



# The Lake Report

Issue 6

August 1, 2018

Niagara-on-the-Lake



A police officer stops two men on horseback from approaching Saturday's protest. (Richard Harley)

## Carriage supporters question treatment of protesters

Richard Harley  
Editor

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's decision to close off a section of King Street and grant a group of protesters free parking along Simcoe Park on Saturday had some counter-protesters questioning how fairly the situation was handled.

The protesters, mostly members and supporters of local activist group At War for Animals Niagara, were allowed to use several parking spots on King Street beside Simcoe Park after organizing a protest against Sentineal Carriages, a local business that operates a horse and carriage service in town.

The group believes animals should not be bred or

used for work or human gain in any way.

News of the protest — which organizer Adam Stirr had said could draw as many as 200 people — also garnered significant media attention locally and sparked a response from supporters of Sentineal Carriages, who arranged a counter-rally.

Free carriage rides had also been planned for that day by Fred and Laura Sentineal, owners of the carriage business, though after a number of meetings between members of AWFAN, Sentineal Carriages and local law enforcement, it was recommended by police that the Sentineals not operate the carriage business during the protest due to safety concerns.

Police also recommended the Town close off separate sections of the road for both protesters and counter-protesters, to keep both parties distanced.

A section of King Street was closed off during the protest for AWFAN supporters and a left turning lane on Queen Street was closed off for Sentineal supporters.

A group of around 25 carriage supporters showed up, including the Sentineals, despite the family heeding police advice and canceling the carriage rides, as well as recommending that supporters stay home through social media, email and phone calls.

Some of the counter-protesters who did attend expressed they felt the location given to AWFAN supporters

was better, and that it was unfair to be placed in a turning lane in "active traffic."

Local carriage supporter Eric VanNoort said although they were given a dedicated spot on the road too, they felt safer on the curb and instead stood where the carriages normally operate.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte, who attended the rally, said everything done — including offering parking spaces and selecting spots to section off — was based on recommendations by Niagara Regional Police.

He supported their recommendations, he said, with the welfare of both parties in mind.

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# Carriage supporters question treatment

Continued from Front Page.

"I have to be objective. My job is to listen to both sides and act accordingly," Darté said.

"(It was) all suggested by the NRP ... they said the best way is to give everybody their own little space and go from there."

Stirr said AWFAN, police and the Town came to terms for parking because protesters had expressed concerns their cars may be targeted by Sentineal supporters, and to not obstruct business at the Prince of Wales.

The counter-protesters, Darté said, didn't ask for parking space, although he pointed down the road to Municipal Park, noting he believed most of the counter-protesters, mainly locals, had planned to park there.

He also noted the Town's lost parking revenue would be insignificant as it was only a four-hour protest. He estimated it may have cost the Town a couple-hundred dollars.

When asked what his response was to counter-protesters who weren't happy they didn't get free parking, he said the Town wasn't aware of what the counter-protesters had planned until a few days prior to the event.

"If we had known who was in charge and all that, then we could have planned something different."

During meetings with counter-protesters parking "never came up," he said.

Darté, who wouldn't comment on his personal views regarding the protest or its message — though he has family members that own horses — said it "comes down to everybody's fundamental rights as a Canadian."

"It doesn't matter if you live here, or P.E.I. or anywhere else, you've got the same rights."

During the event, local police kept a tight watch on the situation and recommended group members not have contact with one another.

Some carriage supporters expressed they'd been made to feel by police that they weren't allowed to speak to the protesters, though police officers on scene said it was a recommendation and that nobody would be arrested if they did have a conversation.

In the afternoon two supporters of the carriage company rode their horses towards the protest and were stopped by a police officer and made to turn around.

Although it is legal to ride a horse on a public road, the police officer who stopped them said he believed the horses being there would have been a safety concern and based on discretion did not allow

the horses to get close.

Fred and Laura Sentineal agreed bringing horses in at the time wasn't a good idea, though they said they appreciated the sentiment and support from the riders.

Darté also agreed the horses wouldn't have been safe there given how busy the street corner was with both the protest and jazz festival happening simultaneously. He also noted one of the horses didn't seem to be under control, having almost walked into a car on the street after being confronted by a police officer waving his arms.

While the protest remained non-violent, and Stirr made efforts to ensure AWFAN supporters stayed under control, one carriage supporter reported messages being sent to them during the protest by AWFAN supporters to police. The messages, she said, were provoking, telling the carriage supporters they "looked sad" and asking if they wanted a hug.

Stirr said by a head count there were around 75 AWFAN supporters at the rally throughout the day.

Overall the afternoon went smoothly, police officers on scene said.

People passing by had mixed reactions, showing support for both sides.

Some bystanders noted what they referred to a "hypocrisy" from the protesters, such as one of them having their pet dog with them. Others pointed out some were wearing what appeared to be leather, and some had tattoos — which can contain animal byproducts such as bone char and gelatin from hoofs.

Stirr said the dog, a small greyhound, was a rescue, and clarified AWFAN does not think rescuing an animal is wrong. The group, he said, is against the specific breeding of animals and making any animal "work for human gain," including service animals.

Henry Swierenga, a service representative with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, who attended the protest in support of Sentineal Carriages, said the protest is a concern for the OFA.

"Any time there is outside organizations or agencies that want to impact normal farm practice, then that becomes a concern for us. And this certainly is a concern for us," he said.

"What the Sentineal family is doing is normal farm practice as far as we're concerned. The animal welfare is not an issue, the horses are well cared-for. We're dealing with a philosophical difference of opinion here. (AWFAN) has a goal to shut down animal agriculture in this province, and



Police stopped two Sentineal Carriage supporters on horseback from approaching Saturday's protest. (Richard Harley)



Eric VanNoort and Inge Enns, supporter of Sentineal Carriages. Enns still rides her horse at 88. (Richard Harley)



Protesters were vocal, singing and chanting and holding various signs. (Richard Harley)



Protesters stayed to their dedicated part of the road for the most part. (Richard Harley)

this is one method they think they can use to gain attention and bank-roll their efforts."

A supporter of Sentineal Carriages who wished not to be named said the relationship between man and these types of work horses can be looked at as almost symbiotic, pointing out there are

many species in this world that rely on one another. Like those relationships, the Sentineal horses — some of them rescued from slaughter auctions — are fed and housed by the Sentineals and in turn, they provide the Sentineals with the ability to feed and house themselves.

Stirr said AWFAN supports symbiotic relations in nature, but that he doesn't believe horses and humans qualify, noting humans have selectively bred horses for specific uses.

He said animal rights groups in 13 other cities around the world held events

in solidarity with AWFAN members that day and sent photos of anti-carriage events in Italy, The United States and Canada.

Protests continued unofficially Sunday. Stirr said AWFAN members "aren't going anywhere," even in the winter months.



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# APPLICATIONS

## Marotta submits revised Randwood application



An updated rendering of the proposed hotel at Randwood Estate. (Supplied)

Penny Coles  
Staff

Developer Benny Marotta has submitted a revised application for the hotel he hopes to build on the historic Randwood Estate, with what he calls “a completely new design.”

“We’ve been paying attention to people and what they wanted to see,” he said.

He believes the new design is “appealing and timeless.”

“In 20 years it will look even better than today. We kept that in mind when we designed it.”

His original proposal drew criticism from many who said the hotel was too tall, with a design that was inappropriate and out of character for the John Street heritage property and for Niagara-on-the-Lake. In addition to the hotel, he is planning to renovate the main building to be

used as a health and wellness centre, and the coach house as a chapel.

The revised application is for a hotel that is six storeys in the middle, flanked by five storeys, then goes down to three, he said.

He will still require the zoning amendment he requested with his first application to increase the height of the hotel from the 57 feet that is currently allowed.

Marotta said he had hoped to meet with members of the Town’s Municipal Heritage Committee to receive some help with the design, “but we never had a chance to do that, so we did it ourselves.”

The original drawing that was widely circulated and criticized was not what he had ever intended to build, he said.

“We have a very exciting project which will make Randwood shine — it deserves it.”

The property has been ignored for too long, and he plans to turn it into something the Old Town also deserves, he said.

He showed it to a group of people who were invited on a tour of the property about a week ago, including nearby residents, “and everybody who was there that I saw was very happy.”

He said there will always be some people who won’t be happy with it, but there are some people who “no matter what you do, they won’t be happy.”

His original application was for a 145-room hotel, and he’s still planning for 145 rooms.

The height, he said, is necessary to make it “more architecturally appealing.”

He has also said in the past that six storeys are needed to accommodate enough rooms to make the hotel finan-

cially viable, and without the height, the building would require a larger footprint on the property.

Craig Larmour, the Town’s planning director, said he received Marotta’s revised submission a little more than a week ago, and his department will be reviewing it to ensure it meets the direction of the Town’s municipal heritage committee and urban design committee.

Once he’s sure it meets those requirements, it will be posted on the town’s website, he said.

Outlining the process for a revised submission for councillors, Larmour explained another open house and public meeting will be held. The revised application will also be subject to review by the MHC and the urban design committee, he said.

Coun. Betty Disero, after talking to Larmour, said it’s sounding like it will be a new council who will deal with the rezoning application and site plan approval for the Randwood Estate.

The 150 days the Town has to deal with an application for rezoning has passed, she said.

The clock has stopped ticking, and it doesn’t start again for a revised application, she explained.

She believes the open house will not likely be held until September, and the public meeting could be held during the current term of council.

“It’s likely the new council will be determining the decision on zoning and the site plan application.”



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## Application submitted to rezone 3.36 acres on William Street to residential

Penny Coles  
Staff

A request has been submitted for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to rezone a 3.36-acre plot of forest land on William Street, east of Palatine Place in Old Town.

The application is for residential use with site-specific provisions for lot frontage and depth, to allow for the development of up to six single detached houses. The site is currently zoned for low-density residential use in the town’s Official Plan. The site-specific zoning would allow for minimum lot frontages of 60 feet, which although slightly below the average frontage of other lots in the neighbourhood, would allow for houses comparable in size with the other homes in

the area.

The applicant for the rezoning of the property, currently owned by local John Street residents Robert and Jan MacInnis, is Stephen Bedford of Landx Development. The plan is to create the six lots by severing them in stages.

In an impact analysis written by Bedford, a former NOTL planning director, he says initially, the development will include the construction of a single detached home on one lot, creating a second lot for a second single detached home.

In the future, his report says, a maximum of four more additional lots could be severed from the first lot along the William Street frontage.

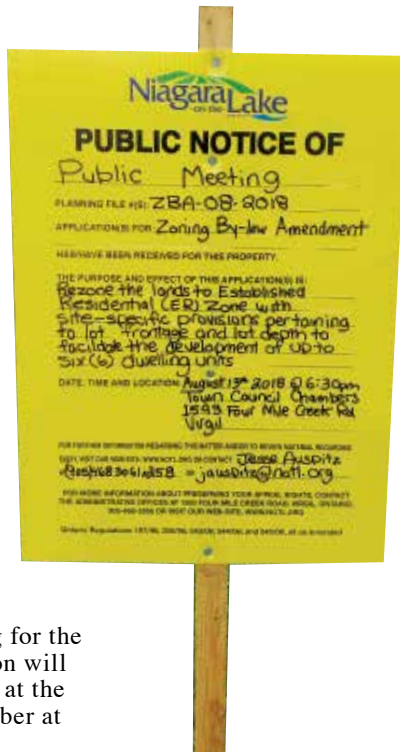
The property was once a tree plantation, said Bedford in his report, and

“a scattering of trees” remains.

The site has been the subject of a detailed environmental impact study and the One Mile Creek and adjacent wetland will be protected, the report said.

Although it’s now zoned for low residential density, the proposal meets provincial policies on intensification in urban areas, and the town’s Official Plan infilling policies, he said.

A public meeting for the rezoning application will be held on Aug. 13 at the town council chamber at 6:30 p.m.



## NOTL loses two philanthropists and a young volunteer firefighter to plane crash

Penny Coles  
Staff

The community is mourning the loss of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Anita and Joe Robertson, local philanthropists, and their daughter Laura, who died in a small plane crash in Maine Monday.

The couple were known for their generous support of the arts, including the Niagara Jazz Festival, the Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines and smaller theatre groups; of education, through Brock University, where Joe served on the board, and the local nursery school; as well as to several local charities large and small, including the United Way. They weren’t only generous with their money, but with their time - Anita was named United Way’s volunteer of the year in 2017.

Laura, 24, joined the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services in January, and recently completed the recruit training program.

“She had demonstrated a strong commitment to serving her community as a volunteer firefighter and expressed on many occasions how much she was enjoying being a firefighter and being part of our team,” said Chief Rob Grimwood.

“Laura will be deeply missed by those she served with at Station 1, the 2018 recruit class members with whom she just spent six months training, and the rest of our fire department who had the opportunity to serve with her.”

The flags at Town Hall were lowered to half-mast on Wednesday in memory of Laura.

The family are reported to have departed from Pembroke, Ont., bound for Charlottetown when the crash occurred less than two hours into the flight.

The National Transportation Safety Agency is looking into the matter and will investigate the probable cause of the accident.



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# The Lake Report

**Editor-In-Chief:** Richard Harley  
**Publisher:** Niagara Now  
**Design:** Richard Harley, Gary Hall  
**Contributors:** Richard Harley, Penny Coles, Lauren O'Malley, Denise Ascenzo, Owen Bjorgan, Charlotte Letkemann, Catherine Skinner

## Editorial: Packed election deserves attention

Richard Harley  
 Editor-in-chief  
 OPINION

Now that we've passed the cut-off date to run for the upcoming municipal election, and have 25 candidates seeking spots on council, it's more important than ever for voters to be educated on who is running and to be aware of their policies.

