



The Lake Report

Issue 7

August 16, 2018

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Development

DEVELOPMENTS

NOTL GETTING BUSY?

SOME RESIDENT THOUGHTS
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Hawley will take 'second look' at plans for hotel in the Village

As far as public meetings for developments go, an August open house about a proposed hotel at The Village was tame.

Developer John Hawley had the crowd of about 200 people — mostly concerned Village residents — resting a little easier by the end of the two-hour conference, receiving rounds of applause and compliments for taking residents' concerns seriously.

During the presentation Hawley gave a thorough overview of his current development plans; past plans; how and why things have changed; and predicted resident concerns.

Currently, he has proposed an 80-room "boutique" hotel to be built on Niven Road, near the corner of Niagara Stone.

Originally there had been other ideas for the space, such as a retirement home or an apartment building, Hawley said, but after a deal with retirement home management company Chartwell fell through ...

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Public meeting for Village development sways some opinions

Residents question choice and height of hotel — would prefer to see smaller boutique shops more suited to locals

Richard Harley
Editor

Continued from Front Page

... — and after coming to the realization that his company doesn't know much about retirement homes — it was a risk he wasn't willing to take.

The hotel option, he said, was dreamed up about two years ago, based on advice from experienced neighbourhood planner Andres Duany. In a video played for the crowd, Duany — who has been a consultant on similar communal living environments for two decades, working with Duany Plater-Zyberk — said he thinks the hotel would add to the diversity of a village centre by bringing in a "metropolitan" feel and creating a diversity in the neighbourhood by allowing new people to come in and mingle with residents.

Residents have expressed a number of concerns about the hotel, which Hawley also tackled head on during the meeting.

Some concerns included that a tall 80-room hotel



Village developer John Hawley hosted a public meeting in August, drawing a large crowd of Village residents. (Richard Harley)

would not fit the original plan for the town centre and contrast the aesthetics of the Village and Old Town; that it would only attract transient traffic and people who aren't invested in the Village; that it would create traffic and parking problems; that it will decrease the values of Village homes; and that it doesn't offer as much for the residents who invested into the neighbourhood, who would prefer some boutique shops instead.

Hawley said he doesn't believe property values will decrease, noting he has been developing his vision for the Village for 22 years, and isn't about to sabotage it now.

He said he thinks property values could actually increase as a result.

Another point Hawley made is with the rezoning for the hotel, he would also

be able to consider putting in a grocery store — something he is currently unable to do based on an appeal by Loblaw's for the original development.

Hawley said after two decades, his company has decided "to hell with that."

The grocer, he said, would be a high-end grocery store.

Nearly the entire room chuckled when a Village resident mentioned his fear of a No Frills going in.

As far as parking concerns go, Hawley said he would be making sure the development met "at least" the minimum of the Town's bylaws for parking to address overflow concerns.

Another concern is that a proposed event hall next to the hotel — with a planned capacity for 250 people — would overload the Village and create problems with traffic and parking, as well as a row of rental units

which residents say there were not aware of when buying into their homes.

Hawley said part of his revised plan was to address concerns related to parking. The new plan, he said, allows for more than 400 parking spaces, which he said should be sufficient for events happening at the centre.

Residents also expressed concerns about the Supper-Market, which takes over the field Wednesday nights.

"Some have expressed concerns it won't continue, and others are concerned it will," Hawley said, receiving laughs from the audience.

Hawley said he intends to find some way to keep the market events running.

The grass area between Shopper's Drug Mart and Niagara Stone Road remains public property, he said. Some drawings pre-



A rendering of a proposed hotel at The Village. (Supplied)

sented showed the market moved to that area.

At least one resident stood up to express concerns that there will be days when events are all overlapping and even 400 parking spaces won't be enough. He said he is worried parked vehicles will overflow onto residential streets when events run simultaneously.

Hawley said Jackson-Triggs and Stratus wineries — both located across the road from the Village on Niagara Stone — have offered their parking lots for market events when the wineries do not have events happening.

Residents expressed concerns that with a full hotel, hotel staff and overlapping events at the market and wineries, there still wouldn't be enough parking, even with the additional parking at the wineries.

The hotel, which Hawley plans to be four storeys high, will be self-managed Hawley said, though there is the possibility in the future it could be managed by a hotel service provider like Hilton.

Hawley said he has heard the residents' concerns and will be going back to the drawing board to consider the height again.

Many Village residents left the meeting with newly formed opinions of the project, despite a large chunk of attendees having signed a petition against his proposal.

Village resident Douglas Gibson, who helped coordinate the petition against the hotel, also stood up to thank Hawley for addressing many of the concerns from residents during the meeting.

He too thanked Hawley for addressing the concerns head on.

Of the 164 people to sign the petition, he said, all of them support Hawley in developing the town centre — something he said residents expected and look forward to — though they are strongly against the rezoning for a four-storey hotel and short-term rental units.

It just has to be done right, and with the concerns of the residents in mind, he said.

Residents present petition to council

Richard Harley
Editor

Residents of the Village — 164 of them — have signed a petition to town council, outlining that they are against a recent proposal for an 80-room hotel and short-term rental units to be built on the vacant land beside Shopper's Drug Mart.

Village resident Douglas Gibson presented the petition to councillors at a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday.

He said he and the residents who signed the petition do not believe the proposal — currently for a hotel and series of short-term rental units, will suit resident needs, and that home owners were led to believe during negotia-

tions to buy that the village centre would be something for residents to use, like some smaller boutique shops.

A hotel, he said, would also disturb the character of the Village and the drive into Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It's not what residents bought into, he said.

"The Village Community commercial area was sold to us as a community/residents hub, not a tourist destination containing a hotel and conference centre. We were told that each building was not to be higher than the CIBC, surrounding town homes and existing commercial buildings, which are 36 feet."

He said the developer also spoke of live/work homes lining Perez Street, and "the types of business



The view from Niagara Stone of where a hotel and 400 parking spaces are proposed. (Richard Harley)

artists that would be attracted to these homes."

Nowhere was it suggested there would be a hotel, short-term rentals or changes to the heights of the buildings, Gibson said.

"The village residents have been left in the dark. We cannot support the proposed changes, as they are not transparent to the community," he said.

Gibson, who addressed a COTW on July 9, requested

developer John Hawley present village residents with drawings of what the proposed buildings would look like before the height allowance is made.

Regardless, he said residents do not support a hotel in the design.

After a public meeting in August, residents were also made aware Hawley had changed his plans from live/work units to short-term rental units, also along Perez

Street. Gibson said residents do not support the change, as it would "negatively affect the vibrancy" of the street.

Residents would prefer to see the lots converted into regular housing units with parking located behind them, he said.

Gibson finished asking councillors not to approve Hawley's rezoning application.

Diane Fallman, a seven-year resident of the Village, said the Hawley's should "feel very proud" they've gathered such a like-minded neighbourhood that "strongly agree with the many aspects of new urbanism."

She said residents who've moved there in last 20 years were excited about resident-friendly aspects of the development, including the current and future village centre.

She said during the July 9 meeting it was falsely represented by the developer that village residents were generally in support of the hotel development.

She said the developer's

claim that they'd made efforts to contact residents and had only heard back from two who were opposed was false.

She said in a Village newsletter residents were told there would be a survey for them to finalize their comments, which never happened.

"We have had to respond to the rezoning of the property request for several important reasons I wanted to clarify," she said.

"It is our civic responsibility to do so, as the application form for rezoning clearly states if a person or public body does not share their views before a decision is made, they will not be able to appeal the decision after it's made."

She said she wanted to make it clear to council how many residents feel they'd been misrepresented.

"Council needs to know how residents do feel about rezoning, and we hope the petition provides that clarity."

Village residents are concerned, she said.




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NEWS 

Council approves heritage committee recommendations for Randwood Estate



Town council approved recommendations from the Municipal Heritage Committee to designate structures on all four properties of the Randwood Estate.

Sarah Sawchuk
Special

Members of SORE (Save Our Randwood Estate) clapped in thunderous applause following councillors' decision to accept and move forward with recommendations brought forward by the Municipal Heritage Committee regarding the controversial redevelopment of the Randwood Estate in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

At a special council meeting Monday, councillors received a report from the MHC recommending a bylaw to give notice of intention to designate the four properties that make up the Randwood Estate under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Going against town staff's advice, the MHC also recommended that all buildings and structures on those properties be preserved until they have undergone a detailed interior analysis.

After this analysis has occurred, the developer, Two Sisters Resorts, will have an opportunity to submit a revised Heritage Impact

Assessment at the time of development to contemplate demolition and its impacts on the properties in question.

Letourneau Heritage Consulting, a firm hired by the town, recommended the demolition of some buildings and structures because they didn't have identified heritage attributes.

According to the report, town staff couldn't support the MHC's opinion because they felt the recommendation of the qualified heritage planners should be accepted.

Council's decision puts a hold on the developer's plans to demolish the one-and-a-half-storey home on a Charlotte Street property, as well as sheds, a swimming pool, a single-storey home and a garage on 200 John Street.

The town, which had already decided to begin the process of heritage designation for all four of the properties, received a letter from Two Sisters Resort representative Maurizio Rogato giving notice with the developer's intention to demolish these buildings.

Due to the difference of opinion between town staff and the MHC about which structures should be saved, the report brought forward this week advises that council may choose which buildings and structures should be permitted to be demolished.

David Bell, a member of SORE, and Michael McClelland, an architect with ERA Architects, who was hired on behalf of the group of concerned residents dedicated to preserving the history of Randwood, urged council to support the MHC's recommendations to protect the potential loss of heritage building in the community.

Bell pointed to the historical significance of the guest house at 200 John Street, which once belonged to Calvin Rand, co-founder of the Shaw Festival.

"If you choose to designate the property, you can continue the discussion in the future. If you do not, you risk putting heritage assets at risk," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the developer, Rogato told coun-

cillors the developer has been cooperative in the process thus far and is opposed to the MHC's recommendation to include all the building and structures on the Randwood Estate properties for possible designation.

He said a site visit was conducted at 200 John Street and 588 Charlotte Street to review the structures forming part of the demolition notice issued by his office.

"Of the five structures on Charlotte Street, only one was deemed by your consultant Letourneau to have any significance, being the outbuilding while others recommended for removal," he said, adding, "Of the two structures at John Street, only one was deemed to have significance being the garage. The other structure was deemed for removal."

Rogato argued that accepting the HMC's recommendations, which go against the advice of town staff, would be "an abuse of power."

Following Rogato's remarks, councillors passed MHC's recommendations with little discussion.

Council attendance records

By: Richard Harley

Many Niagara-on-the-Lake residents have asked Niagara Now and The Lake Report to investigate council attendance records. While those records are available in the minutes of each meeting, which can be found at www.notl.org, the Lake Report went through the minutes for each meeting of council and compiled a spreadsheet to make it easier to view. We also calculated the percentages. Here are the results.

NOTE: If a councillor was late, it was still marked as attended for percentage calculation. A detailed list of late arrivals can be found in a public spreadsheet made available at niagaranow.com/council-attendance-records. Unfortunately there is no written record of if councillors left meetings early. In light of that, these numbers are not an entirely accurate reflection of attendance percentages for all council members.

Attendance percentages

Pat Darte	97.01%
Maria Bau-Coote	70.15%
Jim Collard	79.10%
Betty Disero	100.00%
Terry Flynn	80.60%
Jamie King	82.09%
Martin Mazza	88.06%
Paolo Miele	92.54%
John Wiens	89.55%



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Editorial: Lake Report doubling production

Richard Harley
Editor

The Lake Report is doubling its production due to popular demand.

We will now be printing 10,000 copies, with around 8,000 being delivered through Canada Post.

We've heard time and time again from readers that they are thrilled to have a local paper that's just for them.

Many tell us they read cover-to-cover, and we couldn't be more thrilled to hear it.

We thank all of our readers for their overwhelming support. It's because of you that we're able to expand our reach so quickly.

Our next goal is to get to weekly production.

While there is no set time on that goal, we hope to get there as soon as possible.

As well, the Lake Report is moving from printing on the 1st and 15th of each month to printing on the first and third Thursday of each month, so you can expect to find a copy in your mailboxes on Friday if all goes well at Canada Post.

The paper has heard from some who haven't received a copy in the mail who have asked whether they will be getting one.

There was some initial confusion surrounding the delivery at Canada Post, and some papers were not delivered the last few times. We've been told the issue has been resolved, so all residential



The Lake Report on the press. (Richard Harley)

mailboxes in NOTL should receive a copy.

If you aren't receiving yours in the mail, please give us a call and let us know.

As well, you'll be able to find copies at all three local Avondale stores, the community centre, and many local businesses.

To give our readers a sense of just how widely read the paper has become in a short time, we've heard back from

Canada Post that more than 95 per cent of papers delivered are being taken home.

It's been a lot of work, and we're a small staff so we can't make it to everything yet, but it's been quite incredible and a lot of fun.

