country solution.

It is a world problem, which, like climate change, knows no borders, cultures, languages, colour or beliefs. What we do or fail to do, will be the measure of humankind.

# Friends of Ryerson Park ask for **big changes**

*Continued from Front Page*

creating a potential hazard for emergency vehicles, that people are parking illegally around Ryerson Park, and that a growing interest in the park – in part due to social media and short-term rentals – is attracting more visitors than the small park can handle.

The park, which has a small strip of beach, does not have public bathrooms or changing rooms, Scott pointed out, adding there have been several concerns from residents about public urination, barbecues, nudity and garbage in the park.

The report said in one case a person entered someone's private home without permission to ask to use the washroom.

Other issues included noise from motorcycles and sports cars, "loud noise and partying" and drinking on the beach.

"Visitors often monopolize the picnic tables and benches, sometimes for hours on end. On the grass, there is sometimes very little area to stand, particularly at sunset and in compliance with social distancing. The sheer numbers of visitors outweigh the number of residents," the report said.

Scott suggested a list

of eight potential solutions, including signage to redirect traffic from Queen Street and encourage traffic to turn left at Mississagua Street to stop cars from unintentionally ending up in Chautauqua, limiting streetside parking in the neighbourhood to residents only, increasing fines for parking illegally to \$100 and having more signage and enforcement of the town's bylaws.

Other solutions included making the bend at the end of Shakespeare Avenue a no-stop, tow-away zone, enforcing no motorized vehicles in the park and closing the park at 10 p.m.

He said the Friends of Ryerson Park would also work with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce to develop a communications strategy to clarify "mis-statements" on social media sites like TripAdvisor and short-term rental listings.

Coun. Erwin Wiens expressed concerns about some of the group's requests, saying he and his family often visit the park and that "frankly" he felt the group was saying residents like him aren't welcome.

Council asked that staff report back on "fair and equitable" solution for all Niagara-on-the-Lake residents.



The Friends of Ryerson Park want to see an end to tents, high traffic and drinking at the park. FILE PHOTO



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Kathryn Recourt with her large (and drooling) companion Archie, part English mastiff, part St. Bernard rescue dog. SUPPLIED

## Drooling dog inspires NOTL author to publish children's book series

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

An excessive amount of dog drool was the inspiration for a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman's new children's book series.

"Sir Archibald Droolsalot: Big Dog Blues" immortalizes Kathryn Recourt's large, loyal (and drooling) companion Archie, the part English mastiff, part St. Bernard rescue dog.

Recourt says her young grandchildren, Grayson and Rachel, wanted to know why Archie drooled so much.

"I thought, 'There's got to be a good reason that we can come up with. And they can be quite relentless, so I had better give them a good answer,'" she says.

She loved reading to her own children, Daniel and Victoria, when they were young. She says she would often make up stories for them and she has continued that tradition with her grandchildren.

So, she started telling her grandchildren stories about Archie, how he

became a knight and how he drooled – a lot.

Then, during the COVID quarantine, she says she began typing the stories out and very quickly weaved them into a publishable children's book. She contacted TellWell, a Canadian self-publishing company, and was "very pleased" with the process of bringing her ideas to fruition.

She wrote the story but outsourced the illustrations to a couple from Barrie, because "I can't draw to save my life," she says. Allan Cormack and Deborah Drew-Brook are working on the art for the next book as well.

"Obviously, the biggest thing is finding your Illustrator ... and they just got what I wanted. When I look at the book and I see their drawings I'm just so thrilled because it's exactly how I saw it in my head," she says.

The first book was published on Sept. 9 and focuses on issues of bullying. She says she felt it was appropriate, especially with children going back to school, to talk about bullying in a relaxed

environment. (Book two is almost complete and she's almost finished writing the third instalment, "some advantages to the lockdown," she says.)

"I just thought, with telling the story through the dog's viewpoint, it makes it easier for kids to fully empathize with the dog. It is a gentler way of introducing the subject. When I sit down with the kids and I read, they're snuggled up and you're in a lovely, warm, safe environment," she says.

"It's a nice atmosphere and perhaps the dogs would help kids to understand that there are different ways of going about things."

She says the second book is in the editing process and will be published as soon as it's ready. She says she has several more stories in the works, so she anticipates the series to grow.

In each story, new characters are introduced, which she says have all been modelled on dogs she has known.

"So, I tried to bring in fa-

miliar things to me, I suppose, and to the kids. I've had such a lovely response to everyone who has got the book," Recourt says.

Her book can be found at the Old Niagara Bookshop on Regent Street in Old Town, the only "bricks and mortar" location selling it right now.

"One of the first things I did was I went to see Laura McFadden at the Old Niagara Bookshop. She is such a sweet lady and she's got my books in the store," she says.

As well, Recourt has partnered with the Lincoln County Humane Society and for every book sold through its social media and contacts, or through the Hotel & Spa 124 on Queen Street in NOTL, she is donating a portion of the proceeds to the humane society. The spa has books on-site.

Otherwise, a copy of the book can be purchased online. Check out her website at [kathrynrecourt.com](http://kathrynrecourt.com) for links to online retailers and updates of upcoming releases.

## Obituary

### Noah Kirk Schriefer



The Schriefer family is saddened to announce the sudden passing of Noah Kirk Schriefer. Noah was 28 years old. A beloved son, brother, uncle, and grandson. He was happiest with the sun on his face and the wind in his hair. He loved carving down the mountains; now he is free carving through the clouds.