We've seen debates on a number of issues from the current council, many of which will continue — development, noise, pools, parking and sports facilities are some we could expect to hear about during the election campaign and the next term of council.

From the number of people running, it is clear a lot of people have different views about the way the Town has been run in the last four years.

And then there's proposed development at Randwood, a hot-button issue that's been campaigned on and instigated protest from a large chunk of residents who are afraid it will destroy the heritage value of the estate property, therefore taking an overall chip out of the town's history.

Regardless of your opinions about the hotel at Randwood, the picture is bigger than that.

The fear we should have is people may be running for council with the idea of influencing one issue they're passionate about, when there are so many other issues that have a direct impact on the lives of residents.

Politics should not be something people get into



Council should have different spices. (Richard Harley)

lightly, and my hope is that the candidates running all intend to carry their passion beyond specific issues and focus on an all-encompassing plan to ensure this town is allowed to grow, and does so while preserving the values of its residents, a diverse bunch who tend to have one thing in common — they love NOTL.

I'm urging residents to do their research, talk to their local candidates and find out what their plans are and what experience they bring to the table.

At the same time, I'm urging candidates who may have gotten into the race because they feel strongly about one certain issue to consider this:

Are you prepared for four years of council meetings about diverse issues and the public attention that brings? And are you OK with not always getting what you want?

Council isn't necessarily a team effort — that's the point of diverse representation — but you have to be able to work with people who don't always see things

your way.

I urge local political groups on social media, and those who may be campaigning in the shadows for a new council to consider what the consequences of losing that diversity could be.

Can we afford four years of a council that coordinates their decisions in private before the public meetings even happen?

If we have a team come in and clear council, this is not a farfetched scenario.

After all, the line between democracy and control is fairly thin.

Lastly, as a long time local — one who does not believe the mere fact I've lived here grants me some privilege above those who have moved in recently — it is important in this election to consider the benefit of diversity, and to have a mix of new and veteran politicians representing our town as it grows and changes.

Investigate, research and pick up the phone.

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

## Letters to the editor

### Response to cyclist editorial

Resident  
 Submitted  
 OPINION

Received our first copy of The Lake Reporter this week and I was pleased to see your editorial about the biking problem here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The problem does not end here it is also bad along the parkway where groups of bikes ride two and three abreast completely blocking the lane holding up traffic creating dangerous situations forcing cars to pass into oncoming traffic because they will not ride single file.

The Ministry of Transportation rules concerning cyclists states they stay to the right as far as possible and ride single file.

I recently came upon a group of 20 cyclists riding



File photo.

south bound on the parkway at the Whirlpool golf course they had the entire south bound lane blocked and would not let traffic by. After following them for several minutes with three cars in front of me that could not get by, I laid on the horn for 30 seconds to no avail.

It took me another 10 minutes to get to the exit for the Rainbow Bridge and they continued to block traffic.

I have made the Parks

Police aware of this and they should address it before someone trying to pass a group like this has a head on collision.

I think it is time they are warned first then ticketed for not obeying the rules of the road.

If car drivers were to drive in the bike lanes forcing them off the road I'm sure the police would be laying charges so it has to be a two way street and you are right it is time to address it.

### To those who will listen

Jennifer Jones-Butski  
 Submitted  
 OPINION

Some time ago, some people in this world decided it was time for change.

Now, I'm good with change, when it's for the better.

In this case, however, it's not. It's for the absolute worst.

Many cities within our country and world have become the target of "anti-speciesism" protesters — the vast majority of them also being vegan.

To be clear, I have no issues with vegans in general, so long as their opinions and way of life are not being shoved down my throat.

These protesters are relentless, and their main goal is to end the breeding of any domesticated animal.

They want to break your bond, to end your relationship with your best friend — your dog, cat, horse, etc.

According to members of the group, service animals of any kind are unacceptable, as is any animal currently being used for any sort of profit — they refer to it as slavery and should you argue that they have animals themselves, they come up with any excuse in the book to lay claim to the fact that they themselves are above humanity.

At this moment in time, they have decided to direct their hate and opinions to what has been dubbed the prettiest and friendliest town in Canada — our town, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It is well known around the globe, to people who come here to visit the town, as well as the people in it.

Their target is the horse

and carriage companies that are a major part of our town and have been for 30 some-odd years.

The carriages take tourists on magnificent rides throughout the town, and the drivers provide a copious amount of information about the town's history.

The horses are well looked after, and without their jobs, many of them wouldn't have homes. The companies that currently house these gorgeous animals have rescued many of them from a heinous journey to the slaughterhouse.

As the days, weeks and months go by, what these people are doing is slowly turning the friendliest little town into the angriest little town.

The townspeople are stepping up, when they shouldn't have to.

They're coming forth to show their hate and disgust, and it's falling on deaf ears.

These people are holding up disgusting signs, blocking sidewalks and spreading messages that just aren't kosher for the friendliest town in Canada.

Something, anything, needs to be done. We've been told that what they're doing is okay — that they can protest wherever they want, videotape whoever they want and hold whatever sign they want (including driving around with it on their vehicle).

Yet, none of the businesses in the area are allowed to have signs, none of the people campaigning for mayor are allowed to have signs on their vehicles, and god forbid if any of us were to tape someone else's child in a public area and post it to

## Let's dial down the level of confrontation

Penny Coles  
 OPINION

A weekend of protests and counter-protests has come and gone, thankfully with no injuries and no arrests.

But both sides are accusing the other of intimidation tactics that could have escalated into a dangerous situation and led to both injuries and arrests.

Everyone has the right to protest, but if confrontation occurs, if there is one violent incident, one person hurt or one frightened horse out of control, it could end in the very situation the local supporters of horse-drawn carriages want to prevent - the protesters getting their way and the horse and carriage businesses being driven out of the Old Town.

It would seem the best way to avoid that would be for Locals for Carriages to pull back from counter-protests and find other ways to show their support.

It may not seem fair — one side gets to protest and local supporters are asked to stay home — and it isn't fair, but sometimes it's best



Protesters on King Street in Old Town.

to take the high road. It's not conceding defeat, and may even take the wind out of the protesters' sails.

How many people knew leading up to Saturday's protest that the animal rights group has been in town every weekend for eight months? Until recently, it was a pretty low-key protest that received little to no attention, until the locals started showing their support for the carriages in social media and organizing counter-protests.

That's when the situation became volatile — not through any fault of their own, but simply because two sides, both passionate about

their polarized beliefs, were suddenly meeting face to face.

It wouldn't take much for emotions to get out of control and for the protest to turn ugly, even dangerous.

The lord mayor, Town staff and the Niagara Regional Police will continue to look for ways to allow protesters on both sides to have their say, while doing what they can to ensure the safety of all involved.

Surely that should be the goal for all of us, to dial down the level of confrontation and allow all to express their opinions peacefully, respectfully and safely.

[penny\\_coles@yahoo.com](mailto:penny_coles@yahoo.com)



Karen Taylor-Jones, Jennifer's mother. (Richard Harley)

Facebook, we would be accused of exploiting children or called pedophiles.

But it's okay for these protesters.

It's okay for them to follow, film and harass the public and a local company, and there is nothing we can do.

Where are *our* rights?

Where is *our* freedom? What kind of world are we living in that people who are out to destroy businesses and people's entire way of life, are given all the rights and freedoms?

I would have loved to include a video of how they're treating the tourists. I'll happily show it to anyone interested, or you are welcome to review it on my Facebook page Jennifer Jones-Butski.

Someone, somewhere, needs to do something to ensure this does not continue to happen to NOTL — or any other location around the world.

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# NEWS

## Lake Report implements cutting-edge augmented reality app

Penny Coles  
Staff

Like something out of Rowling's World of Wizardry, moving images in newspapers have become a reality — only this time it's thanks to the magic of technology.

It might seem intimidating to those not technically savvy, but it's really quite simple if you follow the instructions of Lake Report owner and editor-in-chief Richard Harley, and also quite remarkable — even magical.

The Lake Report has become one of the first papers in the country to regularly introduce “augmented reality” content, allowing readers of the community newspaper to use their phones or tablets to watch videos in the paper.

All you need to do is use your phone's camera to scan the images, and they come to life.

If it's hard to imagine, it's likely because the technology is simply so new.

It's actually more difficult to explain than it is to use, once you decide to give it a try.

Quickly explained, said Harley, the technology is similar to QR codes, using what is often called a “trigger image.”

That image, similarly to a QR code, can be recognized by an “AR lens,” which is your phone.

The trigger image can be almost anything, for example a picture in a newspaper, and the AR lens is generally a cellphone or tablet.

Once the trigger image is recognized by your camera



A video plays in a frame in the paper using AR tech.



Try out the HP Reveal app on this photo.

lens, it initiates an action, typical in the form of 3D images and animations, video overlays and still images.

There are a number of augmented reality apps emerging as more uses for the technology are found, and as the concept becomes widely familiar.

The Lake Report uses an app called HP Reveal, which is relatively easy to operate. It's similar to Facebook, in that if a user is following another person's profile, they can see that person's content.

To make it work, simply

download the app on your phone or tablet and follows the paper's channel (Niagara Now).

Currently TLR has put out two issues with augmented reality videos and Harley plans on doing a lot more with it in the future, including introducing new options to merge the realms of print and digital advertising.

It's “cutting-edge,” said Harley.

“I don't know of many other papers that are doing this, at least not as regularly as The Lake Report.”

Harley said he hopes to get more and more people using the app and following the paper's channel, noting that once it's set up, it doesn't require any maintenance.

“It just works ... and it's something that will impress your friends, or show your kids you're up to speed with the latest technology.”

Harley said the paper intends to experiment with HP Reveal in a variety of ways, such as on the paper's games page so people can get the answers to the crossword puzzle and sudoku early, as well as using it to add an element to articles.

He even mentioned a potential “scavenger hunt” based on the app, in which people would hunt through the paper to find hidden videos.

“There's a lot to explore with this technology. And once people are a little more used to it, I think it's going to be a big part of our everyday lives.”

He said he foresees a future where you can turn on the augmented reality feature in your glasses and view the world through a new lens.

At that point, it really could be like reading the Daily Prophet (the newspaper in Harry Potter), he said, adding he thinks it could lead to a resurgence in the popularity of print material.

“It changes the medium entirely,” Harley said.

“I think people could wind up looking to print to get the most out of this technology. I know it's something that everybody I've shown has thought was fairly incredible.”

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## Agriculture committee wants open forum on bees and pesticides

Penny Coles  
Staff

Before Niagara-on-the-Lake council agrees to the town becoming a Bee City, a designation that means it supports pollinator gardens, the town's agricultural committee is planning to host a discussion with crop specialists and bee keepers.

When Renee Delaney asked NOTL councillors in April to allow the municipality to adopt the designation of a Bee City, she was the victim of unfortunate timing — she was on the council agenda to speak at the community centre the same night a crowd in the packed auditorium was there to speak about the Randwood Estate hotel development. It was a tense meeting, with heckling from frustrated audience members waiting to hear the Randwood discussion, but Delaney completed her presentation and hoped for a positive response.

Councillors decided to ask the Town's Communities in Bloom and agricultural committees to report on it.

Although other communities such as Niagara Falls and



A bee on a lavender plant. (Richard Harley)

St. Catharines in Niagara and about 20 municipalities across Canada have made the decision to become Bee Cities, it's a subject of great interest to farmers and the agricultural community, said Coun. Betty Disero, and a decision requires input from those most affected.

The Communities in Bloom committee, which she chairs, is supportive of pollinator gardens and has already partnered with other community groups to plant several around town, said Disero. St. Davids, Newark Park, the William-Nassau

Street Park, and a beautiful space at the corner of John and King Streets all have gardens planted through the work of an extensive list of partners and contributors, with a long list of plants that provide a habitat for bees as well as other beneficial insects and birds

The agricultural committee has recommended an open education forum with a private crop specialist Kevin Kerr and Wendy McFadden Smith, a horticulture specialist from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Delaney, and local bee keepers, to be

organized by Dennis Dick, chair of the Town's agricultural committee.

“We're supportive of assisting in any way we can,” said Disero, chair of the Communities in Bloom committee. “It's a bigger issue for the agricultural committee and they need the opportunity to go through that process.”

Farmers care about bees — they are essential to their industry, said Disero — as are pesticides, and the farming community will have the opportunity to discuss both and use the forum as a way to teach the public about what they do and why they do it.

Although Delaney was at council to talk about Bee City, a national organization, locally she spearheads Small Scale Farms, a collective of Niagara growers with a goal of creating a sustainable food system in Niagara. The group looks after nine gardens and partners with growers who provide produce for a local food project. Each small-scale farm is a pollinator garden, she said, and while she has her own ideas about the use of pesticides, which she points out kill all insects, including bees, banning or even addressing the use of pesticides is not the mandate of Bee City Canada — nor was she asking for that discussion.

“We're not asking for a ban on anything. That's not now nor ever was a part of this at

all. We're asking for more native plants to support pollinators, and for municipalities to have any strategy in place at all that will provide a platform to have a conversation about pollinators.”

She believes municipalities who adopt the Bee City title help spread a positive message that educates people and encourages behaviour that supports bees — a simple request, she said.

“It shouldn't be seen as a threat to farmers at all. We just want to celebrate pollinators and to get city councils behind education about bees. It's about supporting an organization on the ground that is trying to do good.”

If the Town goes ahead with an open forum to talk about bees, she said, she'd be happy to participate.

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# NEWS

## Four-storey hotel planned for Niagara Stone Road

Penny Coles  
Staff

A local developer is hoping to build a four-storey boutique hotel on Niagara Stone Road, currently the site of a weekly dinner market.