While we may be small, and we might not be able to cover everything we'd like until we expand a bit further, we are dedicated to bringing you the best and only

100 per cent local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We plan to be here, throughout all of the issues that affect this town and its residents for a long time to come.

Thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to keep a print paper going in this town, which deserves it for historic reasons alone, let alone its diverse and enthusiastic residents.

Don't give protesters the attention

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
David Antscherl

First, congratulations on starting a quality local paper. The phoenix arising from the ashes of the *Town Crier* is golden indeed. The quality of reporting so far is excellent. Keep it up!

I actually want to write about the demonstrations being held downtown. I believe that we and you are playing right into the hands of these demonstrators. Lovely colour portraits and repeated

naming of the organizers. Wonderful! Lots of column inches of coverage. Great! It's just what these folk want — free publicity, and they are receiving it in quantity. I've seen similar types in the community I used to live in. We have been playing right into their hands. Let's cease encouraging them. Were we to totally ignore them, the rabble-rousers will go away to seek their publicity elsewhere. It's time to turn our backs on them and move on. Soon they will do likewise.



Illustration by Cary Frank.

"Yours, well fed and content"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Bill Cochrane Snr.

I read with interest about the protests against the use of bred horses to pull carriages of tourists around Old Town.

Clearly the same would apply to Her Majesty the Queen and all of the Royal Family as they are paraded through Windsor, London and throughout their realm.

Camels, and donkeys similarly must have been abused trekking to Bethlehem all those years ago.

On a similar tangent, how are we to have our Budweiser delivered?

Following the arguments put forward by the protestors, it seems that we should cease and desist The Peach Festival as surely we have abused Mother Nature by planting and growing this wonderful fruit for the gratification of selfish mankind.

Oh, what are we to eat and drink if we carry this nonsense to its ultimate end?

Cattle, lambs, pigs, chickens, fish must not be bred,

caught and slaughtered for the gratification of mankind.

Potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, peas and all vegetables must not be planted and harvested to feed mankind.

Grapes being picked, fermented, filtered and bottled for humanity's gratification must be stopped.

By now has the point been made that those that oppose carriage rides are undeserving of our attention?

Ridiculous is as ridiculous be — they are, in the classical sense, a total waste of space, undeserving of a scintilla of time and consideration.

Our Lord Mayor is far too politically correct.

All protestors back on the busses, return home. You have been exposed for, I suspect — having seen the pictures of you on parade — eating, drinking and making merry, defying your own beliefs.

Make our town pretty again. Leave.

Yours, well fed and content,

Bill Cochrane Snr.

Bee City Canada request a baby step

Penny Coles
Staff
OPINION

When Renee Delaney came to council in April to ask the municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake to become a Bee City, she also spoke about her Small Scale Farm project, which encourages the production of local food without the use of pesticides.

She told councillors there couldn't be a conversation about bees without looking at pesticide use.

That raised a red flag at the council meeting, and her request was forwarded to the town's Communities in Bloom committee and to the agricultural committee.

But Bee City Canada, the organization that approached the Niagara group and asked for help approaching local municipalities, schools and businesses to talk about pollinator gardens, does not in its literature ask for restrictions on the use of pesticides, and Delaney says now she didn't intend for that to be part of her message to council.

A request for Bee City designation, she also told council, comes with no binding agreement to do anything



A "bee love" bracelet from Small Scale Farms

other than support pollinators and help promote education in the community about the importance of bees.

With such a mixed message, council could be forgiven for being confused about what should have been an uncomplicated request, and in fact Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its Communities in Bloom projects, is already working with partners, including schools and businesses, to promote pollinator gardens.

There are two ways of looking at the Bee City designation, and as is often the case, in NOTL, it seems more complicated than it needs to be.

Yes, NOTL is an agricultural community, which depends

on bees for success. And yes, most farmers also use pesticides, which are widely accepted as being one of the causes of the decline in the population of pollinator bees.

So should NOTL just say yes to the designation of Bee City and carry on promoting and planting healthy and sustainable habitats for pollinators, as was really all Delaney was asking for?

Or should it have a deeper conversation that includes the use of pesticides, which as Delaney pointed out kill insects, including bees?

While some might like the municipality to tackle the pollinator issue by coming up with something more

tangible than a statement that it supports bees, it would seem that Delaney's request is to take a first baby step to something that will be a work in progress.

By doing that, it opens the doors to a more intensive discussion about what is causing pollinator bees to die and what role a municipality should take in the future, especially a municipality with such an important agricultural industry.

Becoming a Bee City is not the solution to a far-reaching and significant environmental problem, but it has value for what it can accomplish, which is bringing awareness of the issue to a grass-roots level. But before it gets to that stage in NOTL, the Town's agricultural committee is recommending taking it further by asking for a discussion that includes crop specialists and beekeepers. There is nothing wrong with having that discussion, but whatever the outcome, it shouldn't prevent the municipality from supporting a simple request — to promote private and public initiatives that support pollinator gardens.

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Willowbank renovated and open

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Janis Barlow, executive director of Willowbank, calls the Hamilton-Bright Estate, or the "House on the Hill," a "classical temple in the wilderness."

The house is now home to Willowbank academy, which teaches classic restoration techniques and art forms.

"It's such a gracious property," she said.

Now she feels one of the school's main challenges is to tell the many stories that come with it.

"Frankly I think the Niagara story is fascinating — topography as well as history. There's a lot to be told about relations between many different peoples."

There's the rich history of Willowbank students study archaeology on the property as part of their curriculum, and often uncover ancient hearths and flints, leftover from the many Indigenous peoples who used the property for centuries — they have discovered one site that is over nine thousand years old, said Barlow.

Alexander Hamilton built the house in the 1830s.

"Intermarriage with Indigenous people was quite common at the time — some of that history has been ... mislaid, shall we say," said Barlow.

The school has long wel-



The Drystone Wall building. (Lauren O'Malley)

comed Indigenous collaboration, and has given some of its land for a traditional herb and vegetable garden.

"We collaborate with the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (CCAB). I've simply said to the Indigenous folks, 'It's your land, you can use it any time you like.'"

There's the Hamilton cemetery, peeking through the woods on the northwest edge of the property. "When the Brock Monument was bombed by Benjamin Lett, Brock's body was moved to this cemetery." The Hamilton family still buries their kin there, but the sides of the promontory are eroding, and the cemetery is not legally registered.

There's even the story of the terroir of mortar. "Every year we put Queenston limestone in a kiln and create a mortar — each batch is

completely unique, and, like wine, it improves with age."

Barlow is eager to share the school, its knowledge, and its property. "Willowbank is a gateway property in more ways than one." It was literally an entrance to a portage path established by Indigenous people. And it's now an enticing way in to learn more about Niagara's rich history.

Of course it's also an active school, which is another entrance — to learning, and to careers. "Our students are passionate and enthusiastic. They come from all over Canada, and from all walks of life. We currently have a student who is a retired public school teacher from Newfoundland."

Barlow is proud to tell the story of how Willowbank students beat engineering students from McGill, Carlton, Nebraska, and Texas at the Heritage Structures Design

Build Competition. "We're like the Hogwarts school, so that was pretty amazing."

The school currently has twenty-four students, 8 in each year of its 3-year programme. Graduating students receive a Diploma in Heritage Restoration Arts. "Willowbank has the broadest academic and experiential scope of any school of its ilk in Canada. All of our students are employed in the field — we have a very good record."

Most recently, the institution spent \$1.3 million to upgrade the house on the hill to bring it to code. It added an elevator, levelled floors, improved the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, and added fire alarms and sprinklers. The goal is for it to be open to the public. "We want it used for weddings, parties, events. We want people to use and enjoy this property." There are plans to complete the dry stone wall building by the barn, and Barlow envisions it complete with a sprung wood floor. "I can see yoga classes, dance classes in here."

Barlow welcomes all to picnic on the property, book a tour, maybe catch a glimpse of the five red foxes that call Willowbank home. She's also eager to reach into the community in other ways: "We're always looking for places to do dry stone walling and timber framing," she says with a smile.

Supporters, not protesters

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Inge Enss

I would like to make something clear to the newspapers and our mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The carriage supporters at the event on July 28 were not there to protest but to stand behind fellow Town citizens, Fred and Laura Sentineal; their families; and employees who are fighting to make a living.

We did not shout slogans and had no placards. We stood quietly, handing out pamphlets and answering questions.

We were all residents of the Niagara Region, not from other parts of Ontario. We paid for our parking and were given no special treatment by our own Town; in fact, the opposite.

It was nice to see counselor (sic) Betty Disero showing support for a citizen of her town.

Where were the others?

Our mayor, Mr. Darte, was so ready to point out the fundamental right as a Canadian to protest.

Now I have a question for him — does a protestor have the right to destroy the livelihood of a fellow Canadian?

These were activists who go from place to place, stir-

ring up people and trouble without understanding the whole picture.

Did they bother to go to Sentineal's farm and see how the horses are actually treated? Probably not because then they would realize there really wasn't anything to protest about.

They have never seen the light in a child's eye or the face of a disabled person or war vet sitting on a horse, noticing that they have achieved something that they never thought they would be able to. My sister volunteers at a stable dedicated to making this happen.

It is her greatest joy to see how these people connect with the horses.

So, Mr. Stirr, open your eyes and see the real world, the whole world. Take the money people have given you and go to the Rescue Farms and help them look after the horses.

Leave the Sentineal carriages alone.

Their horses are part of the family and are very well looked after.

There are still people who enjoy a quiet carriage ride through the historic town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Let them enjoy it uninterrupted.

I.R. Enss

Lake Report to host official launch party

Richard Harley
Editor

The Lake Report will host an official launch party September 28 at Mori Gardens.

We're inviting all residents to come meet and celebrate with staff for the night.

The night will include refreshments, a door prize and a special raffle for those who have supported the paper through our voluntary

subscription, as well as live music and remarks from the paper's editorial staff.

We're currently seeking volunteers to help with the event, to donate raffle prizes and any other ways people may want to get involved.

As well, the following day there will be an afternoon event at the community centre for those who want a bit of a lighter experience.

Hope to see you there!

Let's solve this, not fight about it

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Adam Stirr

There has been a lot of mud slung lately regarding this ongoing action against the property status of non-humans. None of this is beneficial to those who's (sic) views differ from our own, or the town as a whole.

For the investment in five electric carriages, this can all be ended quickly and quietly.

No one has to go out of business, and no one needs to be so enraged as to slander others for no reason.

The cost of a decent, ornate, aesthetically pleasing electric carriage? Less than

\$6,000.

From my knowledge, that's less than the cost of feeding one horse for one year.

Is the entire reputation of NOTL worth this small investment?

Times are changing — the world is rejecting animal use more and more every day. This movement isn't going away, it's the fastest growing movement on earth right now. Retire the horses to pasture, maintain the "old world charm" of NOTL, but move into the 21st century — these horse carriages belong in a museum, not on the streets.

Adam Stirr



"Our business is making friends."

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NEWS

Wastewater plant opening now delayed until November

Penny Coles
Staff

The \$43.2 million wastewater treatment plant on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake will not be operational by August, as announced last spring, but it's looking good for fall.

NOTL's regional councillor Gary Burroughs said work is moving along quickly.

The tanks are now being filled with clean water — the first part of the process of several different tests to ensure all equipment, which is fully automated, is working as it should.

He said if all goes according to plan sewage will be treated in the new plant by November.

Two official launches of the regional project, the first when politicians gathered on the site in 2012 to celebrate the funding for it, and then again in 2014 when construction began, set the opening date as December 2016. The completion date has delayed several times since then, mostly due to construction problems, including leaking tanks and cement peeling from the interior of the tanks, said Burroughs.

Last year, he told people in Garrison Village they would wake up at Christmas (2017) and be able to flush their toilets into the new treatment plant.



The wastewater treatment plant on Lakeshore won't be open until November. (Supplied)

"That didn't happen," he said. He was then told it would be operational by August. That didn't happen either but he's confident it will be before this Christmas.

There are several lawsuits being discussed with subcontractors over blame for the delays, but the final project should come within what was budgeted, he said.

The plant will replace the existing Lakeshore Road

facility 800 metres west of it, which has been operating at capacity for years, with overflows causing odour problems for neighbours.

A regional report said the new plant is expected to increase treatment capacity by 40 per cent.

The cost, shared by the federal, provincial and regional governments, includes upgrades to three pumping stations, and that part of it has been com-

pleted, said Burroughs. Once the first round of tests are satisfactorily completed it will take a few days to divert the sewage from the three pumping stations, followed by a couple of weeks of testing the effluent (clean, treated sewage) to be sure it's being cleaned properly.

At that point, the region will divert some of the output from the new treatment plant to the two lagoons at the current facility, so they remain

full and working until they are removed, which will keep the odour down for neighbours, he said.

There is also the ability to divert more effluent to the lagoons if necessary — if it isn't meeting provincial standards, he said, "but we're not expecting any problems."