He is survived by his parents, Kirk and Ruth Anne, his siblings Joshua, Kaleb (Melissa), Leah, and Madeleine, nieces, and nephews Matthew, Cassidy, Lillian, and Josiah, his Grandmothers Angelina Fast-Vlaar, and Jeanne Schriefer, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins around the world.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please make a donation to Red Roof Retreat.



## Sentry stays on duty

St. Davids resident Leslie Mann is keeping a pair of decorative sentries on duty for a while longer. The message is that essential workers are standing on guard for the rest of us and social distancing is paramount until a COVID-19 vaccine has been widely distributed.



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

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- Garlic Bread with Cheese ..... \$8
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- Homemade English Sausage Rolls... \$12
- Potato Skins ..... \$14
- Chicken Wings ..... \$15
- French Onion Soup ..... \$8
- BBQ Bacon Wrapped Scallops ..... \$16
- Crab Cakes ..... \$15
- Deep Fried Pickles ..... \$9

### HOUSE-MADE BURGERS

- ALL SERVED WITH FRESH CUT FRIES OR SUB GARDEN SALAD FOR \$3.50 OR CAESAR OR GREEK SALAD FOR \$4.00
- Angus Burger ..... \$14  
*(lettuce, tomato & pickle)*
  - The Red Eye ..... \$16  
*(fried egg, bacon, cheddar & hot sauce)*
  - Olde Smokey ..... \$16  
*(bacon, KC BBQ Sauce, crispy onion, cheddar & chipotle mayo)*
  - Bacon Cheese Burger ..... \$16  
*(cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato & pickle)*
  - Beyond Meat Burger ..... \$16  
*(lettuce, tomato & pickle)*
  - Bacon Portobello Mushroom ..... \$16  
*(bacon, mushrooms & Swiss cheese)*
- EXTRAS: Sautéed onions or mushrooms on a burger +\$2

### DESSERTS

- Cheesecake of the day ..... \$8
- Bread Pudding ..... \$8

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- Fish Butty ..... \$15
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  - Portobello Mushroom Melt ..... \$16
  - Roast Beef Dip Sandwich ..... \$17
  - Chicken Fingers ..... \$15
  - Steak and Guinness Poutine ..... \$17
  - Reuben Sandwich ..... \$17
  - Meat Loaf Sandwich ..... \$16
  - Turkey Club Sandwich ..... \$16
  - Chicken Caesar Wrap ..... \$16
  - Buffalo Chicken Wrap ..... \$16
  - Shepherd's Pie Poutine ..... \$16
- EXTRAS: Gluten-free bread +\$2

### PUB FARE

- Award Winning English Style Fish and Chips ..... \$18
  - Baked Chicken Curry ..... \$18
  - Bangers and Mash ..... \$16
  - Shepherd's Pie ..... \$16
  - Steak Guinness and Onion Pie ..... \$17
  - Liver and Onions ..... \$17
- EXTRAS: Mushy Peas +\$3

### SALADS

- Caesar Salad ..... \$12
  - Greek Salad ..... \$12
  - Garden Salad ..... \$11
- Choice of dressing: Italian, Balsamic, Ranch, Blue Cheese, or Thousand Island
- ADD: Fresh Chicken \$5, Bread Roll \$2.50, Extra Dressing \$0.75, GF Bun \$2.50

## SPECIALS

**FAM JAM MEAL SPECIAL | SERVES 4 PEOPLE** \$55  
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\$10 PER ADDITIONAL PERSON

**Bangers & Mash**  
Pork sausages, sautéed onions, baked beans and mashed potatoes, topped with Guinness gravy

**Baked Chicken Curry**  
Served over basmati rice, fresh cut fries or half & half with a side of Naan bread

**Shepherd's Pie**  
Ground beef, Guinness gravy, mixed vegetables topped with mashed potatoes and cheese, served with fresh bread and peas & carrots

**Fish & Chips (4 piece)**  
Beer battered fish, fresh cut fries, and homemade coleslaw

**Steak, Onion & Guinness Pie**  
Slow roasted beef, Guinness gravy, sautéed onions, topped with puff pastry, served with fresh cut fries and peas & carrots

### WEEKLY SPECIALS

- Daily Lunch Special** (served 12pm - 4pm) ..... \$15  
*Chef's choice of soup and sandwich of the day*
- Monday: Buck-a-Cluck** ..... \$1 Wings  
*Minimum of 10, celery, carrots, and blue cheese included*
- Tuesday: Pick-Up Deal | 15% off pick-up orders**  
*(cannot be combined with any other offers)*
- Wednesday: BOGO BURGERS!** ..... Buy 1, Get 1 Half Price  
*Buy any house made burger and get the second half price*
- Thursday: Liver & Onions** ..... \$17  
*Served with mashed potatoes, peas and carrots*
- Friday: Fish Fri-Yay** ..... \$16 - 1 piece | \$24 - 2 pieces  
*Haddock served with fries, homemade coleslaw, tartar sauce, & lemon wedge*
- Saturday: Poutine-A-Polooza!** ..... \$9  
*Fresh cut fries, homemade Guinness gravy, and real Quebec cheese curds. Deluxe toppings + \$1 each (jalapeno, onion, caramelized onion, green onion, tomato, roasted red pepper, green or black olives). Supreme toppings + \$2.50 each (breaded chicken, Guinness steak, sausage, bacon, chili). Sauces + \$1 each (Curry, BBQ, chipotle mayo, Frank's hot sauce, sour cream)*
- Sunday: Roast Beef Dinner** ..... \$20  
*Slow roasted beef served with peas, carrots, parsnips, Yorkshire pudding, and mashed or roasted potatoes*

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