Adam Hawley spoke at a public meeting recently to explain why a zoning amendment is being requested to accommodate a 55.8-foot height for the hotel and an assembly hall at the corner of Niven and Niagara Stone Road, as part of a Village Centre commercial area.

It's been zoned for commercial development since The Village subdivision was approved more than 20 years ago, but current zoning would only allow for a height of 36 feet, which is the height of the CIBC and Shoppers Drug Mart retail space in the small plaza at that corner.

Hawley, representing his father John Hawley and Traditional Neighbourhood Development, builder of The Village, said an amendment for the rest of the commercial development, which would include a grocer and other retail space, is being requested to increase the height of those buildings to 42 feet from the current zoning of 36 feet. The buildings would only be two storeys but the extra height would allow for more interesting roof lines, he said.

The hotel would have 60 to 80 rooms, with parking facing Niven Road, and the 250-seat assembly hall would be used for concerts, meetings and religious services. The two buildings will be far enough away from the homes of The Village that they should have no impact on the residents, Hawley said.



Developer John Hawley is planning a four-storey hotel, retail space and an assembly hall at the corner of Niven Road and Niagara Stone Road. (Supplied)

The zoning amendment would also consolidate existing zoning and eliminate some potential commercial restrictions, he said.

The Saturday farmers market and the popular supper markets would continue — the farmers market, which doesn't take up a lot of room, possibly inside the Village Centre, and the supper market on the town's open space bordering Niagara Stone Road.

Both Jackson Triggs and Stratus Wineries are offering to accommodate overflow parking, with market organizers providing a shuttle to transport people to the market.

Hawley assured councillors during a recent planning committee meeting with renowned architect Andres Duany — the Florida architect and planner who helped design The Village and the strict architectural codes of homes within the community — has been involved in the design of the new commercial project,

and that architectural codes will apply.

He and his parents, Liz and John Hawley, are not just developers but are also residents of the Village, he said.

"We'll adhere to the architectural codes in keeping with the standards we've already set in The Village. We're fully committed to a Village Centre that is in keeping with the original concept of The Village."

Mark Brown, president of the Village Community Association, told councillors residents support the Village Centre as proposed. Although some residents have concerns about traffic, those are site plan issues, not rezoning, and the VCA is confident they can be addressed "in a positive manner," he said.

They are especially pleased to know Duany is involved in the design and planning of the project.

Residents are also looking forward to having a grocer close by, he added.

"The general consensus is that this is a positive step for the community."

One Garrison Village Drive resident spoke against the project at the meeting, concerned about traffic, parking and the request for increased heights for the new buildings.

Douglas Gibson said he is also against an increased height allowance, pointing out that if residents have to follow architectural codes with their homes, including height, the developer should respect zoning requirements.

Increasing the height of buildings in the Village Centre "would be setting a dangerous precedent to other NOTL developments," already a contentious issue, he said.

He also recommended with the increase in traffic and parking the Village Centre development would bring, Jackson Triggs, which uses Village parking during their Friday and

Saturday concerts, should make arrangements to use winery property for special events.

Community association communications officer Sue Henry said residents are not concerned about the height because the taller buildings will be at a "fair distance" to the residential neighbourhood, and won't overlook or cast a shadow on their homes or backyards.

"We see it as a nice entrance to the town — we're not looking at it as a problem," she said.

Residents have been consulted and informed of plans for the development, and have been assured it will have the look and feel of The Village, keeping up the "good work" of Duany and adhering to his architectural codes.

Although comments on social media are comparing the proposed hotel to the 57-foot height now approved for the Randwood Estate hotel, and saying it

has set a precedent for the Old Town, Village developer John Hawley said that was "not really" a consideration when he requested an increase to 55 feet.

Living in The Village, he and his son Adam have had an opportunity to talk to many residents, and have made a point of keeping them informed of their plans, he said, and he's only heard from two people who have a problem with the proposed height.

"We're looking at four storeys, and that was what had driving the number we went for, which is just limited to the two buildings."

He has been very open with Village residents, communicating and engaging them with development plans, he said, and most are excited to see the rest of the Village completed.

It was always the plan to build the residential component first with the commercial development to follow, but that was put on hold for a number of years when the original co-owner, Bud Wright, died, and there was a court case to settle on how development would proceed, said Hawley.

"That's behind us now and we're just really excited to be moving forward," he said, as are the "vast majority" of residents.

Although the traffic study is a separate issue from the zoning amendment, Hawley said he's talked to the Town about a small internal traffic circle beside the CIBC, at an intersection which some residents feel is dangerous. "A lot of people are unhappy with the intersection as it is now," he said.

But it's early days yet — there is a process to go through both with neighbours and the Town first.

"We've just suggested it as a possible solution."

## Town to open discussions about need for pool in St. Davids

Penny Coles  
Staff

With the swimming pool in St. Davids in such poor condition it might not last the summer, councillors have agreed to spend up to \$100,000 to immediately hire a consultant to work on a plan for the St. Davids park.

It could be that with the growing number of families in St. Davids a new pool is warranted, or, councillors heard, it could be a good location for a splash pad.

Coun. Betty Disero said at council Monday she wants to get that discussion started, and made a motion to begin public consultation immediately "to work with the community on a new plan for the park and pool that will

meet the community's needs, now and in the future." She's afraid if the pool has to be closed, residents will think it's "just done."

However Sheldon Randall, director of operations for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, cautioned that "immediately" likely means this fall. "It will be a lengthy process, and it doesn't mean we're building one."

He also clarified the \$100,000 in the 2018 budget would include the consultation process and possibly a design for a new pool or a splash pad.

"If the pool fails, we're not going to have a pool in St. Davids. The cost to replace it is prohibitive," said Randall.

But there continues to be a desire for a pool in the vil-



The St. Davids pool. (Richard Harley)

lage, he said. "I think it's a good idea to start the consultation process. That doesn't mean we'll have a pool. It just starts the conversation, which puts us in a better position for grants and funding."

Coun. Martin Mazza suggested it might be better to evaluate having one pool in NOTL and splash pads in the other communities.

"It seems premature to put out that kind of money before the reports come forward telling us whether we need it or not," he said, but agreed on starting the consultation process.

Coun. Paolo Miele, a strong supporter of an indoor pool, said "it's no big secret - we need a pool. Let's get the consultation going on."

"But let's look long-term this time. Don't look at a seasonal facility - look at a year-round facility so everyone in NOTL gets to use it."

Kevin Turcotte, manager of parks and recreation, said there are a number of problems with the aging pool, which should have been fixed years ago. The pump could fail, there could be an issue with excessive water leaking or cracks in old piping, and an assessment of its condition undertaken for the Town's facilities master plan determined it's not worth repairing - it would have to be replaced.

Neither the pool or the change room meet current codes, he said. "They're not even close."

Turcotte said the Town needs to find out what the community wants - a pool, a splash pad or even both. The consultation process will also provide an opportunity to

talk to members of the St. Davids Lions, who originally built the pool and turned it over to the Town, and to other service groups to talk about fundraising or partnering on the project.

He said he'd like to start engaging the public as soon as possible, probably through Join the Conversation, a section of the Town's website that encourages residents' comments, and to have some community feedback before hiring a consultant.

The St. Davids Pool is not as well-used as the one at Memorial Park, he said, but its use has seen an increase since the growth of housing in the village, and will likely increase even more once a path from the Cannery Park subdivision to the St. Davids Lions Park is completed, along with other housing developments planned for St. Davids.

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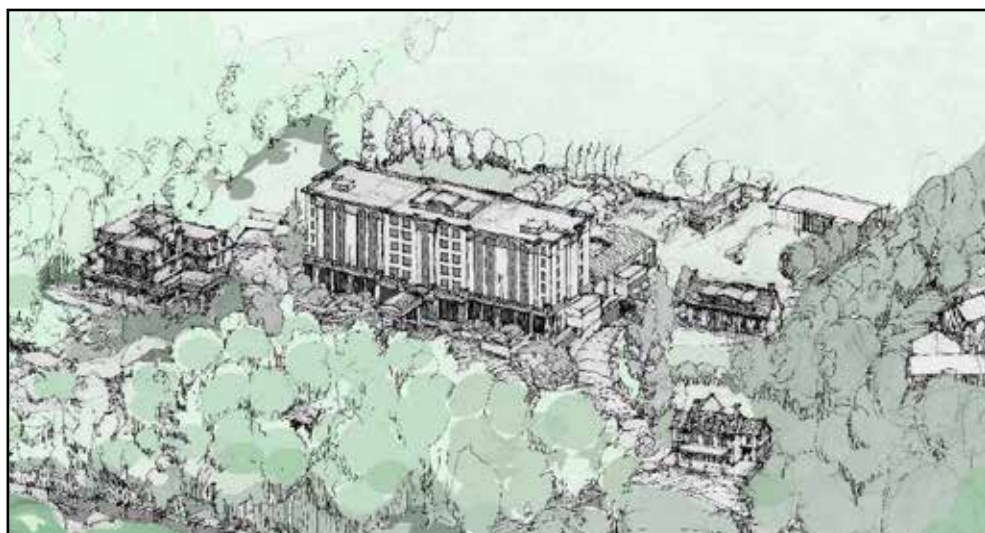
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## SORE still pushing for MHC to review site plan



A rendering of the front of the proposed hotel at Randwood Estate. (Supplied)

Penny Coles  
Staff

David Bell, a Charlotte Street resident and core member of SORE (Save Our Randwood Estate), questions why he was denied a request to appear before council recently regarding the role of the municipal heritage committee and its input at the approval stage for development of a six-storey hotel on the Randwood property.

Bell was requesting council to ensure the MHC would have ample opportunity to review the site plan for Two Sisters' hotel and conference centre proposal, and report to council on its findings, as stated in a 2011 Official Plan amendment.

The gist of his delegation last week was to explain a 2011 Official Plan and zoning amendment to allow a hotel, as well as the status of a holding zone that would delay approval of the amendment until after the site plan approval stage.

To clear up confusion surrounding that holding zone status, and how it affects issues such as the height and location of buildings and whether there would be a role of the MHC at the site plan approval stage, planning director Criag Larmour was asked to prepare an explanatory report, which he did, dated July 12.

After Bell saw the report, he asked, before the deadline for a delegation application, to speak to council about the information in the report — and the information that wasn't included.

He felt it didn't adequately address his concerns, specifically the role of the MHC. He wants council to give the heritage advisory committee a final look at the site plan before it's approved by council — which, as he said to councillors last week, was clearly intended by the council of 2011. He is hoping council will commit to acknowledging and respecting the 2011 agreements.

But Bell's delegation application was denied by Town clerk Peter Todd,



A rendering of back and side views of the proposed hotel at Randwood Estate. (Supplied)

based on a decision that it contained no new "significant" information from Bell's delegation the week before.

"Rather strange that my delegation was refused because it did not contain any new information," said Bell, "considering that I was responding to an information report that did not exist until July 12."

Larmour's report sets out the reasoning behind a holding zone — typically, he said, zoning amendments are approved first in the planning process, and site plan approval later. The work that goes into a site plan can be costly, and a developer is not usually expected to proceed with that stage and pay for the extensive work that goes into it

until he knows the necessary zoning amendments have been approved and the project can move ahead. But in the case of a large development, when there is concern from the public, as was the case in 2011, the hold can stall approval of the Official Plan and zoning amendments until after the site plan is reviewed and approved.

The use of the holding zone, said the report, "provides assurances that the zoning approval is not a fait accompli" and final zoning approval will not take place until council passes a bylaw to remove the hold, which can only occur after the site plan has been approved.

The other purpose of Larmour's July 12 report, as directed in a motion by Coun-

Betty Disero last week, was to clarify whether council could delegate authority to the Municipal Heritage Committee to provide recommendations to approve or not approve the site plan.

Larmour's report said the MHC, as an advisory committee to council, "does not hold the legal authority to approve the required site plan."

Bell, in the delegation he had hoped to present Monday, said he had conceded council's authority to approve the site plan last week, but asked council to obey the "spirit" of the 2011 report that the MHC be given the opportunity to provide recommendations to council.

Larmour's report explains that since the Randwood properties are on the municipal register of heritage properties and council has asked for the properties to be given heritage designation, "the MHC is expected to be fully involved in advising council in the continued review of the proposed development of Randwood Estate."

Should council wish to expand the role of the MHC to include providing recommendations on the approval of site plans, it could do so in an amendment to a bylaw that sets out the responsibilities of the MHC, Larmour said.

In the delegation that he didn't get to make, Bell planned to ask for more information from the planning department on details that need to be addressed before the release of the holding zone — such as protection of the heritage resources and cultural landscape of Randwood; submission of detailed building designs and elevations; landscape and lighting plans; the identification of fire routes; reconstruction of one of the John Street entrances for fire truck access; a report on the state of the bridge to ensure it's capable of supporting fire trucks; and ensuring no negative impact on abutting properties.

It's important council understand that is the level of detail that was agreed upon in 2011, said Bell.

He noted from Larmour's advice to council Monday that a revised proposal for the Randwood Estate hotel and conference facility, submitted early this week, will go back to both the MHC and the urban design committee for review and comment, which will necessitate another public meeting.

In sending his delegation and comments to councillors this week, he suggested that given the attendance at the last public meeting concerning Randwood, this one be held at the community centre as well.

penny\_coles@yahoo.com

## The Lake Report

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The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque. The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a "voluntary subscription" annually. For those interested in supporting us, we suggest \$1 per issue, per household, at 52 issues per year, which we strive to get to. That's only \$52 — less than most people spend on pizza and wings — and will help us grow to a weekly edition and ensure all households receive a copy.