"So far everything's been coming along well, and the leaks in the tanks have been corrected. There are some small issues, such as siding on the outside, that can be dealt with later."

He's talked recently to one of the Regional managers on-site, who feels very confident they've fixed all the major problems, he said.

"We're at a turning point now, filling the main tanks. Everything's moving along. By the end of November we should be making sure the effluent is clear and the plant is working according to design and meeting provincial standards."

"The flag-waving," he said, referring to an official opening, "will be as soon as the province says so. And that will be this year."

The region is still working on a plan for decommissioning the two lagoons, and after several reports and meetings on preferred alternatives has "almost" come to a decision about one that satisfies Parks Canada, which owns the land, and NOTL residents.

The Region has "tentatively" allocated \$10 million in its 2019 capital budget for the work to be completed, Burroughs said.

"The decision hasn't been made, but it's close. The proposal that's being considered looks like part of it would be a constructed wetland — that's what I'm counting on, and the town really needs to demand it when it comes to public meetings with Parks Canada and the Region."

The constructed wetland would be for educational purposes, to show the public how it works, and the water in it should be clean — cleaner than Two Mile Creek, said Burroughs.

The proposal, if accepted, will have paths wandering through the area, which will be open to the public, "at least that's what I'm hoping," he said.

There was a time when the site was being considered for a large music festival, called Project Niagara, but that was scuttled when the public — and Burroughs — fought against it due to concerns about negative effects on the environment, destruction of the property and fears of huge increases in traffic and parking.

The Harmony Group was formed by residents opposed to the music festival, and the current proposal is something they've been working on with Parks Canada every since, said Burroughs.

NOTL council looking to plant seeds for tree bylaw

Sarah Sawchuk
Special

Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors hope to plant the seeds that will eventually blossom into a robust bylaw to protect the community's tree canopy.

But the draft bylaw to protect trees on private properties in the town's five urban areas drew a heated debate, lasting more than an hour at Monday night's committee-of-the-whole meeting.

The proposed bylaw, which most of the councillors supported but admitted still needs some rejigging, would require residents to obtain a permit, with some exceptions, before a tree could be removed on private property. It also calls for a site visit with a qualified arborist before a permit to remove a tree can be issued, and a \$500 penalty if a tree isn't replaced by the property owner.

They also were given an option to decide against implementing a private tree bylaw in favour of increasing public education and awareness as well as enhancing public participation and involvement, but councillors



Town councillors hope to implement a robust tree bylaw. (Richard Harley)

didn't choose that option.

The need for a tree bylaw was a response to developers clear-cutting lands. In 2017, the town hired Lura Consulting to engage in public consultation to determine if there was support for one. The response was yes, with more than 600 stakeholders and residents participating in online surveys, interviews, and an open house held last year.

Coun. Jim Collard wasn't happy with the draft bylaw set out before him and

expressed his concerns about the potential impact it could have on residents because it only deals with some, not all of the residential properties in the community.

"It will set up two classes of property owners: those who may have to pay a fair amount of money to remove a tree from their property and those that can do whatever they want," he said.

He didn't like the idea of charging residents a large penalty for not replanting a tree. He also wanted to see

the exemption section of the draft bylaw expanded to include weed trees and problematic trees such as the ginkgo.

Collard said a ginkgo is beautiful when it's small, but once it grows to its full height, it might not be what someone was expecting.

"What if it's a female ginkgo tree planted right outside your door? Female ginkgos produce vegetation fruit that when it smashes on the ground or someone tracks it, it smells like vomit.

But we're going to charge somebody \$500 to take that tree down because it's not on the list?"

He described the draft bylaw as "brutally difficult" and a "hammer" that would hit residents hard.

Councillors debated whether to make amendments to improve the draft bylaw before it returned to council for final ratification before the end of their term in office, which is fast approaching.

Coun. Terry Flynn said the council should support the report in principle to get the ball rolling on the bylaw and give staff some feedback in the coming days to make improvements before it returns before them at the September council meeting.

"I don't think we're going to do this tonight. We've had three and a half, almost four years to listen to residents' input. Our next meeting is in two weeks, let's move forward on this, give some input to the staff and let's have a wholesome discussion at our council meeting."

He said if a special meeting would be required to finish it, then so be it.

Coun. Betty Disero argued if the council wants to get it right, now is the time, not later.

"If we want to make some changes, we need to let staff know that," she said, adding, "at least let's give them something, otherwise you're going to have the same bylaw."

Coun. Jamie King said he supports a tree bylaw in principle and accepting the report before them would be considered a show of support. Instead of rushing the report, he said councillors needed to "put (their) pride aside for the town."

Coun. Maria Bau-Coote didn't agree with making any amendments to the report because she felt it was being rushed.

"I will not have any participation in this bylaw whatsoever. I feel we are doing this half-assed, willy-nilly, putting things together, scrambling, and I really don't like it and I don't want to be part of the conversation because this is not how we make decisions."

Council approved the report as it was presented. It passed with both Collard and Bau-Coote voting against it.

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AWFAN: Town violated charter rights

Richard Harley
Editor

Adam Stirr, the founder of At War For Animals Niagara says a Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake bylaw officer violated his Charter rights when she sent him a notice of violation in July.

The notice, also sent to two other members of AWFAN — a local animal rights activist group that's been protesting the use of horse-drawn carriages in Niagara-on-the-Lake — warns they were observed on "multiple occasions" violating the Town's sign bylaw (4586-12).

"You are directed to comply with the bylaw forthwith," the letter states, warning if they do not, each person risks getting a \$350 fine.

The letter is signed by a property standards and municipal law enforcement officer for the Town of NOTL.

Stirr said after reading through the bylaw, he doesn't believe it is intended to apply to people who are exercising their rights to protest.

He said from his understanding, the Town's sign bylaw is intended to apply to businesses, in order to preserve the heritage nature of the town's commercial district.

"It's not looking good on the Town as a whole," Stirr said.

NOTL's chief administrative officer Holly Dowd said the bylaw officer, Victoria Wickabrod, was only enforcing a bylaw approved more than a decade ago by council.

"If (bylaw officers) see there's a contravention of a bylaw ... then they act accordingly under our by-laws," Dowd said.

Dowd said there was no Town direction given to Wickabrod to send the notice,



Adam Stirr and Jason King hold notices of violation served to them by the Town of NOTL for breaking the Town's sign bylaw. (Richard Harley)

and that bylaw officers don't have specific oversight, though she and the Town's director of community and development services Craig Larmour believe the notice was an appropriate action to take if the officer thought a bylaw was being violated.

"If there was an issue, she might have to go back to a supervisor before she would act, but in this case she's just following what her job is," said Dowd.

Both she and Larmour said the Town could not answer whether or not the bylaw is intended for people protesting under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, because the bylaw doesn't specifically cover the subject.

"We don't have a legal opinion on this, and we're not offering one now on whether our bylaw is compliant with the federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms," Larmour said.

"If there's a conflict between the Charter of Rights and any municipal bylaw, then the challenge can be brought, and it can be considered at that time — whether it's through the courts or it's brought up in the defence of a prosecution," he said.

In this case there was no prosecution, he noted, adding "this was just a warning of violation of the municipal bylaw."

"The Town would never pass a bylaw that was knowingly contravening federal legislation," Larmour said.

Dowd said the town would need a legal opinion in order to talk further about whether the bylaw is unlawful, though staff likely would not seek advice unless doing so is recommended by council.

After clarifying twice, Dowd and Larmour said their position is that the action taken by the bylaw officer was appropriate in this case.

"We're following our bylaws that council has approved," Dowd said.

Stirr said he believes the bylaw was not used as it was intended. "This is egregious," he said.

Stirr also claims Wickabrod is a "known associate and friend" of one of the owners of Sentineal Carriages — "which we happen to be protesting," he added, noting she attended (off-duty) a protest in July in support of Sentineal Carriages.

Stirr said according to his research there have been by-laws to govern protests in the past, but those were for safety issues — not based on bylaws intended for businesses.

"There are instances where bylaws have been passed by municipalities to create safe spaces for example around ... protests that are violent, unruly and there's a legitimate safety risk," Stirr said. "And that is acceptable under the Charter if there is a good reason to limit protest."

Stirr said he questions the motives behind the notice, though he doesn't think Town staff or Lord Mayor Pat Darte played a role.

"The mayor understands our right to protest," Stirr said.

Darte said he has contacted MP Rob Nicholson to ask for some clarification about the Charter of Rights, but the answer "is not cut and dried."

The Town has to look at its municipal bylaw in relation to federal policy, he said, and that will require a legal opinion.

"If one side or the other doesn't like it, ultimately they will take it to court."

The opinion that matters, he added, is that of the judge.

- with files from Penny Coles.

Local man giving away free trees to help save canopy

Richard Harley
Editor

It happens the same way frequently for Roland Adams — he finds a sapling tree growing in the yard, and he doesn't have the heart to kill it.

So the tree, be it a maple, oak or healthy young ash, ends up surviving another day in his yard.

It's sort of a symbiotic relationship — Adams gets to feel good about himself, and the trees, though silent, would likely express thanks for being spared the Weed Eater if they could.

All was peaches and cream, until he amassed around 100 trees, and he (or rather his wife) decided it might be time to figure out something to do with them.

That's when the two got the idea to give them to people looking to plant trees around town, to help combat the loss of trees in Niagara-on-the-Lake, especially ash



Olivia Adams, Maya Gazzard and Sienna Rey help get signs ready for the tree giveaway August 25.

trees across town due to the invasive borer beetle.

"With all the ashes dying — that's a national crisis — I thought it would be good to plant them around town," said Adams.

A self-confessed tree-lover, Adams thinks it's important to keep a lush tree canopy in NOTL and hopes some of the trees he's saved will end up living long healthy lives in yards across town.

On August 25, Adams is

inviting people to come collect a tree from his residence at 488 Gage Street.

The trees he's giving away, he notes, are all Carolinian and native to the area.

He encourages residents to plant them in their yards and maintain them to help replace the lost ash trees.

He also said he hopes the next town council will implement a firm tree protection bylaw, not only for the town's character, but in the

long-term to prevent flooding through natural drainage.

Adams had some help potting all the trees from his daughter Olivia some of her friends from the local Royal Oak Community School.

So far he estimates they've potted around 100 trees.

Adams said he was inspired partly by other local efforts, such as Chautauqua's \$30,000 tree rejuvenation project.

"It's such a wonderful initiative," Adams said.

"Basically for me, life is a very precious thing. I mean, it's the most important thing we've got. And isn't nature wonderful?"

He encourages residents who want a tree to plant to come get one on the event day, where he will also be accepting donations to go towards Royal Oak.

He notes the principal at Royal Oak doesn't even take a paycheque, so he feels he wants to do whatever he can to help out.

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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.

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Mazza: traffic study should be available to public

Sarah Sawchuk
Special

Last fall, family doctors from the Niagara North Family Health Team announced they had chosen property beside Crossroads Public School for a two-storey medical centre.

The site backs on to Niagara Stone Road, but its entrance is expected to be from Line 2.

Included in the application are plans for a pharmacy, laboratory, optometrist, physiotherapist, medical clinic, imaging office, medical offices and professional offices.

During a public meeting about the application on Monday night, Henry Street resident Margaret Louter asked the council not to support the application unless a stop light is added at the corner of Niagara Stone Road and Line 2 Road.

She said vehicles cutting down Andres and Henry Streets is an existing issue and making left or right-hand turns at the already busy intersection of Line 2 and Niagara Stone Roads will become even "more difficult" if the development goes through.

Leigh Whyte, a representative for the developer, told councillors that the project is consistent with the policies and guidelines set out by Provincial, Regional and Town standards, and is being recommended by Town staff for approval. He noted that the application hasn't received objections from surrounding agencies including the Niagara Region, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Canada Post.

Whyte said traffic is an issue that has been addressed



A rendering of the proposed medical centre on Niagara Stone Road near Crossroads school. (Supplied)

via a traffic study ordered by the developer, and conducted by Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd. in May of this year. He added the study was peer-reviewed by an independent consultant hired by the town in July.

Whyte said the peer review of the traffic study determined the intersections are forecasted to operate with "generally acceptable" levels of service, with "minimal incremental changes in terms of traffic," and no actions are needed at this time.

The study did provide recommendations to improve the site's layout and to improve pedestrian traffic, including sidewalks along the south side of Line 2 road, providing bicycle parking, and removing sight-obstructing vegetation at Line 2 road.

Members of the District School Board of Niagara were reached for comment but no response has been received to date.

Property owner Lloyd Redekopp also spoke to council, calling the proposed medical centre a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for NOTL.

He echoed Whyte's comments about the traffic study and added a number of steps

are being taken to increase safety such as adding sidewalks for pedestrian safety before he called on the council to support the application "now for the community and for future generations."