Larger donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated. Donations of more than \$1,000 will receive a special thank you (it's top secret) and an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by Editor-in-Chief Richard Harley. (Limit of 100 special mugs)

To support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724. Please make cheques to Niagara Now Ltd. and note it as a donation.

Thank you.

## Police seize four exotic cars for stunting



(Sourced photo)

Austin Broad  
Special

Niagara Regional Police stopped six drivers participating in a tour of the Niagara Region from Niagara Falls to Stoney Creek in July.

All six cars were owned by the Stoney Creek based company Ultimate Exotics, which allows customers to take cars on a 5-hour VIP tour of the Niagara Region. Police said in a news release that officers positioned along the route of the tour had been "anticipating" the group's arrival.

When the group passed, radars recorded speeds of more than 50 km/h over the posted speed limit from multiple drivers, including the tour operator who was leading the group.

The group was stopped and all six drivers were charged with various of-

fences, four of them having their vehicles seized and licences suspended.

A 37-year-old Burlington man who was driving a grey 2010 Porsche Cayenne faces four separate charges including driving 124 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.

A 57-year-old Burlington man who was driving an orange 2016 Lamborghini faces a speeding charge after being caught driving 117 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.

A 25-year-old Toronto man was driving a red 2014 McLaren faces stunting and speeding charges for driving 137 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.


A 48-year-old Richmond Hill man who was driving a white 2016 Mercedes AMG GT-R is facing speeding and stunting charges after being caught driving 148 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.

A 27-year-old Oakville man driving a blue 2016 Corvette is facing reckless driving charges.

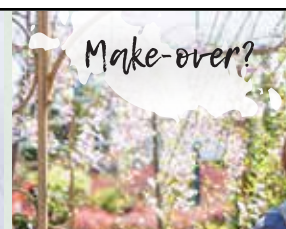
A 58-year-old woman from Quebec who was driving a white 2016 Nissan GT-R is facing three charges including stunting and speeding after being clocked at 148 km/h in a 70 km/h zone.

Police said the action was taken as a part of an ongoing effort to reduce dangerous driving in the region and did not specify which cars were seized.


New Home?



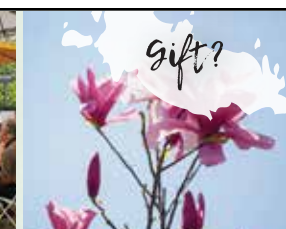
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# Royal Elite Academy rebranding local

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake's only high school is getting a new look, as Royal Elite International Academy rebrands itself as Vineridge Academy.

The shift reflects the school's commitment to its surrounding community.

"The name is changing because the school's identity is evolving. We want to reflect Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of our identity," said Anna Parkhomenko, the school's regional marketing manager — who came up with the name herself to celebrate the surrounding viticulture and escarpment.

"We're moving to a more global, local and inclusive model," she said.

"The more modern graphics suggest a more contemporary and accessible school, which we feel we are."

The high school, in its third year at the former site of Niagara District Secondary School, is a veritable United Nations, with 130 students from countries across the globe including China, Mexico, Nigeria, Vietnam, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakistan, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Thailand.

One local student also attends the academy.

"We encourage local kids



Anna Parkhomenko says goodbye to the Royal Elite International Academy name and logo. (Lauren O'Malley)

to attend Vineridge Academy," said Parkhomenko.

"It's an opportunity to expose them to cultural diversity and help them foster global connections while getting an excellent education."

The reduced fee for local students is \$5,000 per annum. "If their family billets an international student, it's basically a wash," she said.

Vineridge's roots are growing deeper into Niagara soil, with the school encouraging students to stay in the region after graduation, and also encouraging them

to become integrated and involved in the community around them.

Students have volunteered at various local events, doing things like serving the celebrated Canada Day cake in Simcoe Park, planting trees, and dressing up and playing with children at the Easter Bunny Trail at the local community centre.

Parkhomenko encourages you to contact the school if you have an event that requires volunteers and would be appropriate for teenagers. "We are also always look-

ing for community partners to get the kids more integrated into the town — and also for local guest speakers to come in and talk to the kids."

Transportation is the main challenge for the school: The students can't generally afford their own cars, and the local transportation system is expensive and occasional, running only every hour.

The school is making every effort to establish an arrangement for their large group of students to ride the buses with a monthly pass at a student rate, rather than in-

dividual fares for every ride.

"It gets very expensive. If (students) want to go up to Niagara College earlier in the day, and into Old Town in the evening for example, a single student is spending twelve dollars just on bus fare." Parkhomenko is hopeful an agreement can be reached.

"Working with international markets, I'm so proud to be a representative of Niagara-on-the-Lake. And I'm so excited that our new name will bring us closer to this community which we enjoy so much."

Vineridge Academy plans to begin construction on the property of more housing for more students in the near future.

"We hope to grow gradually up to about 450 students, to keep the size manageable and on a human scale. We want everyone to know each other's name."

There are also plans to offer summer programmes for students and locals alike, "Anything here that would open up kids to culture and new experiences."

Parkhomenko said they are currently developing programs with Music Niagara.

The formal unveiling of the academy's rebranding will take place during a ceremony in late August.

# Candidate rundown: NOTL council

The Lake Report  
Staff

There will be 28 candidates officially seeking seats on Niagara-on-the-Lake town council during this municipal election — three seeking the position of lord mayor and 25 seeking positions on council.

It's the largest pool of candidates for councillor the town has ever seen, according to Town records.

The list of candidates is as follows, in alphabetical order.

The Lake Report will be printing a special election edition in September, separate from our regular editions.

## For lord mayor

Betty Disero

Dan Turner

Pat Darte (incumbent)

## For town councillor

Allan Bisback

Andrew Niven

Anne Kurtz-Just

Berhard Peters

Clare Cameron

Crispin Bottomly

Dennis Dick

Erwin Wiens

Gary Burroughs

Gus Koroneos

John Wiens (incumbent)

Jordon Williams

Kathy Reid

Lauren Goettler

Mark Brown

Martin Mazza (incumbent)

Norm Arsenault

Paolo Miele (incumbent)

Rob MacInnis

Sandra O'Connor

Simon Bentall

Stuart McCormack

Terry Davis

Terry Flynn (incumbent)

Wendy Cheropita

# Feds announce \$338K contribution to Voices of Freedom park

Richard Harley  
Editor

The government of Canada announced in July it is providing the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake with \$338,000 to go towards the creation of the commemorative Voices of Freedom park on Regent Street.

Arif Virani, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism), made the announcement July 17 on behalf of Mélanie Joly, Canada's minister of heritage.

The park — formerly a lawn bowling green, zoned for residential use by the previous council and reversed by the current council — will be a commissioned art installation that encompasses the entire park, containing an educational component designed to engage and educate local citizens and visitors on how black history impacted the community and shaped our country.

Mayor Pat Darte thanked councillors Betty Disero and Martin Mazza for spearheading the initiative to make sure the Town kept the property and did something for the public with it.

He said without the passionate initiative by both councillors, along with the Regent Street Park committee that's overseeing the



Betty Disero speaks about Voices of Freedom.

project, the park wouldn't have happened.

Black historian Wilma Morrison, a park committee member and honorary chair, spoke during the press conference, saying it's "about time" the government did something big to recognize black contributions to the country.

"Can you imagine that (this town) has played such a significant role in our history," said Betty Disero, chair of the Regent Street Park committee which is working on the project.

She said she she's proud to stand in a town where some of the first racial riots in North America, leading to

the abolition of slavery.

Disero said the design will encompass the entire park, with a path that winds its way through to a communal circle. Along the way a downloaded app will tell the stories of four black people who helped shape the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the 1793 Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada, largely instigated by Chloe Cooley, a local slave whose screams were heard as she was re-captured by her former US owner. Cooley was never seen again, though her story lived on to play a significant part in the

abolition of slavery in North America. Hers will be one of the four stories told.

Other stories will be of Richard Pierpoint and how his establishment of a corps of Black soldiers influenced the outcome of the War of 1812; of Solemen Moseby, who escaped slavery in Kentucky to come to Niagara, and was tried and found guilty of stealing his master's horse. Moseby was set to be extradited while being kept prisoner in the Niagara Court House, though a riot broke out when black men and women blocked the jailhouse, and he escaped. He was eventually able to live in freedom in Niagara.

The fourth story will be of the Waters family of settlers who established roots in the community in 1794. Members of the Waters family received land grants, fought in the War of 1812, rebuilt houses and farms after the war, and were members of St. Mark's Church. John Waters was also a Town councillor for six years.

The park design was done by Raymond Tung, an urban design specialist working for the Town planning department. The installation that provides the experience, called the Rite of Passage, which helps tell the story, is by Tom Ridout, a Toronto artist who was worked on the

Queenston Heights memorial that recognizes the contributions of the Aboriginals who fought in the War of 1812.

The property has been in public hands since 1803, when it was acquired by the government of Upper Canadian, and was the site where General Sir Isaac Brock and Colonel John MacDonnell lay in state after being killed in the War of 1812. It has been the property of the Town since the 1850s, and was rezoned by the previous council for residential development after the site was no longer required by the town's lawn bowling club. The current council stepped in to retain it for public use, and from there, the concept of the Voices of Freedom Park was developed.

Coun. John Wiens and committee co-chair John Hawley were charged with raising \$670,000 to finance it, and have done so, thanks to a generous grant from the federal government and the public opening their wallets, said Coun. Disero.

The land remains a Town park and maintenance will be the responsibility of the parks and recreation department.

Additional funds are being raised from the public to cover the educational component, which is being managed by the Niagara Historical Museum and Society.



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# NEWS

## Royal Oak to remain in hospital building for upcoming school year

Penny Coles  
Staff

When the Royal Oak Community School opens in September, it will be opening its doors for the second year in the former hospital building on Wellington Street in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Old Town.

Lyndsay Gazzard, a school parent as well as the school's board chair, said the Town has agreed the school can continue to use the building for the coming school year.

"The Town has been very supportive of us," said Gazzard.

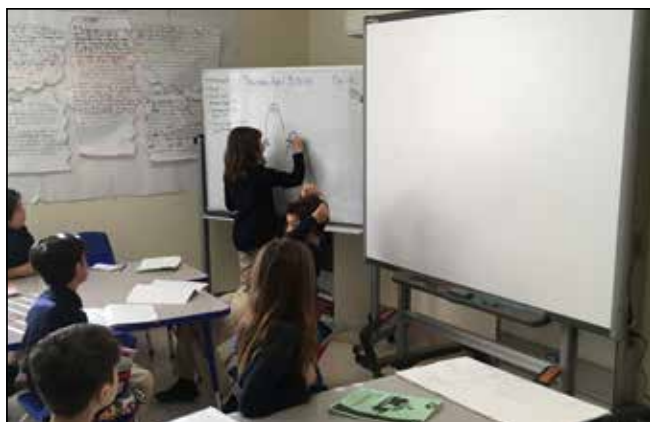
Council announced the Town was purchasing the hospital from the Niagara Health System in March 2017, to keep control over the future use of the Old Town property. The sale will be finalized this September, and so far there has been no news about what the long-term plan is for the building.

The downstairs x-ray department has closed, but doctors continue to see patients in the office space in the basement of the building.

The location works nicely for the school, said Gazzard, with former patients' rooms just the right size for classrooms.

Royal Oak offers classes from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

The DSBN closed Parliament Oak, the only Old Town school, in June 2015, and by September of that year Royal Oak, a private not-for-profit school was ready to open its doors in the Market Room of the Court House on Queen Street with 12 students.



The Grade 4 students of Royal Oak Community School learn in a hospital room converted to a classroom. (Supplied)

Registration doubled to 24 its second year, and needing more room, opened at the hospital last September with 36 kids.

The hope for this year is for a registration of 50 students, Gazzard said.

The school appeals to parents because of its small classes, and the customized learning plans it offers each student after assessing their learning needs — whether a child is gifted or struggling in some areas, the learning environment at Royal Oak looks after students in a way the public school system can't, with some students "falling through the cracks," she said.

The school is also offering an intensive French program starting in Kindergarten, said Gazzard.

It also offers a safe and respectful learning environment for all its students, said Gazzard, and focuses on being part of the community, including using the

public shuttle bus to transport students to the NOTL Public Library and the community centre, where physical education classes are held.

When Parliament Oak closed and was put up for sale, the Town attempted to purchase it from the school board, but was not successful after several bids were turned down. A group of residents had been hoping to be able to use the building as a community hub, including relocating Royal Oak to allow it room to grow. The board sold it to a Montreal developer of business parks, who has not gone public with his intentions for the property.

"I understand he has no immediate plans for the building. In a perfect world, it would have been a great place for us, but it's out of our control what he chooses to do. It would be wonderful if it became a community hub but it's his building and his choice, and we respect that."

If the Town has no plans

for the hospital building for next year, Royal Oak might be able to renew its lease, said Gazzard, but in the meantime board members continue to look for the school's permanent home, including a number of buildings in NOTL that could suit their needs.

School tuition is \$9,300 per student, but 50 per cent of the families who send their children to Royal Oak receive financial assistance, said Gazzard. There have been a number of private donations from local individuals and families to subsidize tuition, but the school would really like to receive some corporate donations to be able to offer more bursaries.

"We fundraise to ensure we can help any family with children who want to come to our school. We want to make sure we can offer help to any student who need it. We don't want to ever have to turn a child down because of money - we'd find a way."

Gazzard's daughter has been at Royal Oak since it opened, will graduate from Grade 8 next year, and loves it, she said.

"The culture is kind, respectful and community focused. That's what we want for all of the kids," said Gazzard.

"It's great at developing independence and leadership skills that will help them the rest of their lives. What I see there is a lot of happy kids who are thriving."

To register a student visit, [royaloakcommunityschool.ca](http://royaloakcommunityschool.ca).

## Carriage owners: time to "move on"

Penny Coles  
Staff

Protesters against the horse and carriage businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake say they aren't giving up.

Adam Stirr, spokesperson for At War For Animals Niagara said they've been protesting in the Old Town for the last eight months, and plan to continue doing so.

The group's aim is to prevent animals from being put to work for humans, objecting to the practice of horses being used to pull carriages.

Karen Taylor-Jones, who started Locals for Carriages to support the local horse-drawn carriage trade, said her group isn't going anywhere either, but she is looking at options for continuing to safely show their support, most likely holding their own protests on days when the animal rights group is not in the Old town.

The Niagara Regional Police, with Lord Mayor Pat Dante and town staff, tried



Laura and Fred Sentineal with one of their horses. (Richard Harley)

to ensure the safety of all involved in Saturday's protest, by suggesting counter-protesters stay away, and asking the two carriage business owners to keep their horses at home for the day, which they did.

The protesters were back on the Sentineal's corner in town Sunday, in fewer numbers, and although both sides claimed there were incidents

of intimidation tactics, no one was hurt and no charges were laid by Monday morning.

Darte, who was criticized by some on social media for allowing the animal rights group to protest while asking local supporters to stay home, said his goal was to ensure the safety of all involved, including the horses.

He was in the Old Town Saturday along with members

of the NRP to monitor the situation, and said he was asked by locals why he can't just stop the protests.

He said he doesn't believe the Town can deny anyone the right to protest as long as no laws are broken, but he is looking at other options to help keep future protests under control.

Laura Sentineal of Sentineal Carriages said she just wants to put the weekend behind her and move on. She's grateful to everyone who showed their support, but recognizes ongoing protests will impact the town.

"This is no longer about Sentineal Carriages," she said in a message to her supporters.

"It is imperative that our heritage district be protected to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment."

She said she looks forward to working with Darte, Town staff and all concerned "to develop a strategy to move forward and protect our beloved Old Town."

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			<p><b>Senior Ladies Badminton</b> - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Community Auditorium</p> <p><b>Master Makers: Buck Drumming Extravaganza</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Music Niagara: Cabaret One of Those Things Goes ...</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Court House Theatre</p> <p><b>Simply Steam Story</b> - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>The SupperMarket</b> - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Free Admission Day - All Day</b> - Fort George</p> <p><b>CanAM Century Ride &amp; Cycling Weekend</b> - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p><b>Music Niagara: Sunday in the Park - Frog and Henry</b> - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p><b>Sunday Concert Series: Lincoln Concert Band</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Queenston Heights Park</p> <p><b>Remembering Sasha</b> - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - St. Mark's Church</p> <p><b>Daryl Gray</b> - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Statutory Holiday</b></p> <p><b>Simcoe Days - All Day</b> - Mackenzie Printery</p> <p><b>The Past Is Present Heritage Festival</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</p> <p><b>Music Niagara: Toronto All-Star Big Band</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Ravine Estates Winery</p> <p><b>Community Drum Night</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Club Code: Little Bits</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Fresh from the Garden: Marc Lyons of Tiara Restaurant</b> - 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Therapy Tails</b> - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Exhibit: Cosmo Condina-Sicily</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p><b>150 years of Canadian Literature</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Court House Market Room</p> <p><b>NOTL Duplicate Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. - Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Senior Ladies Badminton</b> - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Community Auditorium</p> <p><b>Simply STEAM Story</b> - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Master Makers: Mass Photography</b> - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>The SupperMarket</b> - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p> <p><b>Music Niagara: Great Series - Jonathan Cro</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - House Market Room</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Annual Show and Shine car show at Butler's Barracks</b> - All Day - NOTL Kinsmen Club</p> <p><b>St. Vincent de Paul Peach Festival</b> - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul Church</p> <p><b>Sunday Concert Series: Niagara Falls Concert Band</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Queenston Heights Park</p> <p><b>Peach Pickers' Picnic</b> - 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>Community Drum Night</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Club Code: Bloxels</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Active Transportation Committee</b> - 4 p.m. - Operations Boardroom, 3 Lorraine Street</p> <p><b>Municipal Heritage Committee</b> - 7 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>NOTL Duplicate Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. - Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Senior Ladies Badminton</b> - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Community Auditorium</p> <p><b>Art Attack!</b> - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>The SupperMarket</b> - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to [www.niagara.ca](http://www.niagara.ca)

ME UP

# CALENDAR



August 2018

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Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Norton - 1 Community Centre	<b>2</b> <b>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</b> - Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara <b>Jane Austen Tea Party: Northanger Abbey - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.</b> - Fort George <b>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Mini Masterpieces: Mexican Talavera Tiles - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Vander Hill - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn <b>Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m.</b> - The Legion	<b>3</b> <b>Canned Film Festival: Up - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m.</b> - Community Centre <b>Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off &amp; Play - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Music Niagara: Boccherini to Bossa Nova - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Church <b>Ear Candy - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn	<b>4</b> <b>The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Garrison Village <b>Music Niagara: Last Night of the Proms - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Church <b>Southbrook Vineyards: Food Trucks in the Vineyard - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - Southbrook Vineyards <b>The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Garrison Village <b>Talisman - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn <b>Art at the Pumphouse - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
<b>8</b> Norton - 1 Community Centre	<b>9</b> <b>Mini Masterpieces: Hawaiian Leis - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Simon &amp; Co. - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn <b>Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m.</b> - The Legion	<b>10</b> <b>Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off &amp; Play - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Canned Film Festival: Bolt - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m.</b> - Community Centre <b>Music Niagara: Kevin, Dave, Terry and John - Canada's Best again! - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - St. Mark's Church <b>Serena Pryne - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn	<b>11</b> <b>The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Garrison Village <b>Celebration of the Peach - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b> - Queen Street <b>Music Niagara: Season Finale - Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</b> - St Mark's Church <b>Vinyl Flux - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn
<b>15</b> Norton - 1 Community Centre	<b>16</b> <b>Mini Masterpieces: Indonesian Batiks - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Practical Genealogy - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Cannery Park Design Public Consultation Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.</b> - St. Davids Lions Hall <b>Committee of Adjustment Hearing - 7 p.m.</b> - Council Chambers <b>Under Cover - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn <b>Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m.</b> - The Legion	<b>17</b> <b>Canned Film Festival: Mulan - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library <b>Madhatters - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.</b> - The Olde Angel Inn	<b>18</b> <b>The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Garrison Village <b>August 18 - The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Garrison Village <b>August 18 - Shred-It - NOTL Community Palliative Care - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b> - Meridian Credit Union

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# Opinion: "For Which People?"



Doug Ford. (Supplied photo)

Hermine Steinberg  
Writer's Circle  
OPINION

We see it happening before our eyes. There is no mystery and even a child could connect these dots — Harper, Ford, oil, and influence.

Niagara should brace itself. Harper publicly supported Ford. It makes perfect sense as he still remains an active member and elder statesman for the Conservative party.

Many people believe Ford's actions have already revealed that he intends to follow the path of the former prime minister and long-time friend of the notorious Ford family; centralizing control in his office, providing few details about his plans, limiting media access, and stripping all programs and policies that address climate change — including the people who could monitor or track its impact on our health, economy, and environment; the scientists.

Molly Shoichet, the province's chief scientist, was almost immediately fired after Ford got elected.

Her job was to provide evidence-based advice with the goal of advancing innovation in Ontario that would

help meet the challenges and opportunities related to everything from climate change and agriculture to the potential effects of new technologies like artificial intelligence.

Ontario's cap-and-trade program began on January 1, 2017 and as of July 3, Ford officially revoked the cap and trade regulation, prohibiting further trade of emission allowances and stated that they would be winding down the program.

Why?  
Because he said he would. The cost of the program for a typical household was estimated at \$73 per year. The goal was to gradually lower greenhouse gas emissions, helping to reduce the impacts of climate change which every study has acknowledged is having a significant impact on our health and causing extreme weather events which is resulting in growing costs for homeowners, farmers, and the transportation industry, among others.

Climate change means higher food prices, property damage, higher insurance costs and larger municipal and provincial budgets for emergency services, natural disasters and infrastructure.

By law, every dollar made through the cap and trade program had to be invested into projects that reduce greenhouse gas pollution which included public transit, electric vehicle incentives, and other 'green' innovations.

During its first year, Ontario's economy was strong and there was no evidence the so-called greenhouse tax negatively impacted job creation or business investment.

However, sales figures for electric cars grew by 120 per cent due to the generous rebates provided through the \$2.4-billion raised from the sale of permits from cap-and-trade.

It also actually started to cut carbon and began spurring a low-carbon transition.

So why was Ford so keen on destroying the program? Could it be that his buddy and supporter Stephen Harper who has been connected to 'big oil' forever was whispering in his ear?

Harper's consulting firm works with companies such as Questerre Energy Corporation which is based in Calgary.

It made headlines for its bid to frack for natural gas in Quebec, which the province had tightly restricted, but

after a few years of intense lobbying, legal actions, public relations, and some say political bullying, they won the right to drill.

In Harper, the energy industry found a champion who openly dismissed climate change. The Harper government withdrew Canada from the Kyoto climate accord, government scientists were discouraged from doing climate science and forbidden to speak to the media.

Under his direction, the RCMP, CSIS and Canada Revenue Agency were ordered to spy on groups and activists opposed to pipelines and the tar sands. And then there were the two omnibus bills Harper forced through Parliament in 2012 that gutted Canada's environmental laws which he viewed as impediments for building oil pipelines. People actually called it the 'Environmental Destruction Act.'

In Ottawa, the oil industry employs an army of lobbyists — larger than any other interest group on the hill. Leading the charge is the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), which has 38 registered lobbyists. According to Elizabeth May, "CAPP has had significant influence on all climate and carbon policies through successive governments."

Canada taxes its oil and gas companies at a fraction of the rate they are taxed in other countries. According to data collected by the Guardian, Suncor paid six times more taxes to the UK than they did to Canadian, provincial and municipal governments. But the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers continues to lobby the federal government for more tax breaks to improve their "competitiveness."

The profits made are enjoyed by shareholders located all over the world. However, corporate income tax revenue peaked in 2006 and has declined by 51 per cent despite a 45 per cent growth in oil pro-



Time  
Capsule

## PEACHES

The peach (*Prunus persica*) is the most widely grown stone fruit on the globe. It is native to China and was introduced to Europe 2,000 years ago. Peaches are now grown in temperate zones worldwide. In Canada, peaches were an important crop in Ontario by the 1880s. Mature peach trees are three to five metres tall with long, narrow, pointed leaves; single, pink flowers; and fruits that are five to eight centimetres in diameter, with characteristic light fuzz. Peaches without fuzz are called nectarines. When ripe, varieties grown for the fresh market (in Canada, 80 per cent) have sweet, juicy flesh; those for processing (20 per cent) have firm, almost rubbery flesh adapted to mechanical handling.

- The Canadian Encyclopedia

duction. Why are we willing to not only accept continued high emissions but subsidize these companies for declining benefits?

This in itself demonstrates the influence and power of 'big oil' in this country. That is not to say that the oil and gas industry does not make a significant contribution to our economy but when they wage war against other industries, groups, and individuals that pose a threat to them and limit our freedom to make real choices about our future, it is time to act.

Ford's plan to wind down the cap-and-trade program will require him to formally notify partners in the Western Climate Initiative that we are withdrawing which according to the agreement requires a year's notice.

As Ontario companies have bought close to \$3 billion in permits under the system, the money will have to somehow be refunded. It

will also mean that all the individuals and businesses involved in delivering those services will be impacted, potentially leading to loss of income, jobs, and innovations in the green economy sector, which according to most economists is one of the sectors with greatest potential for future growth.

The opposition parties have already warned that it could cost tax payers billions in legal fees, penalties, and other costs with actual no benefit to 'the average person'.

In Niagara, the loss of these monies could affect plans for public transportation, support of innovation in agriculture, mitigation of extreme weather, and plans to bring irrigation water to farmers.

The big question is: are the 'people' Ford is working for really average citizens, or those who are willing to get rich at our expense, and the expense of future generations?

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# NEWS

## Margaret Molokach: Running with scissors

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

In the world of a wardrobe runner, "everything we do has to happen quietly, and in the dark."

That's according to Margaret Molokach, head of wardrobe running at the Shaw Festival.

Run is the operative word in her job — and she often does it with scissors, among the other tools in her belt.

She and her team creep silently backstage wearing blue miner's lights on their heads, helping actors in and out of costumes. They're responsible for everything to do with performers' wardrobes throughout a show's season. From the moment the production department hands off the completed costumes until the end of the run, their job is to keep the costumes as fresh as day one. With everything actors do on stage — the changing of costumes, the dancing, dragging, sweating — one season on stage is "the equivalent of seven years in your closet," said Molokach.

Wardrobe runners are the first in and last out on show nights, starting at 8 a.m. and finishing at 11:30 p.m.

Working in shifts, they trade off midway, cleaning, mending and maintaining every single piece of the wardrobe.

In fact, according to Actors Equity Association contracts, all of an actor's undergarments must be washed after every show.

"Here's a tip — we use Sunlight dish detergent to wash everything, because it cuts grease and it's gentle," said Molokach.

Time, she said, is master in the world of wardrobe running. Every day includes lining up,



Margaret Molokach.  
(Lauren O'Malley)

in precisely the same, logical order, every piece of a character's wardrobe in the actors' dressing rooms.