Before they discussed the application, Bau-Coote asked fellow councillors to leave emotion out of it when they voted.

"We know about this application, there are some emotions that have gone with this application. We've had emails from residents both for and against. It's an emotional topic."

"Looking at it from a council perspective, our role is just to look at it in terms of an official plan amendment and zoning and that's it," she said.

She admitted to having "some concerns," which included the corner of Line 2 and Niagara Stone Road because "it's a very busy street."

As the site plan moves forward, which is expected to come before the council at a committee-of-the-whole meeting on September 10, Bau-Coote said she'd like to see conversations with the developer regarding safety measures.

Coun. Betty Disero agreed it is important to promote safety, but she said the discussion surrounding the need

for a crosswalk, or a light at Niagara Stone Road and Line 2 isn't a reason to hold up an application for rezoning.

Coun. Jim Collard agreed with Disero that "holding up approval any longer would be inappropriate."

She suggested asking the Region about upcoming developments such as the medical centre, and "working together on a traffic light."

Mazza, who said he didn't buy the fact that the traffic study didn't find any issues, asked that the traffic study become available on the town's website for the public to see.

He argued that Niagara Stone Road is very busy, adding a medical centre in the area "is not going to complement it," but rather "make it worse."

"Someone will die there if this thing keeps getting worse and worse at that intersection. To say there need to be no improvements to the intersection, we don't need a crosswalk at that intersection, I am sorry, I am struggling," he said.

"If one person dies it's not going to be because I approved it. I didn't approve the school going there and I am not going to approve this going forward."

Miele said he's conducted his own traffic study of sorts, taking a speed minder out to Niagara Stone Road on a Tuesday afternoon just before 3 p.m. when school lets out. He said he has found many drivers speed down Niagara Stone Road when the yellow lights are flashing in the school zone.

He said the only way he would consider approving the project would be with a traffic light at the intersection.

Wine and Words offers unique pairings



Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Wine and Words makes excellent pairings — of books and blends, authors and appellations.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library coordinates the very popular series, featuring Canadian authors at local wineries.

Typically the writer will discuss their book, read some excerpts, and entertain questions from the audience.

The \$25 tickets also include a glass of wine and a food pairing.

The series begins on September 12 with Karma Brown at Chateau des Charmes winery. Brown's books — including *Come Away With Me* and *The Choices We Make* — have made it onto the Globe & Mail best-seller list.

She is also an award-winning journalist.

Brown will be discussing her most recent work, *The Life Lucy Knew*, which it turns out is more about what Lucy *doesn't* know. This psychological fiction follows the protagonist as she discovers everything she believed about her life is untrue.

"Karma Brown was enthusiastically recommended to us by Michele Bosc from Chateau des Charmes," said Debbie Krause, community engagement coordinator at the library. "People are devouring her books now that we've brought them in."

The series continues on October 10, with Michael Redhill at Colaneri Estate Winery. The Toronto-based, Giller prize-winning novelist, playwright and poet will talk about his book *Bellevue Square* — which has been described as "playing out like Hitchcock at his most deadpan mischievous."

November 12 will see Joel Thomas Hynes at Palatine Hills Estate Winery. The Canadian novelist, screenwriter, actor, producer, director and musician will be discussing his gritty, comic thriller about redemption, *We'll All Be Burnt In Our Beds Some Night*.

"We chose an eclectic group of authors this year, a lot of different styles," said Krause.

"And don't let the fact that it's not your genre of choice stop you from coming out.

These are all fascinating people, and you'll have the opportunity to learn about their amazing lives. You never know — you might discover something new."

The series continues into February and March with Indigenous author Tanya Malaga at the Hare Wine Company and Adam Shoalts at Southbrook Vineyards.

Joanna Goodman will close the series in April with her book *The Home for Unwanted Girls* at Caroline Cellars.

The library stocks 10 copies of each of these books so you can read up beforehand — although you don't need to have read the book to enjoy the experience.

Tickets can be purchased through the library's website, and often sell out — buying tickets in advance is recommended for those interested.

Developer wants to "control the corner"

Sarah Sawchuk
Special

While a local Niagara-on-the-Lake couple has a right to build their dream home, it shouldn't come at the cost of the potential environmental impacts it could have on a wooded lot on William Street that's more than 50 years old.

That's what one resident, who lives nearby on Oak Drive, told councillors during a public meeting held at Town Hall on Monday night.

The wooded property on the corner of William Street and Chautauqua Amphitheatre is owned by local John Street residents Robert and Jan MacInnes, who wish to build their home on it.

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 homes. The site is currently zoned for low-density residen-

tial 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.

Robert MacInnes told councillors he and his wife intend to build a single detached home on one lot, creating a second lot for a second single detached home.

In the future, a maximum of four more additional lots could be severed along the William Street frontage.

MacInnes said he has no intentions of selling the other lots at this time, but ideally, he'd like to "control the corner" if he could. That's why they are asking for the entire 3.36-acre plot to be rezoned for the possibility of future development.

He said another developer could try and build 13 lots on the property but it's

not something he is "interested in seeing."

Rezoning the property now would force any future developers to go through the entire rezoning process again.

It is reasonable to assume development will occur, MacInnes said, which is why he wants to rezone the property now, so if it does happen, it will have a smaller impact, restricting the number of single-family homes that can be built that already "fit in with the neighborhood."

The resident who spoke against the application said she thought "there's a fear tactic" being used.

"I support a beautiful home. They should be able to build the home they dream of. I am just not clear why we're saying there would ever be 13 lots on it," the resident said.

She said she was concerned about soil grading, drainage and the impact of severing the property.

Although he did have concerns about the possibility of four lots being severed from the property, a William Street resident

spoke in support of the proposed zoning amendment and said there is a lot of "pressure to increase urban density."

The resident said he was comfortable with the proposed wide lots and he liked that the MacInnes' have no plans to actually develop the other four lots.

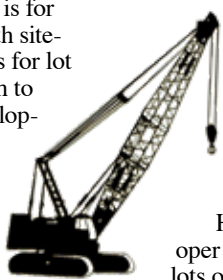

He said he would also like to see council ensure that any town-owned trees were protected during the construction process.

MacInnes said he intends to protect the integrity of the plot of land and make a strategic effort to plant more trees, as there are some ash trees that will need to come down.

He asked council for their trust and told them he has been a long-time resident who understands "the beauty of the community."

MacInnes said they have already built two homes in NOTL, including their current home on John Street.

The application will return to the council table with a report from Town staff outlining recommendations.

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NEWS

Pillitteri aiming to raise \$60K for Terry Fox

Penny Coles
Staff

One minute Joe Pillitteri is throwing out one-liners, sounding like he's developing a new routine for his next act — the next he's deadly serious, as he talks about why he works so hard at raising money for the town's annual Terry Fox Run.

Publicly he may be known best as a stand-up comic and all-around good guy, but he is also passionate about his community and generous with his time when it comes to supporting it — especially when it comes to promoting the annual Terry Fox Run.

The run continues on decades after Canada's national hero had to stop the coast-to-coast run he intended to complete when he found his cancer had returned.

"I'm not going to give up," Fox said. "But I might not make it ... if I don't, the Marathon of Hope better continue."

For more than a decade Joan King has volunteered her time to ensure it continues in NOTL, and Pillitteri has worked with her to raise as much money as possible from a relatively small community.

He began by gathering together a team of family and work colleagues, through his business, Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, and challenging other businesses to do the same. Each year, he set a goal of \$10,000, and always seemed surprised at the generosity of those who helped him surpass his goal.

He also turned to what he knows best — how to make people laugh — and started what has become a tradition, with an annual comedy night to raise funds for the run.

Last year, he challenged his cousin Mike Pillitteri, general manager of Riverview Cellars, and between the two of them they raised \$50,000 — not surprisingly, he doesn't miss an opportunity to remind Mike, all in good fun, that he raised \$35,000 to Mike's \$15,000; still no small



Cousins Mike and Joe Pillitteri and Joan King. (Supplied)

accomplishment.

Their \$50,000 was a huge contribution to the total of \$95,000 raised from NOTL's 2017 run.

The NOTL run reached a milestone in 2017 — \$600,000 raised since its first event in 1991 for the Terry Fox Foundation to fund cancer research, with the Pillitteri families helping to reach that mark.

"Terry just asked for a dollar from every Canadian, and this is what we've done in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said King.

"This is what Joe has helped to accomplish. He makes it fun, but he also takes it very seriously. He always gets emotional when he talks about Terry Fox."

This year, the cousins are in it together as Team Pillsy, with a goal of \$60,000.

Joe plans to host another comedy night. Mike, more comfortable singing with a bass guitar in his hands than cracking jokes, will make an appearance with his band, The Hopyards, a collection of locals — chef Ross Midgley from Ravine Vineyards on guitar and vocals, guitarist Shawn Spiewak, Nick Serbina on lead guitar and vocals, and drummer Tim Bala-siuk from Paddle Niagara.

Mike describes the band as "multi-genre," but with classic rock as its staple. They play at wineries and events around Niagara, performed at Oast Brewery for the Terry Fox run last year, and are considered a favourite at the Wednesday night supper

market at The Village.

This year's show will be held at Jackson Triggs, Thursday, Sept. 6. Those who purchase tickets at the Village supper market can attend a pre-party, said Joe.

He says he expects if he "kills it on stage, with people who have never laughed so much in their lives," in return he should be invited to sing at least one song with the Hopyards — although he freely admits he's not much of a singer.

There will also be a car wash, bake sale and touch-a-truck event at Cornerstone Church on Niagara Stone Road Aug. 25, run by student volunteers, and a lemonade stand run by Mike's two sons, Lucas and Leo, at Riverview Cellars September 1, 1 to 4 p.m., with all proceeds going towards Team Pillsy's goal.

"Our minds are racing every day thinking of ways to get to \$60,000," said Joe, who promises to come up with more new ideas before the September run.

"There will be no stone left unturned. We'll even offer to race horse and carriages down Queen Street," he jokes.

The two men are challenging others to step and up and form a team, "or admit defeat and join our team, in any capacity," says Joe. "We'll take all the help we can get."

The Pillitteri cousins both consider the run a family affair, involving their kids in fundraising events, having them participate in the run, but most importantly, ensur-

ing they understand why Terry Fox is a national hero.

They see the run as an opportunity to get kids involved and pass on the right message.

That seems especially important this year, Joe says, "in light of all the world events right now. There are so many dark clouds out there, it helps to think about what Terry accomplished from the moment he began his run to the day he passed away, and what continues today. That gives me hope for sure."

Joe often finishes one of his comedy routines with a plea for a cause, because usually the event he is hosting is to raise money for something important to him. Often, he ends with a Terry Fox quote — he's repeated them so many times, he knows most by heart.

One of his favourites, he says, is a reminder to be passionate about something that is worthwhile: "If I died, I would die happy because I was doing what I wanted to do. How many people could say that? I went out and did 15 push-ups in the road and took off. I want to set an example that will never be forgotten."

Joan King and the Pillitteri cousins are passionate about continuing Terry's fight, and they too are setting an example for others to follow.

"We don't do this for name recognition or for ourselves," said Joe. "We have the same outlook on life, and the same goal — let's make this bigger than we ever thought it could be, for Terry Fox, and for all the right reasons."

This year's run is Sunday, Sept. 16, beginning as always at Simcoe Park, registration at 9:30 a.m., run at 10 a.m. There is no charge for registration and no minimum pledge.

To donate or register for the run go to terryfox.org or to order a T-shirt call King at 905-358-4358. She was out on Queen Street Saturday, Aug. 11 during the peach celebration selling T-shirts for \$20.

Newark Neighbours donates July income to Red Roof Retreat

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

For the third year in a row, Newark Neighbours presented Red Roof Retreat with the shop's income from the month of July.

"It's a great thing, charities helping charities," said Steffanie Bjorgan, executive director of Red Roof, a retreat for individuals with special needs.

"The story of Red Roof's beginning and subsequent growth is a compelling one, and a demonstration of what our local community can accomplish when they set their minds and hearts to it," said Newark Neighbours treasurer Julian Trachsel.



Supplied photo.

The money will go straight to Red Roof's respite programs, Bjorgan explained.

"This kind of donation helps to keep our services accessible and affordable for families who need them ... It's great to get the group from Newark Neighbours to come out and see what we do here. They hear about us for years, and have some idea of what happens here, but when they actually

come out and see it in action — see the camps running, see the kids playing — it changes everything. They get really emotional."

Pat Hicks, a volunteer at Newark Neighbours said the organization is "pleased to support (Red Roof) and all the efforts of Steffanie Bjorgan and her team."

"She took us on a tour of her wonderful grounds, and we were happy to be able to present her with a cheque."

This year's donation exceeded the last one significantly due to some changes in Newark Neighbours' pricing strategies.

Some donors to the charity had made it known they weren't thrilled their haute couture donations were being

sold for very low prices, so they would often take their finer things elsewhere, said Hilary Bellis, Newark Neighbours chair.