"My dad had a sign in his workshop — a place for everything and everything in its place. This couldn't be more true in our work."

Illustrating her sense of the preciousness of time, Molokach arrived five minutes early to meet with the paper.

Molokach has enormous respect for the actors, having done some acting herself in high school productions, though she doesn't miss it, she said.

"I just think, 'Good for you, I'm happy to be polishing your shoes, you go out there and do your thing.'"

The respect is mutual, she said, and there's incredible support between crew members.

"The actors are very appreciative of us ... If someone's necklace breaks during a scene, the actors on stage will improvise ways to collect the beads throughout the play and deliver them to us, so we

can repair the costume for the next performance."

Things don't always go as smoothly as one would hope in the heat of the play.

Molokach tells a story of one quick change, when an understudy grabbed her own dress and put it on backwards. Another time an actress forgot to put on her slip and spent most of her scene hiding behind a couch asking her fellow performer between lines, "can you see through my dress?"

After studying fashion design at Sheridan College in Toronto, Molokach took a job as a seamstress on the costumes at Canada's Wonderland.

"One day one of the performers there said, 'I'm going to this place called the Shaw Festival,' so a bunch of us went down — and I applied for a job."

"28 years later," she joked.

After all that time, she said she still finds the job challenging and exciting.

"It's new every time."

Their motto, she said, is "How are we going to make this work?"

"Velcro is too noisy, zippers break, so it's mostly hooks and eyes, and buttons."

Having to "make things work" in unconventional ways can make a "quick change" even more nerve-wracking.

A quick change happens usually between three people in a tiny booth just off stage.

In a recent production of *Guys and Dolls*, for example, dressers had 30 seconds to remove an actor's jacket, skirt, pantyhose, necklace and hat; and replace them with new pantyhose, shoes, a blouse, a wedding gown, and a bouquet. Wardrobe runners time these changes with

stopwatches during dress rehearsals. "Anything over 45 seconds is a luxury," said actress Jenny Wright.

"A full minute for a quick change is like (a coffee break)."

Quick changes are carefully planned and require rehearsals just like any other choreography. The actor must move in such a way that one or two dressers and possibly a wig person can undress and re-dress them in a matter of seconds. But things can — and do — go wrong.

A rather large actor once kicked her in the nose by accident, Molokach said.

"I saw stars but didn't see any blood, so I just moved on to my next quick change. The actor never even knew it happened — but my nose has never been straight since."

Like so many of the people in the backstage "show behind the show," Molokach never gets to see an entire play. But there's still fun to be had.

"During long dance numbers we have one big dance party in the back. We actually really enjoy ourselves. The work is very collaborative and creative. We're all dedicated, flexible, learning new skills, using old ones... what you see on stage is as good as it is because of all the people behind the scenes."

Another tip from backstage — they keep a little spray bottle of vodka nearby; "not to keep a smile on the dressers, but to spritz on actors' underarms, as alcohol neutralizes the bacteria."

Molokach is also known for her superior baking skills, when she's not shining shoes.

"You need an escape from the theatre every once in a while."

I WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL WHO PUT THEIR NAMES FORWARD TO RUN IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

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## Peach Pickers' Picnic returns to Village

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

For the 12th year in a row, Jane Andres is planning a big thank-you to Niagara-on-the-Lake's migrant farm workers by coordinating the second annual Peach Pickers' Picnic August 12.

The smells of island food will waft across the fields near Garrison Village, accompanied by the sounds of gospel and reggae music, as the event turns the market grounds into Jamaica-on-the-Lake for a night.

"The heroes of this event are the farm workers," said Andres.

"I would just love for our community to overwhelm them with gratitude and kindness. Come shake a worker's hand and thank him by buying him a meal for ten bucks."

Andres has long been a champion of the town's farm workers, often driving around town with her car loaded with bottles of cold water and



Zephie James and the Peach Queens (Kai Wiens Family Farm) at the 2017 Peach Pickers' Picnic. (Jane Andres)

watermelon wedges to hand off to her friends in the fields.

"These people are what made our town rich," she said.

"Without them, there would be no wineries, no large fruit farms. When the Agricultural Worker program was launched in 1966, it allowed local farmers to plan for growth. And look at us now, thanks to these guys."

She said she coordinated the peach picnic event to celebrate our "temporary

neighbours," many who have been coming here from Jamaica and Mexico for decades. The event replaces the Workers Welcome concerts formerly held at Orchard Park Bible Church.

"We needed more space and less structure. We would get more than 800 people at the concerts — there just wasn't room for them," said Andres.

"The logistics were complicated too, because they're often

working well into the evening, so they may not get off in time to make it to a concert."

At the peach picnic event, which runs later, workers can make their way over as the work day ends and still have time to enjoy the festivities.

The picnic is open to all members of the community, who will be able to purchase meals for workers — and for themselves.

Caribbean and Mexican food will be available from professional caterers, along with live music — many songs being performed by the workers themselves, backed up by members of local band Random Task.

Andres encourages those who attend to bring a ukulele and join in for a rendition of Bob Marley's *One Love* at the end of the night.

The event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the site of the weekly Market at the Village and SuperMarket on Niagara Stone Road.



2017 Peach Pickers' Picnic. (Jane Andres)



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# 55 years of fun

Photos by Richard Harley



Terry Willick enjoys some carnival food.



Locals Jake Pemberton and Susan Snider await a number after spinning the wheel for the grocery basket raffle.



St. Davids Lion Ray Kostick cooks up some sweet corn on the cob.



Trey gets his face painted by Niagara Face Painting.

## Something for all ages

Richard Harley  
Editor

You don't need to be a kid to enjoy the St. Davids Lions Carnival.

The annual event, which takes over St. Davids for four days in July, provides something for the young and just as much for the old.

It was no different this year, as people from all over Niagara came to have some carnival food, play some games and enjoy some rides.

The event, which celebrated its 55th year, is completely organized by the St. Davids Lions Club, with members building and setting up their own game booths, signs and renting the rides themselves.

The whole setup takes members a week to 10 days to set up, said local St. Davids resident and Lion Ken Lamb.

This year a camping trailer was purchased by the Lions

Club to be raffled off as the main prize for the event, and for the first time ever tickets sold completely out.

"It was a very successful carnival," said Lamb. "We were just selling out of stuff left, right and centre."

The trailer, a brand new 2018 model, is valued around \$10,000, though the Lions were given a "good deal" on it from event sponsor Niagara Trailers.

The grocery basket raffle was also a hit, raffling off around 130 grocery baskets worth \$40 each.

The event also saw musical performances by local bands each night, with Danny Lamb and the Association playing Wednesday, Pub Jugs Thursday, Clockwork Friday, and Dark Horse on Saturday, with a guest appearance by Graham Lear, former drummer of Santana.

Lamb thanked all that

performed during the four-day event on Saturday night, as well as the band and event sponsors.

The music, Lamb said, is something he brought to the festival a few years ago, to try and offer something for a more diverse crowd.

"I've been very fortunate. Every year I get local businesses to (sponsor) all of the entertainment," Lamb said.

"So it doesn't cost us anything, in terms of every dollar that comes in goes so good causes in the community."

The event raises funds for the Lions Club, which supports the community through various efforts such as contributing to Guide Dogs for Autism and helping fund a new microscope to the St. Catharines hospital.

Lamb said the festival is weather dependent, but they've had "two great years in a row."



Betty Disero sells tickets for the grocery basket raffle.

Lamb wanted to extend thanks to event and sponsors, including, Creek Road Paints, Telcon, Revel Realty Niagara, Avondale St. Davids, Scott Street Greenhouses, Joseph's Wines, Great Lakes Brewery, the St. Davids and Queenston golf courses, St. Davids Dentistry, St. Davids Veterinary, Twin Power Financial, EcoLimo Niagara, Long and McQuade and Go Mini's Niagara.



Katherine Reid and Paolo Miele let off some steam.



# NEWS

## Wine producer looking for farm winery approval

Penny Coles  
Staff

A large barn on Queenston Road is under renovation, as its owners pretty it up in preparation for selling high-end wine.

The improvements are making some of its neighbours nervous, but they shouldn't be, said Alison Zalepa, general manager of Queenston Mile Winery - the only change they'll see, other than the steel pole barn on the 50-acre property turned into something far more aesthetically pleasing, will be a small retail space added to the wine-making equipment.

"It will look modern, sleek, and beautiful sitting on the landscape," she said.

Zalepa, also general manager of the sister Creekside Winery in Jordan, represents Equity Wine Group, a privately-held company that owns and builds small craft wineries in Ontario. She said their goal is to make small batches of ultra-premium, small-lot VQA wine, to be sold through a wine club, a limited number of restaurants, and at the cellar door.

There won't be hordes of traffic travelling to the small winery, and there will be no buses — it is expected to produce less 200 cases of wine a year.

But if it doesn't receive a site plan approval for a farm winery soon, it won't have any wine at all from this year's grapes.

Zalepa said she understands a new business can make people uncomfortable, but she is willing to work with neighbours to solve their problems. She's listening to their concerns and is willing to do whatever is reasonable to address them, she said.

It was clear though when residents came to council with their concerns last week, what they are really afraid of is an estate winery too close to their homes, with a restaurant, an increased number of visitors and the special events estate wineries are allowed to hold - although at this time, what is before the planning department for approval is a site plan for a farm winery only.

"We are not here in regards to an estate winery proposal," former planning director John Hendricks, now principal planner for Niagara Planning Group, told councillors. "All we're dealing with is an application for a farm winery."

He said a restaurant is not proposed as part of the farm winery, which they hope to have open in 2018. They are looking down the road at applying for an estate winery in 2019.

The farm winery will use the existing building, the

existing driveway, and will not draw a lot of retail traffic, he added.

An estate winery would require rezoning, and a public process during which residents would be asked for their input, but there is no public process required as part of a site plan approval for a farm winery.

Although some neighbours questioned whether there was any intention of operating a farm winery, with no visible equipment, Hendricks said they're waiting for site plan approval before moving in barrels and other wine-making equipment.

"The fruit is growing, the barrels are on order, but we can't do anything until a farm winery is approved."

Coun. Betty Disero tried two tactics to help residents.

Although farm winery site plans are approved by the planning director without council input, she asked that in this case, the site plan be brought to council, recognizing the proximity of the winery to neighbouring homes.

Councillors need to know what is happening with the property, she said, because if there are problems down the road, they will be the ones to get the calls of complaint.

Residents also need to know that if the farm winery is approved, it doesn't automatically guarantee zoning for an estate winery, she said.

She failed to get support for that part of her motion, over concern from other councillors that it would unfairly delay site plan approval, and with assurances from the town planning director, Craig Larmour, that he is satisfied the site plan is for a farm winery, and nothing more.

She also asked and received support for adding some conditions be met before site plan approval, although it was made clear that the planning director could work with the applicant but not dictate those conditions be met.

Disero asked for landscaping along the borders of abutting properties and to conceal parking, dust control measures on the gravel entrance to the winery, and no parking on the north side of the property, nearest to residents. She also asked for a warning sign to advise cyclists and pedestrians of a hidden driveway.

"I'd like to ensure staff will do everything they can to have these conditions met," she said.

Zalepa said most of those concerns have already been addressed, and she is hoping for good news soon from the planning director on the site plan application.

"We've been working on this since March. We're not taking it lightly," she said. "We want to make our neighbours happy."

## Italian restaurant 'The Tangled Vine' to replace Lawrenceville in Virgil



Renovations are being done for The Tangled Vine Italian restaurant. (Lauren O'Malley)

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

Ending months of speculation regarding the former Lawrenceville Restaurant in Virgil, we've gone beyond the grapevine and straight to the new owner of the property. Joe Manchese, owner for 13 years of La Scala Ristorante in St Catharines, was excited to share his plans.

"We're opening a casual, rustic Italian bistro in the restaurant, called The Twisted Vine Kitchen and Market. We'll be serving traditional Italian food, and we'll sell gelato too, made by Italian Ice Cream in Niagara Falls."

Manchese explains the restaurant will be open in the mornings as a café, serving fresh pastries and espresso-based coffees like cappuccino.

Manchese is one of four partners who own the property, which includes a parking lot and a B&B. The latter will remain as it is — with some small improvements already made.

The plans for the parking lot include parking, of course, but also planting some gardens and creating a small out-

door marketplace. "We'd love to have small markets there, with local farmers selling produce, like tomatoes and fruit in the summer, pumpkins in the fall," he says.

The Tangled Vine will also sell specialty Italian products like olive oil, balsamic vinegar and olives. Plans are to also offer fresh-daily gluten-free breads and pastries.

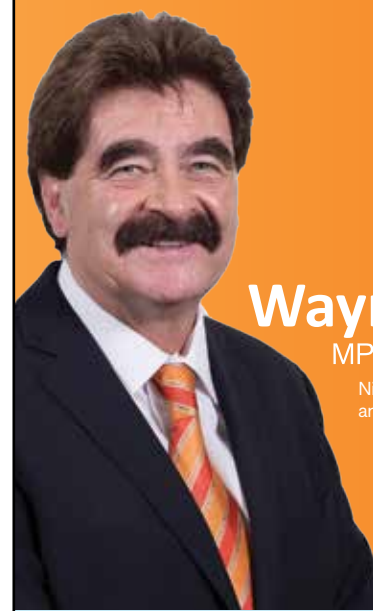
"Virgil is thriving and growing, with all of the new development ... It's an exciting place, and we're very happy to be opening up there," Manchese says.

Manchese is also looking forward to finding Niagara-on-the-Lake sources for fresh produce and other products, and would like to connect with local farmers.

He struggled with finding the right name for months, and one day it struck him: the grape vine, so beautifully twisted and gnarled. He thought this would be the perfect name to reflect the environment around the new restaurant.

The plan is to open the Twisted Vine Kitchen and Market at 1504 Niagara Stone Road before October 1.

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## PHOTO: Dragonfly on patrol



An adult male common whitetail dragonfly. The white pruinescence on the abdomen, found only in mature males, is displayed to other males as a territorial threat. (Richard Harley)



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*Have some fun*

The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

**Across**

- 1. Gossamer (6)
- 5. Like many Sherpas (8)
- 9. Affliction of cats and other fur-lickers (8)
- 10. Skin condition sought by beachgoers (6)
- 11. Science of logic, quantity, shape and arrangement (Abbr.) (5)
- 12. Tacit (7)
- 15. Owner of a business (10)
- 17. Inert gaseous element (4)
- 18. Sour (4)
- 20. Place for American children in the holidays (6,4)
- 22. Galilee native (7)
- 23. Spread out (5)
- 27. Small restaurant (6)
- 28. Elongate (8)
- 29. South American boa (8)
- 30. Person in the petroleum industry (6)

**Down**

- 2. D-Day beach (5)
- 3. Navy vessel (7)
- 4. Spoiled child (4)
- 5. World's longest river (4)
- 6. Autopsy (4-6)
- 7. Wool fat (7)
- 8. Private room on a passenger ship (9)
- 13. Hollywood (10)
- 14. Stub (5)
- 16. Economic decline (9)
- 19. Severe (7)
- 21. Uppercase (7)
- 24. Cub leader (5)
- 25. Entreaty (4)
- 26. Keen on (4)

### Crossword Puzzle

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

Want the answers early? Scan the puzzles using HP Reveal. (Must be following Niagara Now's channel.)



**Last issue's answers**

1	A	E	R	O	3	C	O	N	S	T	10	A	B	L	E	17
M	A	A	A	U	C							P	E			W
10	E	S	C	A	L	A	T	O	R		11	P	I	A	N	O
N	E	T	E	U	E	E	S	U								
12	D	E	S	P	A	I	R		15	B	E	T	W	E	E	N
I																
14	N	A	P	E	16	T	O	A	D	17	S	T	O	O	L	
G	A															
19	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N		21	I	D	L	E	
22	T	S	E							23	S					
24	A	V	O	C	A	D	25	O	26	A	T	C	27	A	K	E
C	N	L														
28	K	H	A	K	I	29	C	H	A	U	F	F	E	U	R	
S	G	Z														
30	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E		31	I	T	C	H	

**Sudoku**

		9	5			6	4	
1		7						5
		6				9	3	
4	9			7	5			
		8	1				7	4
7	8				6			
2					7			9
	6	5			3	7		



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# FEATURES

## Nature's Lens: The mighty phragmite



Owen Bjorgan  
Biophilic World  
Featured



Phragmites, an invasive species to Niagara. (Supplied)

Invasive species are a part of nature. The natural world procures many curious cycles and sequences, some of which seem rather unfair to the human perspective. For example, how could just one species ruin it for so many others? The "others" remind the kids in the classroom that suffered an extra long detention- just because that one other kid acted out. I remember those days. I was in elementary school.

Around the same age of my life, I would bike around St. Davids and Queenston at my leisure. I started to notice some scenery changes along my usual travels, and one year it hit me- how is this one type of plant, whatever this tall reed or monstrous weed is, seemingly everywhere now? Many of the irrigation ditches of the Lines and Concessions are now clogged with the infamous phragmites ("frag-mighty's").

If you look on Google Earth, you can see a string of "gold" running the entirety of Concession 1 road.

This aggressive perennial grass, native to Eurasia, is massive in stature and grows in impenetrable stocks, each stock loaded with a couple thousand seeds on its head. It out-competes native vegetation and outsmarts our infrastructure, costing Ontarions time and money to fight it. What is the mechanism for so much pugnacity? Rhizomes (a root structure under the ground) radiate out in every direction with a high density of fresh budding roots and shoots popping off of it. This root system travels subterranean style, making the plant nearly impossible to eradicate once it establishes large stands. It also travels by wind, water, and animals or human activities.

The wall of plant material created becomes impassible

by native turtles species, which can normally navigate through our native wetland grasses. When the biodiversity of wetlands and shoreline areas drop, suddenly the head count of associated insects, amphibians, and birds go with it.

Invasive species tend to have such negative cascade effects on ecosystems all over the world, at small and large scales alike. The notable disturbances are signs that nature's niches were already in their right place, generally hovering at an equilibrium- and now thrown off balance. The predators were eating the right amount of other animals, and those animals were eating the right amount of plants. When a foreign species is suddenly placed in a system that isn't prepared

for its influence, the entire ecosystem can flip. We could discuss a whole other suite of invasive species in NOTL that have literally changed our lives in this town, including zebra mussels and emerald ash borers.

The alien species often win, and are unfortunately so good at what they do. I've always had concerns about developments adjacent to wetlands, as phragmites only needs a gust of wind or a ride on a truck tire to break through. Speaking of breaking, one time I leapt through a wall of phragmites only to have a piece of broken plant, like plastic, emerge from my back 2 weeks later. It snapped off inside of me- I can confirm through my studies and personal experiences that it is one hardy plant.

With an unknown shipment method, it is perhaps too late to focus on how it got here, but rather how to control the current situation. This plant will continue to wreak havoc in Niagara and North America unless an ingenious removal solution is formulated. I challenge you to not see phragmites on your next NOTL commute!

I end this segment with a reminder that my last piece in The Lake Report touched on wine routes in an analogy.

Now, if we had a few glasses of wine over this article, we would chat about who or what the most profound invasive species really is.

[bjorgan.owen@gmail.com](mailto:bjorgan.owen@gmail.com)

## Behind the scenes of the Summer Garden Tour



A winding garden path. (Supplied photo)

Each host on the tour dons one of these whimsical hats, and visitors collect photos of the hosts and their smashing bonnets. The 2018 collection featured beehives, bird's nests, feathers, dragonflies and sprays of wisteria and were dreamed up by floral designer Hilary Bellis (president of Neward Neighbours) and Liz Klose of the Canadian Garden Council. Upcycled materials for the hats were donated by Newark Neighbours. In return, the Horticultural Society made a generous donation to the local thrift shop and food bank. The hats were raffled off at the mixer in support of the Horticultural Society.

This year's summer tour was a great success. Cindy Grant, chair of the Garden Tour committee, says approximately one thousand visitors passed through and a team of over sixty volunteers made it possible for both guests and hosts alike to enjoy the experience.

Once the summer tour wraps up, the selection process for the following year begins almost immediately.

"We're looking for a gardener's garden," says Gloria Thurston, head of the selection committee

for the last six years. "We need to see passion and a sense of play in addition to technical skill."

Gary Hall, (marketing and social media) explained that the ideal garden offers a balance between glitz and effort, creates an opportunity for the gardener to expand their own knowledge, and celebrates the unexpected.

Sometimes some arm-twisting is required in recruiting. Concerns like privacy, and spousal approval often come up. Thurston's own garden was finally showcased this summer, after years of persuading her husband that they should join the lineup. Thurston says he sat in the garden for the afternoon, greeting guests, and watching the excellent job the Society's 'Garden Sitters' did of maintaining order, and then rewarded Thurston's persistence with a sincere "You've done good!"

I never did find out who got to wear the crazy hat.

If you'd like to be considered for the 2019 Garden Tour, Saturday July 6th, or for more information on the NOTL Horticultural society, visit them at, [www.notlhort-society.com](http://www.notlhort-society.com)



Catherine Skinner  
Grow Niagara  
Featured

It's no secret that we live in one of the prettiest towns in Canada. Each summer, locals and tourists alike line up for the chance to view the private gardens of some of our talented green-thumb residents.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society has hosted its garden tour for no less than twenty seven years in this beautiful area, collaborating with locals to create an immersive and inspiring afternoon for gar-

den enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

On July 16th, the annual Garden Tour volunteer appreciation mixer was held at Mori Gardens. As the continuing platinum sponsor of the tour Mori Gardens offers a helpful discount to gardeners in the lineup, plus rental items to enhance each space and pro tips for any troubleshooting before the adoring masses come to call.

The back of the garden centre was transformed into a breezy oasis. Refreshments were provided by sponsors Konzlemann and Silversmith, there was a buffet of nibbles, and live jazz guitarist. The centerpiece of the event were an assortment of delightful hats, a new tradition.

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# Our Western Home

## Miss Rye's refuge for young orphan girls



Denise Ascenzo  
Featured

Many might not know the history of Our Western Home, an orphanage for young girls that was operated out of the old courthouse on King Street, where Rye Street Heritage Park is now located.

On Dec. 1, 1869, a woman named Maria Rye (Miss Rye) bought the courthouse and surrounding property to be used as a transitional home — or as others might call it a distribution centre — for young orphaned girls brought from England. She called it Our Western Home and from its opening in 1869 until its closing in 1913, more than 3,500 girls made a transition through the home.

Rye began her charitable work in the 1860s, escorting young, single, middle-class women to Australia and New Zealand in pursuit of husbands. However, the cost of that became prohibitive, so she turned her attention to the plight of much younger girls, some as young as two-years-old, who she felt needed her help more.

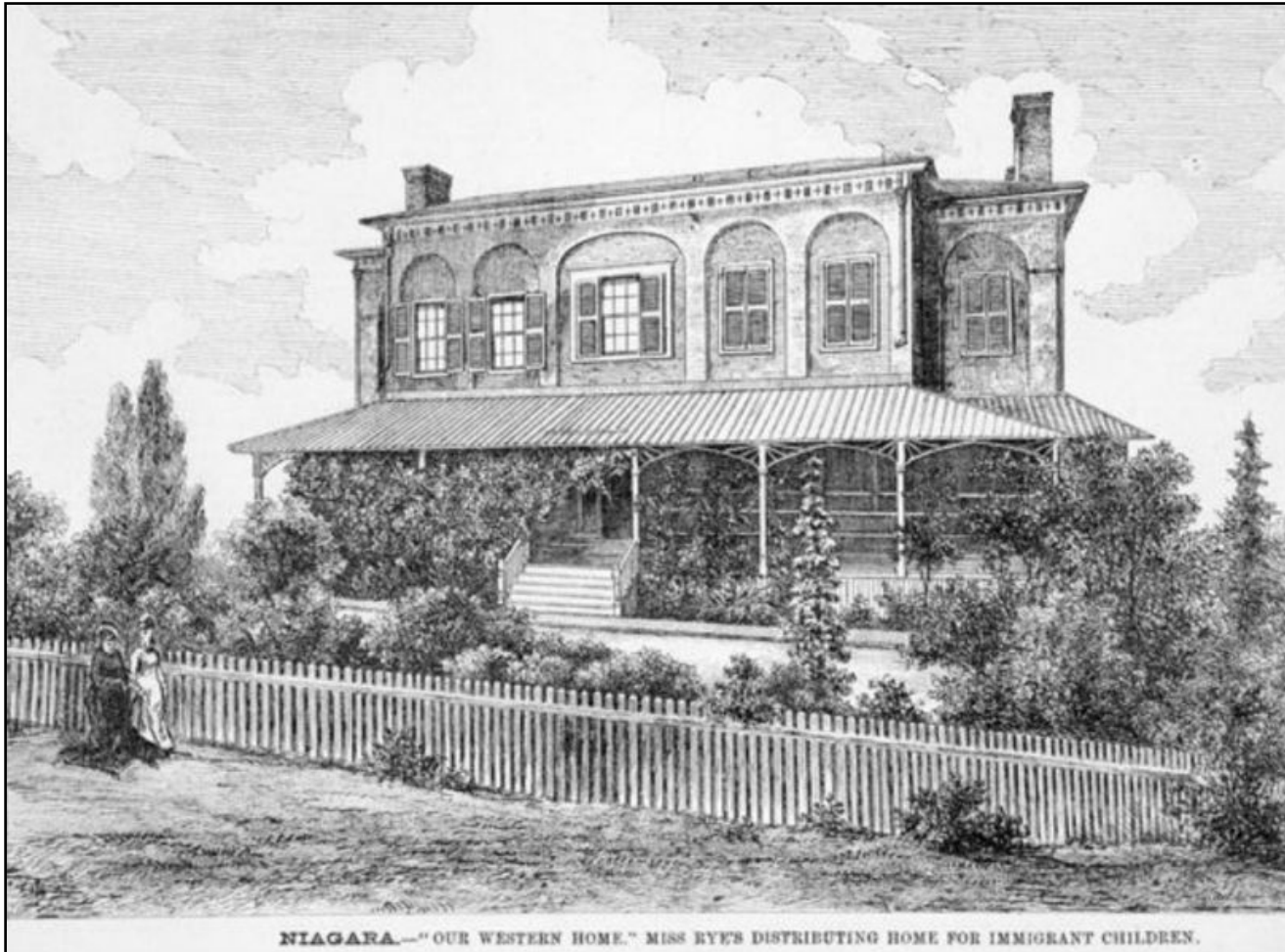
Rye and her sister Elizabeth purchased a house in Peckham, England, calling it the Little Gutter Girls' Home, and Rye petitioned for many young girls to be removed from the workhouses in Liverpool and from the streets of London.

Some of these girls had families that could no longer care for them, while others were orphans, and it soon became apparent there was a great need to find homes for these girls.

With few places taking in young children in England, Rye turned her attention to Canada.

The government of England had felt sending young orphaned children to Canada would afford them a better opportunity with fresh air, plenty of food and loving families to care for them. For many children this was true, but there were also horrible stories of abuse.