"This made us stop and think. Our core audience is people in need, but there are also locals who come in for good deals on designer clothing like Kate Spade and Tommy Hilffiger. So we created a designer corner with a slightly higher price point for those shoppers."

She said it's important for people to remember that every cent of the charity's income goes back into the food bank, the bursaries they give to people in need, and their support of local charities, such as Red Roof Retreat.

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Travel agency confirmed for Virgil LCBO plaza



A travel agency has been confirmed for the new commercial plaza in Virgil. (Richard Harley)

Richard Harley
Editor

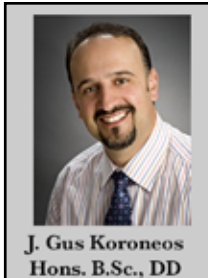
A travel agency has been confirmed for the new LCBO and Tim Horton's plaza in Virgil.

Greg Chew, sales representative for Colliers International, said the agency will be a Beforefly travel centre, and that another building has been confirmed for "professional office use" but that

currently he isn't able to say who the client is.

He said he has one 1,200 square-foot unit left, which is still open. The travel agency, office space and unleased unit are in a sectioned unit to the right, while the Tim Horton's will go at the back of the plaza and the LCBO to the right.

The plaza is expected to open sometime before the winter season.



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<p>19</p> <p>Community Day - free admission - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Famous & Infamous: Maria Rye - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Sunday Concert Series: Nat the Fiddler - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Queenston Heights Park</p> <p>Taylor Laszlo - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Silversmith Brewery</p> <p>Garden Party Fundraiser - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Yellow Door Theatre Project Annual Gala & Fundraiser - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards</p> <p>Community Pot Luck and Drumming Night - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Mario Kart Tournament - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. - Community Centre</p>	<p>Simply STEAM Story - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>The SupperMarket - 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p> <p>Max Ingrao @ SupperMarket after party - 8 p.m. - Oast House Brewers</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday Concert Series: Merrick & Steelman - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Queenston Heights Park</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Community Pot Luck and Drumming Night - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p>Council - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Urban Design Committee - 5 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. - Community Centre</p>	<p>August 29 - Simply STEAM Story - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>August 29 - The SupperMarket - 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Garrison Village</p> <p>August 29 - Paul G. Ingrao SupperMarket after party - 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Oast House Brewers</p>

Owl photo by Sandra Nass

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 Norton - 1 Community Centre to 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. to age	16 Mini Masterpieces: Indonesian Batiks - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Practical Genealogy - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Cannery Park Design Public Consultation Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Hall Committee of Adjustment Hearing - 7 p.m. - Council Chambers Under Cover - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn Weekly Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. - The Legion	17 Canned Film Festival: Mulan - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Madhatters - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. - Community Centre	18 The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village August 18 - The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village LOBSTERFEST - Caroline Cellars Shred-It - NOTL Community Palliative Care - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Fife & Drum Muster & Soldiers' Field Day - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George MILOŠ: The Voice of the Guitar - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - St. Mark's Church
22 Story Time - 11 Public Library - 4:30 p.m. to age SuperMarket to 10 p.m. -	23 Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Wall of Fame - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena Lobby Andy Gienow - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Silversmith Brewery Community Service - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn Weekly Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. - The Legion	24 Canned Film Festival: Sherlock Gnomes - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Patrick Beedling - 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Oast House Brewers Perry Quinn - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn The Old Winos w Marty Hopkins & Big Dave Tufford - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. - Community Centre	25 The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village Echoes of Niagara's Past: A Military Timeline Event - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George Fundraising car wash, bake sale & touch-a-truck event (Team Pillsy's Terry Fox Campaign) - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Cornerstone Church Nathan Warriner - 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Corks Winebar & Eatery Under Cover - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn Niagara Rhythm Section w Beau Dixon - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery
29 STEAM Story on - NOTL SuperMarket - Garrison gliotti @ r party - 8 at House	30 Back-to-School Event - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Mel Monaco w/ Nick Serbina - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Silversmith Brewery Nowhere Fast - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn Weekly Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. - The Legion	31 Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Mike Lynch Trio - 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Oast House Brewers Postmen - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Olde Angel Inn The Old Winos w Kim & Frank Koren - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. - Community Centre	1 Rob Crosby "Colour and Texture" - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Niagara Rhythm Section w Joel Johnson - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery

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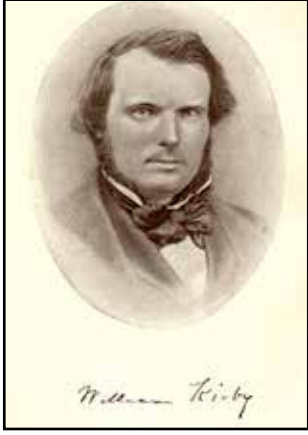
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WRITER'S CIRCLE

William Kirby of NOTL and The Golden Dog

Sharon Frayne
Writer's Circle



William Kirby. (Supplied photo)

My yellow lab, Bala, doesn't think it's fair that the most famous book written in NOTL – The Golden Dog – isn't really about a dog she could meet today.

The author, William Kirby, a long time resident and active member of the NOTL community, set his famous historical fiction novel, (*Le Chien d'Or*) in New France around 1748.

We strolled down Front Street in August and gazed at the commemorative plaque erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board outside Kirby's house.

Bala was disappointed. We'd already looked at the Kirby plaque near the Courthouse and paused for a drink of water outside a Queen Street store.

She was sure that someone would be there with doggie treats. Only a few birds chirped and acknowledged our presence. I decided to educate her and read the plaque aloud as she lay down

Kirby worked as a tanner and fell into debt. He may even have spent some time in the Old Niagara Jail before he was released.

He taught school, became the editor of the Niagara Mail, and became involved in government and politics.

He was a magistrate, reeve, and Collector of Customs at Niagara. He supported Sir John A. Macdonald and the Conservatives and became president of the Niagara Public Library. He wrote political commentary, essays, poetry and novels.

Despite his accomplishments and connections, he couldn't find a publisher to take on his complex, lengthy novel about New France.

Even his friend, Maria Rye, headmistress at the orphan girl's placement home, tried to work connections in England to help publish *The Golden Dog*.

Perhaps at 678 pages it was considered a trifle too long?

Finally, he was successful, and to his delight, even Queen Victoria approved of his book.

Fame didn't bring him

money, however. His publishers neglected to register the novel and he lost the royalties to his work.

The plaque in front of his NOTL home reads:

"In this house, built in 1818, William Kirby, F.R.S.C., historian, novelist, poet and editor of the Niagara Mail, lived from 1857 to 1906. His historical romance, The Golden Dog, stimulated interest in Canada's history and won for him international renown."

Bala was in a better mood after a tummy scratch and a doggie treat and agreed to accompany me on our next NOTL walk to the St. Mark's Cemetery to look for Kirby's grave.

She'd still like to meet another golden dog – "a real one." She sniffed and said, "not a storybook one."

Sharon Frayne is a member of the NOTL Writers Circle, and is the author of *Caught Between the Walls*, a historical fiction novel set in the old courthouse and jail.

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ARCH | TEXT: with Brian Marshall

Introduction

My lifelong passion for architecture began as a child in the 1950s. Periodically my grandfather and I would walk to visit his sister, who lived in a grand old home on the crest of a hill.

As we would walk up the sidewalk, grandpa would always say the house had started as a timber-frame for a barn, but that his mother (pregnant with her 11th child) suggested if the barn was built before her new house, her husband could sleep in the barn.

My great-grandfather immediately (and very wisely) altered his plans and built a classic Gothic Revival home.

When chatting with my grandparents, they would reminisce about community and events that centred around the house, and transported through the window of their memories, I could almost touch the people whose lives had been entwined with it.

At some point, I began to understand that a house in the right place, with the right design, can be more than a home; it can foster and enrich a community for generations.

I invite you to join me, as each week we try to dissect architectural features taken from Niagara-on-the-Lake's rich catalog of unique heritage homes.



A circa 1823 fanlight on Woodruff Locust Hall in St. Davids. (Supplied photo)

The Fanlight

The 18th century English fascination with ancient Rome gave rise to the first new residential architectural style in decades: Neoclassical. The style used the symmetrical building form of the venerable Georgian and 'dressed it up' with elements inspired by classical Roman design. Neoclassical architects highlighted the main entry where a generous opening accommodated pilasters styled on Roman columns, sidelights on either side of a Georgian six-panel door, a built-up transom and the crowning glory: a fanlight. The Niagara family who built a Neoclassical home during the years following the War of 1812 was simultaneously displaying their loyalty to Britain, a claim in the town's social hierarchy and personal success. In all regards, incorporating a main entry with a fanlight was the ultimate statement: Loyal to the last detail with the wealth to afford all that very expensive glass. At the time, window glass was imported from England where highly skilled glassblowers laboriously produced limited quantities of small rectangular panes. Demand versus supply, shipping and breakage combined to make glass extremely costly. In fact, artisans who could achieve beautiful designs while minimizing waste (using even broken panes) were amongst the most sought-after craftsmen in Upper Canada.

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A Horse that Won't Run

Colin Brezicki
Writer's Circle
OPINION



Horse. (Supplied photo)

Until I encountered the protesters in Niagara-on-the-Lake I had no idea what speciesism was. Or that I was guilty of it.

It's a difficult word to say, even when sober, and some might find its meaning hard to swallow as well. Basically, if you're a speciesist you assign different rights and values to individuals according to their species. You therefore deny the principle that all creatures great and small, including humans, are created equal. Shame on us for being elitist.

The protestors are members of At War For Animals Niagara and Niagara Action For Animals – and their goal is to eliminate the "exploitation of all sentient beings for financial gain."

Locally, they have Sentineal Carriages in their crosshairs, a company that makes horses pull wagonloads of tourists for profit.

According to AWFAN the animals have not agreed to take part in this activity; their hoofs get very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter; the horses could be doing other things all day, like standing in a field. Instead, they become brain dead listening to stories on a loop about 1812, the apothecary shop, and the recently restored gazebo by the lake that was donated to the town after a film shoot.

For its part Sentineal Carriages insists that the tourists are lightweight, the carriage has wheels, the roads are flat and the pace is slow. They add that hoofs have no feeling

(you hear nary a neigh from the beasts when their shoes get nailed in), the horses are well fed and hydrated, they are tucked up each night and feel good about themselves after a day's workout.

And they escape the abattoir. Without the efforts of Sentineal, apparently, and the Ontario Livestock Exchange program, these horses would be shipped off to Paris and served up as the chef's special at Cheval Bleu.

Sentineal Carriages claims it hires only drivers who adore animals and know how to treat them. Staff are known to stay up all night to nurse any horse that gets sick – the company was actually commended by Guelph University for the care given to a horse laid up with Potomac fever.

By law, Sentineal must produce each year a letter from a vet to confirm that living and working conditions are up to scratch, that the animals are in good health, and they are read to at night before lights out.

The protestors are law-abiding too: they're civil to the public, they observe the dress code and spellcheck their banners. So, really, it's a storm in a teacup. But maybe there's a

larger picture.

Despite being a speciesist I don't have much to do with animals, apart from owning a cat. Okay, I look after a cat who chooses to live with me on equal terms. I feed him top grade food purchased from a vet who checks him out and gives him his vaccines once a year. I have to accompany him to the vet because he can't drive and has no money. Two years ago I spent close to a grand having his teeth fixed. He's free to wander outside but, being environmentally aware, he always comes home to poop in his tray and not in anyone's garden.

In some ways I feel superior to him, having opposable thumbs that enable me to use a can opener. In other ways, not so much.

Exploiting a cat is out of the question. I mean, we don't race them or hold cat rodeos. We can't train them to sniff out guns or drugs, or to act as guides for people with impaired vision. We don't eat them or wear their fur or harness them to small carriages. They're cats. That's all they do.

Anyway, my cat is the sum of my animal interaction. I don't attend horse races, or rodeos, and I don't visit zoos or aquariums because they make me uncomfortable. I never took my daughter to Marineland. We did tour the Butterfly Centre once and, despite the humidity, quite enjoyed it. The butterflies looked happy enough too, maybe in part because birds, lizards, snakes and other creatures that would gulp them down in an instant are not permitted entry.

Now here's the kicker: I freely admit that my discomfort with most kinds of animal 'exploitation' has developed over time largely because of animal rights activists.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of organizations world-wide, and though I wouldn't equate their work with that of Martin Luther King Jr. or Nellie McLung or Harvey Milk, I believe they are essential to a civilized society. While man's inhumanity to man is, for me at least, more profoundly tragic than his inhumanity to animals, I regard animal cruelty as indefensible, and fully endorse the severe penalties against it.

For all their good work much remains to be done. Regarding horses in particular, I think of all the legal activities that daily result in crippling injury and death. Eighty-seven animals have died during the Calgary Stampede in the past thirty years, figures that exclude casualties among the thousands of animals used in practice and training behind the scenes. The Grand National Steeplechase in England has averaged one fatality a year since 1988 – seventeen horses died while racing and training at Saratoga Springs in 2017 alone – and Federal Equestrian Institute figures show a steady increase in horse mishaps, injuries and fatalities as event courses become more challenging.

Protestors face angry resistance. The Fraser Valley Animal Rights Association claims that multiple threats of violence were made against them this month as they planned a rally at the Chilliwack, B.C. rodeo. These activists, by the way, oppose animal abuse, and not speciesism—the responsible involvement of animals in entertainment, industry and sport is not an issue for them.

I admire activists who campaign tooth and nail to counter oppression, homophobia, racism and misogyny.

Same with those who promote pluralism, diversity, tolerance and free speech. And right up there are animal rights activists who would eradicate the abuse of living creatures that we own, hunt, ride, view, eat and wear, bearing in mind that humans will continue to own, hunt, ride, view, eat and wear them.

Sentineal Carriages, on the other hand, are dealing with activists who challenge our right to interact with all animals as 'partners or resources' no matter how humanely we do it.

It's an argument Sentineal can never win, simply because the company is being called out by those who regard themselves as morally superior.

These are better human beings than the benighted tourists who sit up there in upholstered seats, all snug and toasty under their blankets, while that poor horse in front plods its weary path, freezing its hoofs off and thinking death can't come too soon.

The late Bernard Levin of the London Times once observed that ostriches do not bury their heads in the sand because they believe it makes them invisible, but the fact that many humans think this is why they do it tells us more about humans than ostriches.

In other words you can take a horse to water but a pencil must be led.



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NEWS

Bikes for Farm Workers creating BFF's

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

There's no surprise the acronym for Bikes For Farmworkers is BFF. The group is indeed creating lasting friendships.

The volunteers — between four and six people — work on bicycles for very grateful offshore labourers. They chat chummily as they work, and when Jamaican and Mexican workers enter the space, they're greeted with warm smiles and claps on the back.

One of the volunteers says, "Welcome. What can we do for you today?"

"We're just a bunch of retired guys in the basement working on bikes," said Terry Weiner, one of BFF's two founders. His partner in generosity is Mark Gaudet.

Weiner, who was a senior manufacturing engineering consultant in aerospace and defence, while Gaudet is a former sales operations manager in the pulp and paper industry.

These men were leading lights in their professional careers, and little has changed in their retirement.

The short story is lovely — two local retired men see needs and decide to fill them.

The needs are those of the migrant workers in this community, who benefit greatly from having affordable transportation.

"We didn't invent this. We heard about lone wolves doing this kind of work in their garages or on the farms. We knew there were support groups for offshore workers, and we reached out to all of these people — we mapped out who we needed to be involved with. We also needed to build a large pool of volunteers — drivers, mechanics, translators — to make this work," said Weiner.

Weiner and Gaudet set up in the basement of the



Volunteers sort and save usable parts. (Lauren O'Malley)

defunct Virgil Public School, and got to work finding, fixing and selling bikes to offshore labourers.

They spread the word, asked friends and family for donated bikes, set up some makeshift equipment, brought their tools from home and fixed bikes.

Since January of 2017 they have refurbished, repaired and sold over one thousand bicycles.

A grant from the Niagara Community Foundation allowed them to set up four repair berths with stands, tables and tools for each.

But the long story is the one really worth telling — it's the story of the ripples created by Weiner and Gaudet's initial splash.

Through giving farm workers affordable, independent transportation, they've also given them freedom to mitigate their isolation — freedom to go to the grocery store, the library, the park, church, make friendly visits to other farms and connect to the community at large.

They've also helped support the families of the workers. At the end of the season, most Jamaican labourers pack up crates to send home to their loved ones.

Many of those crates now carry bicycles home for kids who can use them to enhance their own lives in the same ways. And the cycle begins

again at the beginning of the next fruit season, when the workers return to Niagara — and buy another bike.

The ripples reach as far as Jamaica, and as close as Fonthill, Leamington, and other nearby agricultural towns. Gaudet and Weiner have created a discussion document and filled a thumb drive with every detail of how to replicate the success of their venture — which is, in fact, financially self-sustaining. The guide includes sections with titles like Measurable Objectives, Key Activities and Evaluation Indicators; Bikes For Farmworkers — Supply Chain; and BFF-NOTL Sponsors, Suppliers, Volunteers and Supporters — Direct and Indirect.

There are appendices with maintenance and pre-release checklists, the thumb drive containing everything from repair manuals and videos to any potentially needed signage — seven versions of shop hours, tool rules, vacation hours and pretty much everything else anyone would need to set up their own "franchise" of the Bikes For Farmworkers concept.

They have made presentations in several towns, and will continue to do so in hopes their system will be recreated wherever there are offshore workers. There are more than 2,000 mi-

grant workers every year in Niagara-on-the-Lake alone. Ontario-wide, the number is closer to thirty thousand.

This model could also be viable for long-term residents in communities that lack affordable transportation, or for other short-term workers.

For example, BFF also sells bicycles to first-year Shaw actors, and donates to Syrian refugees.

"The only thing we can't replicate for other towns, though, is the profound generosity and support of the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Not everyone can get such a perfect space donated; not every community has this many bicycles to donate. We're so lucky to be in this town," said Gaudet.

They're also fortunate enough to have several local bike shops give them spare parts and extra bits and pieces.

"Lights are the sticking point, though. We just can't find anything affordable that lasts and doesn't require recharging or replacing batteries. We're still working on that," said Weiner.

Future plans include continuing to share the concept with other towns, as well as training one keen worker per farm to be a go-to on site for his coworkers. BFF will lend them a "Bike Box" with all the necessary tools and supplies to keep the bikes in good shape through the season.

They're also hoping to bring in students for their community volunteering hours, and teach them to fix bikes and help out in the shop.

All they need now is more bicycles. "If you have a bike, ride it," said Gaudet. "If you don't ride it, give it to us. And hey, when you see these hardworking guys out and about in our town, just reach out, smile and say hi." That's what friends do.

As your councillor for the last 21 years, I've always thought it best to tackle issues from the practical points. As superintendent of operations for Niagara-on-the-Lake Emergency Services, a volunteer firefighter and chair of the Niagara District Airport, I've also come to know a great deal about our amazing town and how best to serve its residents. I would like nothing more than to serve you for another four years, and continue to bring my experience to the table. please give me a call anytime you'd like to chat.

Here for you,
Councillor
Terry Flynn



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Wall of Fame ceremony to celebrate contributions to NOTL sports

Richard Harley
Editor

This year's ceremony for the inductee to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sport Wall of Fame will be held Thursday, August 23 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

The ceremony, open to the public, is to recognize those among us who have made considerable contributions to sports in our community.

Board members for the Wall of Fame said this year's inductee was chosen out of many "outstanding" possibilities.

This year they will induct late lifelong NOTL resident Bob Hunter into the 'builder' category.

Builders are trainers, coaches, officials or executive members whose volunteer work for NOTL sports, over an extended period of time, has been outstanding.

The reception will start at 6 p.m. and the ceremony will start at 7 p.m. in the arena lobby.

Hunter, who died in 2016,



Bob Hunter. (Supplied)

"always optimized citizenship and good family values," said Wall of Fame board members in a press release.

"While an excellent athlete himself, it is his dedication to Niagara minor hockey which is being recognized here. For over 20 years as a coach, director and president, among untold other positions, he managed the sport as a whole and individuals in particular to an understanding and appreciation of what sportsmanship and the 'fun of the game' really is."

"For this, his volunteerism, and his wonderful personality he will long be remembered and our Town will remain eternally grateful."

Native Centre to host back to school event

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

It's possible not all kids are thrilled about going back to school, but the back to school event at the Niagara Regional Native Centre is something to get excited about.

On Thursday, August 30, for the 8th year in a row, the centre will open its doors to the community, for a day of back to school fun.

The event is free to attend, there's a barbecue and door prizes, and kids will be given a free lunch.

The Niagara Regional Police will be there with their service dogs, and EMS personnel will make presentations with the goal of helping to keep students safe.

Concerned Kids, a puppet theatre group, will present a play on bullying, and a First



The back to school event at the Niagara Regional Native Centre will offer a little something for the kids in August. (Supplied)

Student school bus will be on-site for children who are just starting school, to help familiarize themselves with the new experience.

A-hundred-and-five previously-registered students

will be given backpacks and school supplies donated by various local businesses and institutions including Royal Bank of Canada, Staples and the District School Board of Niagara.

"This event is also designed to be an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous families to get to know the Native Centre and its diverse offerings — particularly two after-school programs for children and young adults facing challenges in any part of their life," said program coordinator Mia Bakker.

Akwe:go (for kids ages seven to 12) and its sister program Wasa-Nabin (for ages 13 to 18) are completely customized support systems tailored to the child or family's specific needs.

Some kids might need one-on-one tutoring ar-

ranged, or counselling, or lessons in life skills.

There are preventative programs as well as interventions when necessary.

School supports can be arranged, as can group counselling, advocacy, support for children with disabilities and their families, and more.

"On the lighter side, community is created and celebrated with cooking, crafting, gardening and physical activity," said program coordinator Theresa Gillis.

Kids also have the opportunity to join the Youth Council, to give them a say in their community and have their voices heard."

The back to school event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Akwe:go and Wasa-Nabin programs run one weeknight per week throughout the school year.

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A peachy weekend

Richard Harley
Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake gets a little bit sweeter every August, when the annual peach harvest celebrations take over the town, offering a little taste of the local stone fruit for all.

This year wasn't much different — Queen Street shut down Saturday for local stores to bring out their best peach-themed products, and as has become local tradition, St. Vincent De Paul church hosted its always well-attended Peach Festival, offering something for community members and tourists alike.

Those looking for something peachy could find just about anything they wanted; peach jams from Greaves, peach gelato from Il Gelato de Carlotta, baked peach treats from Fournos, hotdogs with peach chili from Old Town Goodies, corn on the cob with butter and salt, and of course peach pies and fresh peaches by the bushel.

Hungry yet? And that's not even close to all of the options.

As well, entertainment was aplenty, with musical acts including steel drum and jazz bands, and performances by local bagpipers, who played a few tunes during Saturday's celebration — a video of the bagpipers can be viewed through our augmented reality app.

Try it out for yourself — instructions on Page 5.



Sam Lepp sells fresh peaches at the annual peach celebration on Queen Street.



Kauzlaric Fruit Farms sells some of their fresh peaches Saturday.



Barbara Kaye and Ward Simpson helps sell slices of fresh peach pie on Sunday at St. Vincent De Paul's annual peach celebration. (Photos by Richard Harley)



Alan Dixon and Mike Jakuszewski serving up some fresh cooked Pig Out at Sunday's festival.



20th annual Kinsmen Show and Shine

Richard Harley
Editor

The 20th annual Kinsmen Show and Shine was a hit as usual, with no shortage of classic cars and good vibes August 12.

The town was busy during the weekend, with the Peach Festival, a tennis tournament and the Peach Pickers' Picnic, but it didn't stop Kinsmen and car lovers from coming out to show off their rides

and take a gander at what others drove over.

The range of cars was wide, with some old, some new, some polished to the brims and some more rustic.

Some of the cars even had some local history.

Longtime NOTL resident Ken Bartel brought out his 1948 Dodge Business Coupe, once owned by former lord mayor Wilbur Dick.

The Lions Club also raffled off a classic car, with

proceeds going to support various community efforts by the Lions.

As usual, Ramco was on the scene with their portable silk press making up the annual Show and Shine shirts, which are a big hit each year.

Ramco has been doing a different shirt for 11 years now, said owners Scott and Carly, husband and wife.

Some locals who are regulars to the event have a shirt from each year.

As well, the Kinsmen held their traditional barbecue, selling burgers, hot dogs and cold drinks.

The show, which takes over the Commons in Old Town for a Sunday each summer, also raises money for Kinsmen initiatives.

The event finished up around 3 p.m., unleashing the classic cars around town.

If you saw one driving by, it's likely that's where it was coming from.



Erwin and Dorothy Wiens enjoy the classic cars.



Scott and Carly, owners of Ramco.



Ken Bartel with his 1948 Dodge Business Coupe.



Claire, Jack and Lukas help make sure the event cleanup goes smoothly. (Photos by Richard Harley)



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NEWS

Tennis club hosts 'world premiere' one-serve tennis tournament

Richard Harley
Editor

According to Ross Robinson, Niagara-on-the-Lake — and the world — saw some big sports news this weekend; the 'world premiere' of one-serve tennis.

Robinson even had a "news van" out to the event — complete with mock antennas (upside down beach umbrellas) and the logo (printed out) of a national news company on the side.

It's a rather jovial beginning to what Robinson claims is the world premiere one-serve tennis tournament.

It's all in good fun, admits Robinson, the goal being for all who've entered — mainly tennis club members — to play an afternoon of tennis, in a style that isn't too overwhelming for players and doesn't take as much time.