On the journey to Canada, Rye would have the girls stay in the Peckham house to get them cleaned up, fed and healthy. Then, in groups of 60 to 80, she would personally escort them to Our Western Home. The girls' clothing and transporta-



"Miss Rye's" Our Western Home. The house was used as a refuge for young orphaned girls from 1869 to 1913. Over the years the house saw more than 3,500 girls transition through the home. (**Canadian Illustrated News, Dec. 6, 1879**)

tion costs were paid for by the Board of Guardians of England.

Upon arrival in Canada, the older girls would be given training in house-keeping, cooking, laundry, sewing and gardening, while some who showed potential were trained in the stationery business that Rye owned. Once the older girls were trained, they would do work placements in homes as household help or in shops as clerks.

They were paid, though the money was put into a trust account they couldn't access until the age of 21.

Younger girls were expected to learn basic chores before being placed for adoption into suitable Christian families. These families would be vetted and had to sign documents to state their intent to house, educate, raise them in the Church of England and look after the girls as if they were their own child.

Despite the good intentions of Our Western Home, inspections were not undertaken to ensure the girls were being properly educated and well-cared-for, and instances of abuse surfaced. In cases where it was brought to light, the girls were brought back to the home.

Some girls were also returned to the home by guard-



"Miss" Maria Rye. (**Supplied**)

ians who deemed them unfit, undisciplined or dull-witted. Rye did not permit these girls to live in Our Western Home as she was concerned they may negatively influence the younger girls. Instead, she

boarded them close to the home in a red brick house at the corner of King and Cottage Streets, so they would be looked after until other arrangements were made.

By 1895, Rye retired and

returned to England, donating both her property in Canada and the Peckham house in England to the Waifs and Strays Society of England. At that time a woman named Emily Bailey took over running Our Western Home.

In the book *Bicentennial Stories of Niagara-on-the-Lake* (1981), there is a delightful story by Doris Sheppard as told to the editor, John Field.

Sheppard tells of arriving at Our Western Home in 1902 at the age of 14, and describes how one of her first duties was to take care of the laundry and to put the younger girls to bed. She did not receive any pay for her work, just room and board, nonetheless she recounts how lovely the home was compared to where she had come from.

After residing in the home for a year, the cook for the home quit and Sheppard took the opportunity to take the position. She had no idea how to cook, but Bailey convinced her she could learn — and she did.

She soon had a new navy dress and hat and was paid \$3 a month for her work.

Sheppard lived and worked at the home for ten years, eventually earning \$10 a month, before leaving the home at the age of 24.

When she left she was permitted to access the money in

her bank account — a staggering \$750.

Our Western Home closed in 1913, a few years later and the entire building was torn down after World War One.

A small side note: I spoke with one of the town's maintenance workers who was on hand when trees were planted in Rye Street Heritage Park as part of the Canada 150 initiative. He said "everywhere they dug holes they had to remove red bricks."

On Sept. 28, 2018, the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, joined by the British Home Child Group International will be unveiling a historic plaque on the site of Our Western Home in Rye Street Heritage Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake to commemorate Miss Rye's girls.

Further details will be provided at a later date.

The British Home Child Group International has some interesting statistics on the children of Great Britain who were brought to Canada. One stat says 10 per cent of the Canadian population can trace their ancestry through children brought to Canada from England between the 1860s to the 1930s.

More information on these children can be found at, [britishhomechild.com](http://britishhomechild.com).

Note: The Niagara Historical Society and Museum has a trunk on display that belonged to Eliza Morris, one of the young girls who arrived in Canada on May 12, 1873.

Eliza was born in England around 1861 and died in Wentworth, Hamilton on Sept. 4, 1889 at the age of 28.

In St. Mark's Anglican Church graveyard there is a plot bought by Maria Rye for any child who died in her care. The plot is marked by a large monument with a Celtic cross. The stone is inscribed "Sacred to the memory of Our Western Home Niagara. Waiting for adoption, to wit the redemption of the body, Rom. VIII XXIII."

Bailey is buried in this plot with six children from the home.

To learn more about the topic of this story you can visit the *Niagara Historical Society & Museum website* at, [www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.com](http://www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.com), or visit the museum for yourself.

The *Niagara Historical Museum* is located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake in Memorial Hall.

Visit, or give them a call at 905-468-3912.

Denise's profile can be found at, [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com), along with other stories about our town's history.

Niagara Historical  
SOCIETY  MUSEUM



43 Castlereagh St.  
Niagara-on-the-Lake  
905-468-3912





# COMMUNITY

All local residents are welcome to submit photos and letters for consideration in this section. Send to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)



*I heard it through the grapevine.*

## Millions of peaches, peaches for me



The Peach Festival in 2017. (Richard Harley)

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

Bring your napkins — it's going to be a juicy day at the 31st annual St Vincent de Paul Peach Festival.

On Sunday August 12th the church's property will be transformed into a jubilee of all things peach.

You'll find baskets of fresh peaches donated by local farmers, as well as peach pies, pie by the slice, crepes, sundaes, jam and even peach punch.

No church fair is complete without a bake tent stocked with goodies made by its members.

There will also be a jewelry tent, book tent, and a

White Elephant tent.

Brendan Wall, the event's chair for the third year running, said the "white elephant tent" will open at 8 a.m.

"It's like a garage sale, and we like to attract those people who want to get the good deals early in the morning."

Church members will be selling coffee and muffins in the morning to help the early shoppers keep up their strength, and to ease the anticipation of other keen people who come to the event for its 10 a.m. start time.

Pig Out catering will be serving pork on a bun, hot dogs and hamburgers, and there will also be freshly cooked corn on the cob, as

well as a wide variety of beverages.

Kidz Korner will feature games, face painting and a clown with balloons.

"We're excited to bring back a sale of books and games for kids in the kids' area too," said Wall.

Therapy Tails will be at the event with their therapy dogs, familiarizing people with their work in our community. People are strongly encouraged to interact with the animals. And live entertainment for the day will be provided by locals Mike and Joan Burnett. (Feel free to interact with them, too.)

Funds raised by the event go towards improvements of St Vincent de Paul's parish hall on Davy Street. In previous years peaches have paid for improvements such as a new roof, wheelchair accessibility, a new sound system, new floors, and beautification of the building. Last year the event made \$13,000.

Food tickets are \$1 each, and raffle tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10.

The raffle prizes are a family fun night for 6 on Clifton Hill, a Lenovo laptop, and a two night stay at the Millcroft Inn and Spa.

The St Vincent de Paul Peach Festival starts at 10

a.m., and runs until 3:30 p.m. on the church's property at 73 Picton St.

On Saturday, Aug. 11, the Chamber of Commerce hosts the Peach Celebration, which takes over a portion of Queen Street for the day.

The yearly celebration of the local peach harvest first started at St. Vincent de Paul, with the chamber following to highlight the work of peach growers by inviting them to a harvest celebration downtown.

It's since grown to be the largest fruit harvest festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The day will feature a sidewalk sale with merchants from the Queen Street area, as well as plenty of peach-themed treats from local bakeries and restaurants.

Local growers will also be selling fresh peaches.

This year's celebration will include musical performances from five bands, including The Toronto All Star Big Band (performing at noon), David Hoy and the St. Catharines Pipe Band.

The Ben Show, a street performer for all ages, will also be attending the festivities once again to show off a variety of impressive tricks, like riding his tiny bicycle.

Saturday's celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Local band Disciples of Mountain performs at the Niagara Jazz Festival. Scan to hear them play (Richard Harley)



Music Niagara Performance Academy students performed at Royal Elite Academy in July. (Richard Harley)

**Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Show and Shine**  
In partnership with Parks Canada  
Vintage Military Vehicles

**SUNDAY, August 12, 2018**  
9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
**KINSMEN SCOUT HALL**  
(corner of King St. and Mary St., Niagara-on-the-Lake)  
\*\*\*\* Plaque for first 200 Cars and \$500.00 in cash prizes\*\*\*\*

Gates open for Car Registration: 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.  
Admission: \$10.00 per car. \$3:00 for Spectators (Kids under 12 Free)

For more information call Bob at 905-360-0455  
Proceeds to Kinsmen Community Projects and CF



### Scene of the week

A field of luscious sunflowers grows in the back roads of rural NOTL. The scenes of summer in this town are breathtaking, and this is just one small example of why we're so lucky. Take a drive, bike or walk and enjoy the summer before it gets cold again!



### Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol

Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:  
Konzelmann Estate Winery  
1096 Lakeshore Road

Konzelmann Estate Winery is on Lake Ontario. Their tasting rooms are stunning. Walking through the building to our destination, each room was more impressive than the last. There's a lot to take in, and offerings of their famous peach wine and award winning pinot noirs distracted us from our path. But ultimately it led us to our destination — the restrooms. The marble bathrooms offer a stimulus pause that does not plunge your senses away from the impressive standards set by the other rooms. Konzelmann washrooms get a solid 4/5 plungers, making them Gold Plunger award winners.

4/5 Golden Plungers

### JOKE OF THE WEEK

"To ride a horse, or not to ride a horse.  
That is equestrian."

By David Green. Check out Monday Pundays with David Green, only at [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com).



## NIAGARA FIT

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## Farm-hers of NOTL: Juliet Orazietti

Lauren O'Malley  
Staff

If you follow Linc Farm on social media, you might think farm life is all calf kisses and sheep snuggles at the Niagara-on-the-Lake range.

In real life, Juliet Orazietti, half owner of the farm — and half the staff — works from dawn to dusk and beyond, seven days a week.

Her husband Martin Weber is the other, quieter half of the workforce. The rest of the team is three large white working dogs.

The farm is like something from a storybook, replete with lambs, piglets and steer calves that overwhelm with kisses, and a forest where the pigs live.

Orazietti herself, though she works hard, is always smiling and ready to chat.

And that's the real story — all of the hard work that happens here.

Linc Farms is a livestock farm, where Orazietti raises livestock for meat. She makes no bones about it, speaking frankly about which animals will go to the butcher when.

At the same time, every animal on the farm has a name, and she cares for them with the love a good mother has for her children.

She has bottle-fed many lambs, keeping them alive with around-the-clock feedings, and handles the more difficult jobs too — a lamb born with an extreme health condition, for example, required immediate euthanization to end its suffering.

And she herself performs autopsies on animals that die of causes that aren't immediately apparent.

You don't want to mess with this woman.

Born and raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Orazietti studied pre-veterinary sciences at UBC, before realizing that becoming a large animal vet meant dealing mainly with sick animals on large commercial farms and changing paths to work towards a master's degree in animal breeding and genetics.

She also has a mater's degree in livestock science from BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria.

Although she always dreamt of farming, she couldn't imagine how it could actually happen, so she had assumed she would be an academic.

But ten years ago she got a call from Southbrook Vineyards — they wanted sheep to fulfil their goal of biodynamic certification and needed a shepherd, so during her summers off school, Orazietti managed the flock.

In 2015 she and Weber took over Southbrook's Linc Farm,



### FARM-HERS

(Top) Juliet Orazietti with some of her lambs.

(Top right) Juliet Orazietti gives some attention to one of her calves. The cow, she explains, grew up around humans and is quite the attention hog. Perhaps he'd prefer to be a pig.

(Middle) Linc Farms pigs enjoy a personal forest and pasture they can go back and forth between as they please.

(Bottom right) One of Orazietti's lambs.

(Photos by Richard Harley)

a 75-acre property where the couple now raise sheep, pigs, chickens and, as of this spring, cattle.

"Everything we do is about achieving high quality, highly marbled meat," Orazietti said proudly.

"We deliberately choose breeds that are delicious and highly efficient. We're not into lean."

The pair has incorporated a technique of multi-species rotational grazing for their herds and flocks.

This dining dance around the property prevents the animals from getting parasites, as the farm doesn't like to use deworming medications — although it does involve a lot

of labour for the farmers.

Orazietti and Weber move the animals from one pasture to another daily, the chickens following the sheep and cattle.

"The chickens scratch the manure into the soil, and also eat any parasites. We haven't had to deworm any sheep in three years."

She's also a keen observer of all of her livestock, noting the different personality traits and genetics of the animals.

"Hormones are so cool," she said, referring to the dominant hen in her flock who — before they incorporated roosters, grew a larger comb, a hooked beak, and even stubs of

talons; a roost-her.

Feed for the animals comes from a variety of sources, including mutually beneficial partnerships with Niagara College and Oast House Brewers.

Linc Farm takes the spent grain (mostly barley, some wheat) and fruit pulp from brewing processes, as well as grape skins from wine-making, and feeds it to the chickens and pigs.

The pigs move themselves from pasture to wallow to forest. It's an oak forest, so there are plenty of acorns for the pigs to forage, and the couple has built shelters for the adult pigs (weighing up to 600 pounds) and their piglets.



"If you can't build stuff out of skids, two by fours, and baling twine you're not a farmer," Orazietti said proudly.

A day of work for her and her husband includes fence building, water toting, building pig huts, occasionally purchasing a cow, collecting eggs, "and more fence building," Orazietti said.

The livestock require more than 1,000 litres of water a day, all of which is trucked in by Orazietti and Weber and distributed by various contraptions they've built.

To protect the animals from the sun, they've also built a large shade structure on wheels, which Orazietti

pushes around as though it were effortless.

When asked if being a woman farmer is a challenge, she laughed.

"Most people have moved beyond overt sexism. Just the occasional stupid comment like, 'let me help you carry that, wouldn't you want your hurting yourself' — same stuff all women deal with."

Male farmers know their wives are tough, she said.

Ken Bartel certainly knows that. His wife Rose will be featured in the next instalment of "The farm-hers of Niagara-on-the-Lake," in our August 15 issue.

News that



Hits home

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