It's like the evolution of cricket, he said — once upon a time it was a week-long event, eventually shortened to one day, and then to a few hours for practical reasons, for both players and spectators.

In NOTL, there are no contracts or cash prizes, though the bounty may in a literal sense be much sweeter — every player who entered received a fresh peach pie, baked by Erinn Lockard of Sweets and Swirls Cafe in our Community Centre.

"Yum, yum, yum," Robinson said.

A "coveted" commemorative badge was also given to each player.



Robinson, a longtime local who enjoys planning events and encouraging community spirit, stopped at no ends to make the tournament a little something special for members of the NOTL tennis club, having sandwiches delivered, also courtesy of Sweet and Swirls, and having a sign printed out to commemorate the tournament, noting the 32 years the tennis

club has been operating out of Memorial Park.

He gave a speech thanking everybody for coming out, followed by some words from Ralph Melanby, former executive producer of Hockey Night in Canada.

Melanby, who moved to St. Davids a few years ago, told some stories of some ground-breaking contributions he's made to sports and

Top: NOTL Tennis Club members prepare for the first ever one-serve tennis tournament. According to group member Ross Robinson it was the 'world premiere' of one-serve tennis.

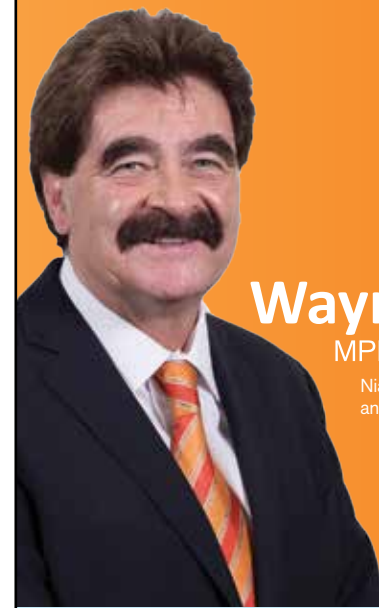
Bottom: Ralph Melanby, former executive producer of Hockey Night in Canada, talks about his contributions to the sports industry, such as being the first to get a helicopter in the sky to film a game — now a standard for sports broadcasts.

Photos by Richard Harley.

the influence he had on the way it's viewed today, including being the first to actually get a helicopter up in the air to film a sporting event.

The tournament, Robinson said, is really about locals in the community coming together and having a good time with each other — though Robinson is still crossing his fingers for some national attention next year.

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Coping with the loss of Laura Robertson has united firefighters more than ever

Sarah Sawchuk
Special

Laura Robertson was a volunteer member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire and Emergency Services for just a short time. But during that time, her Fire Chief says she brought great enthusiasm and dedication to her team.

Robertson became a volunteer firefighter in January and recently completed the recruit training program, serving at Fire Station 1.

"To lose an active firefighter is unprecedented for this department, especially one at the start of her fire service career, at such a young age and under such tragic circumstances," Fire Chief Robert Grimwood said Monday.

Robertson, along with her parents Anita and Joe Robertson, were killed in a plane crash on Monday, July 30 in Maine. She was 24 years old. To honour Robertson's

memory, a moment of silence was led by Lord Mayor Pat Dart in the council chambers at Town Hall this week.

The news of Robertson's death came as a devastating shock to the fire department. While losing one of their own hasn't been easy, Grimwood said the tragic incident has brought the community's firefighters closer together.

"The one thing we have noticed is that it has resulted in our station coming together as a team," he said, adding, "Over the past two weeks watching our firefighters support each other through this has shown their tremendous dedication to each other and their town."

Grimwood told the council he was proud of the members of the fire department for the way they have handled the situation and supported each other through their grief.

He also thanked council members for showing their support for Robertson by

wearing the fire department's T-shirts that evening.

"The shirts that you wear are a variety that are made up of all our fire stations, but the one thing we're quite proud of is our five separate stations are all part of one team."

Robertson, graduated from Ridley College in St. Catharines in 2011 and later moved to British Columbia where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from the University of British Columbia in 2017.

She recently returned to NOTL and started work as a Facilities Coordinator in Brock University's Kinesiology department. She had a love of horses and volunteered at Red Roof Retreat, a non-for-profit organization that provides respite care for families with children and young adults with special needs.

A celebration of lives was held for the Robertsons at Brock University on Aug. 10.

PHOTO: The red sun setting



The sun was a red ball in the sky as it set from Ryerson Park August 14. (Submitted by Cathy from Chautauqua)



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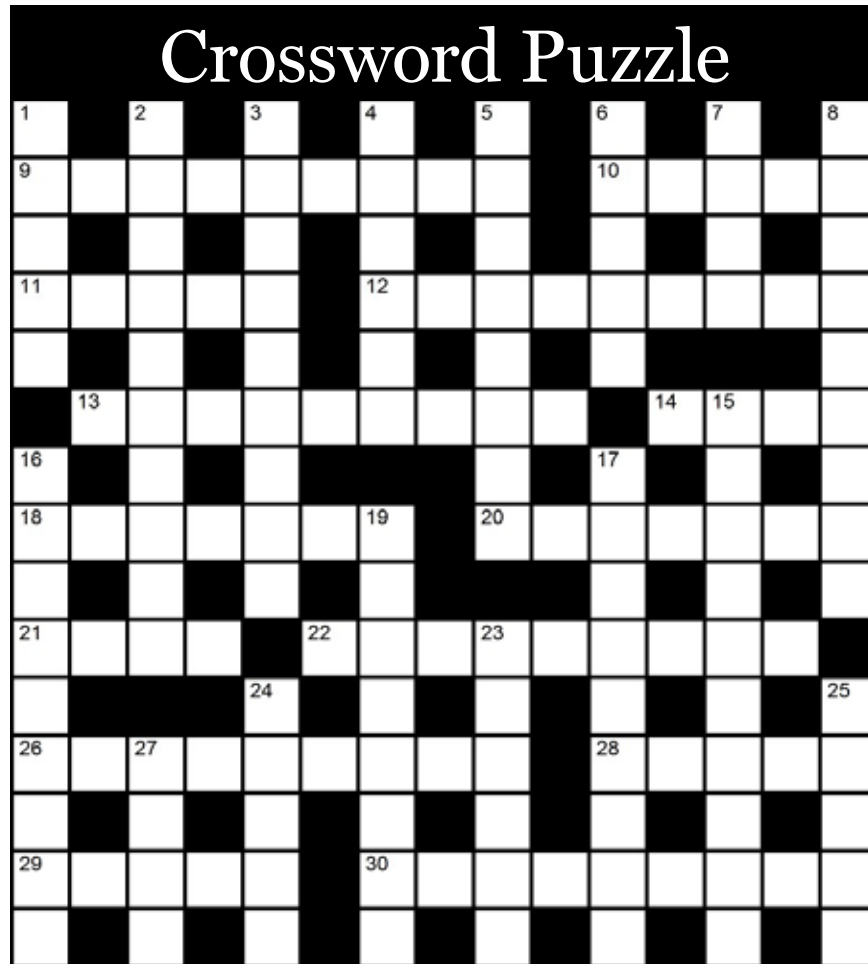
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 9. Cliff face (9)
- 10. South American ruminant (5)
- 11. One who shapes metal (5)
- 12. Rhizome (9)
- 13. Telegraph messages (9)
- 14. Government supremo in a specified policy area (4)
- 18. See (7)
- 20. Uproarious (7)
- 21. Vex (4)
- 22. Caused by overexposure on a hot day (9)
- 26. Musical note (9)
- 28. Inexpensive (5)
- 29. Type of male (5)
- 30. Cut off (9)

Down

- 1. Sudden convulsion (5)
- 2. Type of military flag (10)
- 3. Made more restrictive (9)
- 4. Reflecting surface (6)
- 5. Progressive (8)
- 6. Utter joy (5)
- 7. Western pact (1,1,1,1)
- 8. Cold weather personified (4,5)
- 15. Retailer (10)
- 16. Fencer (9)
- 17. Eighty (9)
- 19. Memento (8)
- 23. Perspiring (6)
- 24. German submarine (1-4)
- 25. Malice (5)
- 27. Charts (4)



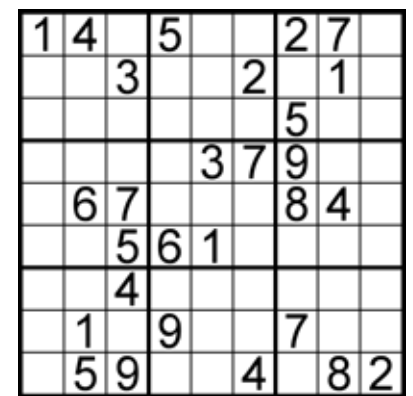
Want the answers early? Scan the puzzles using HP Reveal. (Must be following Niagara Now's channel.)



Last issue's answers



Sudoku



Photos by Richard Harley

“Let’s get together and feel all right.”



Bands played a mix of Caribbean music, with the crowd dancing away.

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Let's get together and feel all right — that was the vibe of the annual Peach Pickers' Picnic, as hundreds of residents and migrant workers came out for a taste of Jamaican and Mexican culture.

“Every year there's a party to get excited about. If my mother were alive this would be her birthday,” said Barrington Williams, a Jamaican employee at George Lepp Farms.

And what a party it was.

Niagara-on-the-Lake felt truly tropical — there was jerk chicken, curried goat, burritos, sunshine and generally high spirits as migrant workers and full-time residents mingled under and around the tent of the Market at the Village.

Local Jane Andres said that connection is exactly what she's working for.

“Connection changes everything,” she said, noting this year saw a lot more community engagement, with vendors serving “well over 500 meals.”

Andres also holds the event as a form of recognition and gratitude for the people who maintain and harvest our local bounty.

Coun. Betty Disero spoke at the event, saying, “Niagara-on-the-Lake is unique because of its soil, its climate and its hard workers. I want to thank you all for coming up every season and contributing to our community. Jane you are amazing. We are truly blessed.”

“When you go to the supermarket you don't know who pruned, picked and packed the



Top: The bands played into the night

Bottom: The crowd danced the night away.

fruit. That's us,” said Williams. His coworker Kenneth Hudson was also grateful for the event.

“This gives us recognition for the hard work we do here every year,” he said.

“Lots. The picnic means lots,” said Kevin Sancroft, a worker at Forrer Farms.

Local Adam Hawley helped get workers to and from the picnic.

“I've been back and forth all night. I had a chance to enjoy some good food, and the opportunity to connect with

some of the guys I haven't seen in a while.”

His father John donates the tent and property for the event.

The queue for traditional island food started at 5:30 p.m. and kept the employees of Caribbean Eatery going until the end of the show.

Michael Andrade, the restaurant's owner, used to work on the farms himself.

“I came out here in 1986 to work for Falk Family Farms. It means a lot to see these guys out relaxing and having fun.”

Local Carol Miller said,

“It's amazing to see all of the workers out together. We have Jamaican support groups, and Mexican support groups, but we don't usually get everyone together. It's so great to see.”

Live music played throughout the night, from Latin dance to traditional Mexican folk songs, Michael Jackson's Billie Jean (with a 10-year-old on drums), and of course, reggae.

The last two songs of the night summed up the event perfectly: Bob Marley's *One Love*, followed by Pharrell Williams' *Happy*.

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FEATURES

Nature's Lens: NOTL and the climate



Owen Bjorgan
Biophilic World
Featured



The bank at Niagara Shores Park. (Owen Bjorgan)

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a top tier town, not only in Canada, but on a global scale.

If I were to present the term "climate change" in front of you to start this article off, it may ring some bells. Your eyes may roll, or you might want to have a listen. Do folks living in peaceful, stable NOTL need to worry about climate change?

It has become a politically charged concept that is supported by scientific trends observed across the globe. The trends show that the Earth's climate is changing at a rate never seen before — and this concerning rate is fuelled by one species (us) versus a more natural shift in conditions. From the perspective of Earth's measurable time, it's a pretty serious event.

The predicted increasingly long summers and shorter winters in NOTL have potential to slowly open doors for new species to the area.

Insects, the most biodiverse group of organisms on the planet, come in all shapes and sizes. Time and time again

around the world, insects have shown up in new realms where they find themselves dominating an unprepared ecosystem.

What if this were to happen with a species of beetle that wiped out certain populations of trees? Life becomes easy for the destructive new beetle in town because winters are becoming shorter and less harsh. If not a beetle, perhaps a bee or wasp that is dangerous to humans could find itself at home in a warmer southern Ontario eventually.

Of all insects, it is the mosquito that is the most unavoidable, even on a perfect summer night in downtown NOTL.

You're in your backyard sipping a bold VQA red, and then you spill the wine as you reach for that mosquito.

What a shame. It would be even more of a shame if that mosquito carried West Nile Virus or Dengue fever. I've had the latter — picture the worst hangover you've ever had, times 10, for two weeks — this happened in Ecuador though.

The warmer more humid summers invite the mosquitoes capable of carrying these viruses to survive a little bit more northward as the trend continues.

These hot summer months have been whipping up a pattern of more severe precipitation events. The "once in a century" storm, named based on the probability of such an incredible event, is going to need a name change in the city of Toronto. Burlington was hit with freak storms that made national headlines just last year, also causing uncontrolled flooding.

We wouldn't want the beautiful name of our town to be changed to "Niagara On The Loo."

In seriousness, both Canada and the USA sides of the border flush citizens' sewage and other untreated water into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario when these massive storms dump unprecedented amounts of water over the area.

The old infrastructure can't handle the volume of water, and then the untreated nastiness rich in E. Coli enters our river system.

It has happened half a dozen times (and that's just knowingly) over the past year or so. That spells and smells disaster for the swimming areas and the biodiversity of the river.

Climate change doesn't discriminate, and it may not be of concern until its in our own backyard.

We are fortunate to live in an area of the world with a relatively stable and comfortable climate, but it doesn't appear it will remain as such forever. That doesn't mean that our beloved town isn't immune to nature's course.

For the record, I'm not trying to be an alarmist. This is how nature works and science speaks.

Also, I encourage you to ask your local elected officials and conservation authority what they are actively doing about climate change in Niagara.

A life of gathering stories



Catherine Skinner
Grow Niagara
Featured

On August 9, members of the community gathered in the oasis at Mori Gardens to celebrate the retirement of Terry Mactaggart.

For 30 years Mactaggart has helped local residents as the Visiting Volunteer Coordinator for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care service.

"Palliative care makes Niagara-on-the-Lake a very good place to live, and to die, and Terry's had a lot to do with that," said Joyce Loewen, long-time board member with NOTL CPC, and Mactaggart's mentor.

The Community Palliative Care service is a tremendous resource for the seriously ill and their caregivers and families, though it can be a challenge for people to take advantage of what the service has to offer.

Why are people so reluctant to even have the conver-



Terry Mactaggart event August 9. (Supplied photo)

sation about end-of-life care?

"Because our society doesn't want to talk about death. We are a death-denying society," said Loewen.

The NOTL CPC has grown over the last thirty years, thanks to Mactaggart, who moved from a career in teaching to palliative care after the death of a close friend in 1983. Terry made the trip to Connecticut to say goodbye and met two hospice workers assigned to her friend's care. Moved by their gentle compassion, Terry was curious about whether there

was a similar service in the Niagara Region.

She started her work in hospice care in Niagara Falls in 1985 as part of the hospital's visiting volunteer program. In 1986 she began to serve her own community. After about a year, she was asked to take over the program half time, and she made the transition to working for the organization, while still spending the balance donating her time for 22 years.

The experience of palliative and hospice care is a stark contrast from the

clinical, antiseptic hospital environment many people fear when they hear these terms. It is warm, and human and this is what Terry will miss the most.

She tells her hospice team, "Show your emotions. People want to know that you're feeling, and that you care."

Volunteers are the backbone of the CPC service. They not only offer comfort and companionship to clients, but they also offer support to caregivers and families by lending an ear, or offering a much-needed break.

"It takes a calm, compassionate person," says volunteer Nellie Visser. "But if this is something that appeals to you, you'll be okay if you bring your own unique skills to each visit."

Mactaggart and her team are unanimous about what makes their experience most rewarding — collecting stories, learning personal histories, charting the map of a life lived with love, and heartbreak, and triumph.

It's not about dying. Palliative care is about living out the rest of one's days to the fullest.

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Time Capsule: First Light on the Lake

The first lighthouse on Lake Ontario was built in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was operated during the war of 1812 by a retired British soldier named Dominic Henry. When the town was burned by the Americans in 1813, the lighthouse was left alone as it was needed for ships on both sides of the battle. Henry was also allowed to stay and tend the lighthouse. It was eventually knocked down and the materials were used in the construction of Fort Mississauga, which still stands today at the edge of the Niagara-on-the-Lake golf course.



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Niagara's History Unveiled

Junior Commissariat Officers' Quarters



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

Take a stroll down Veteran's Lane (off King Street) to the path through the Commons (once military land now owned by Parks Canada) where you will see, hidden amongst the trees behind a white picket fence, a lovely old building that seems to have been forgotten.

This is the Junior Commissariat Officers' Quarters (JCOQ) built by British Engineers in 1816, right after the retreat of the American army who had occupied our town (May 1813 to December 1813).

It was the first building built after the war by the military and is the oldest of the remaining buildings from Butler's Barracks (built in the 19th century).

Fort George had been destroyed by cannon ball fire from Fort Niagara (American fort) during the invasion by the American Army in May of 1813. The American army did restore parts of the fort for their use but upon their retreat (December 1813) Fort George was heavily damaged by fire.

The plans for the rebuilding of the military defenses by British engineers started in the winter of 1814. The light house on the point of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario was torn down and materials from it were used to build Fort Mississauga.

Fort George, in its location near the river was abandoned for a location further inland and out of range of cannon fire from Fort Niagara across the Niagara River.

Butler's Barracks, named after John Butler, the commander of Butler's Rangers, was constructed on military land that we now call the Commons.

As Fort George deteriorated, Butler's Barrack's, which began as just a cluster of buildings soon gained importance as the main military centre. By 1837 the complex had grown to 19 buildings surrounded by a palisade.

This palisade did not surround the Junior Commissariat Officers' Quarters. The commissariat was a civilian building, run by civilians for the purpose of a "link" between the military and civilian contractors.



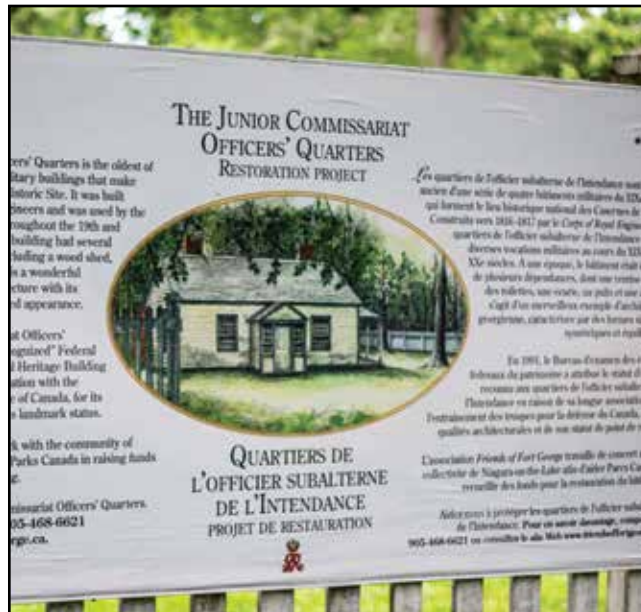
Junior Commissariat Officer's Quarters in Old Town. (Photos by Richard Harley)

In the British Army, the commissariat was a uniformed civilian service unit in 1869. The main duties of the officers were to secure and transport provisions for the troops. The supply of weaponry and ammunition was not part of the duties of the commissariat office.

These civilian officers were transferred into the regular army as commissioned officers under the command of the Control Department, later named the Army Service Corps.

The Junior Commissariat Officers' Quarters building is a wood/timber frame structure with brick infill (bricks which fill in the spaces between the wood frames) set on a stone foundation. The siding is wooden clapboard and the roof is covered in wood shingle. You will be surprised to note that the low-pitched gable roof actually hides the fact that there is second story to this house.

The main floor was designed with a central hallway plan however over the years the central hallway was lost when interior walls were removed. There had been four rooms on this floor each of which had its own fireplace. Two rooms existed upstairs with access by a drop ladder system. A set of cellar stairs is evident in the area of the front hall.



A sign at the front of the old officers' quarters.

The back part of the building is a solid brick kitchen wing, similar in design to the front section but built perpendicular to it. This addition is also a one-and-a-half storey building with a low-pitched cedar shingle roof.

The walls in this addition are classified as solid "three wythe" brick walls. A wythe is the thickness of a continuous brick wall. A single wythe (one brick thick) would be classified as a veneer but a multiple number of bricks used, such as a three wythe, would be for structural purposes. We can be thankful that three wythe brick walls were used in

the construction of the kitchen as we can still enjoy this structure over two hundred years later.

The JCOQ was actively used into the late 1820s. However with the completion of the Welland Canal in 1829, a decline in the need for a military presence in NOTL was felt. By December of 1837 the base was abandoned and the JCOQ was vacated, however the military still owned all of the properties and buildings on the Commons.

It was after the Mackenzie Rebellion (1837) that the British military decided to re-establish a military presence in Niagara-on-the-

Lake. The King's Dragoons Guards were installed in Butler's Barracks until 1841. During this time, a plan was developed to start repairs on the barracks, the palisade and the Junior Commissariates Officers' Quarters.

After the King's Dragoons left (1841) the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment was installed in Butler's Barracks. During the 1840-50s the required improvements were made to all the buildings.

The JCOQ was then designated the Commander's Quarters. The building was entirely fenced off and separated from the rest of the military complex.

By 1857 the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (RCRR) was moved to Toronto, the base was once again abandoned and the land was transferred to the provincial authorities.

There were two factors that soon saw the RCRR reinstalled (1861-1866) into Butler's Barracks.

The American Civil War (1861-65) caused tensions between England and the United States. As well the Fenian Brotherhood — Irish Republicans based in the United States — had hoped to force Britain out of Ireland by raiding British army forts and custom posts in Canada in 1866. The raids did not reach NOTL.

By the end of 1866, the need for a military pres-

ence was not needed in the region and the RCRR was once again moved from NOTL to Toronto.

From 1866 to 1871, renowned Canadian author William Kirby occupied the JCOQ as the designated caretaker of Butler's Barracks. Kirby is best known for his books "The Golden Dog" (1877) and his "Annals of Niagara" (1896).

In 1871 he moved out of JCOQ to make way for the first "Niagara Camp" training facility. The JCOQ (from 1871 to 1966) was now used as the Staff Headquarters and Compound.

The building however was not used year round so the Niagara Golf Club shared the same building, using it as their Clubhouse from 1891 to 1913. World War One forced the golf club to relocate.

Once again the JCOQ and the surrounding commons became a military base. Niagara Camp became a major Canadian military training facility for World War One, World War Two and the Korean War.

In 1954, with high hopes that the land would never see training of soldiers for another war, the JCOQ and ten acres of land were sold to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The building and land were used for various youth organizations and for a short time in the 1960s the JCOQ was rented out as a private residence.

It was in 1983 that the Crown repurchased back the ten acres of land including the JCOQ from NOTL and put it under the control of Parks Canada. The JCOQ was restored to its 1852 appearance on the outside. The inside was gutted and has not been restored.

Today the Junior Commissariats Officers' Quarters waits, amongst the sports fields, tennis courts and foot paths in the Commons, to be brought back to its former glory.

To learn more about the topic of this story you can visit the Niagara Historical Society & Museum website at, www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.com, or visit the museum for yourself.

The Niagara Historical Society is located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Old Town, in Memorial Hall.

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

Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor. Her full profile can be found at niagaranow.com.

Niagara Historical
SOCIETY MUSEUM



43 Castlereagh St.
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COMMUNITY

All NOTL residents are welcome to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send to editor@niagaranow.com



A view developers would kill for

Museum has big plans for future

Amy Klassen
Historical Society
Submitted

Since 2009, the Niagara Historical Society & Museum has been working behind the scenes planning the museum's future.

From acquiring a section of adjacent property to completing stakeholder sessions and a feasibility study, to hiring architects to design plans for an addition, they are getting closer to seeing their long-range plans come to fruition.

On Tuesday, August 21 at 7 p.m. they invite residents to attend a community engagement session at the museum to find out more about the project.

"The museum has been steadily growing for several years", said managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman.

"We've grown in our membership, attendance, programs and, of course, our collection is always increasing. Yet, we know that there are some challenges with our increasing growth. We average about 78 programs per year, a lot for a museum of our size.

For most museums, this would normally be done in a designated programming space which we don't have.

We currently have to use our exhibition galleries which can be very limiting when planning events, educational



NOTL Historical Society & Museum. (Richard Harley)

programs and exhibitions." In addition to space constraints for the public, as the museum's collection grows, their storage space is filling fast and is near capacity.

In order to continue preserving the material culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake, they must ensure that they have the proper storage facilities to accommodate thousands of artefacts and archives.

Finally, and most importantly for Kaufman, the museum needs to address the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements by 2025.

They will have to become fully accessible with an elevator.

"It will be wonderful to open up accessibility to our history and collection for all Canadians," said Kaufman.

During the community engagement, residents will review plans with the architects, see schematic designs and have an opportunity to ask questions of the board of directors, staff and architects.

"We want the community to feel comfortable with the direction we are taking and know more about what we do for the community and how our expansion plans can make our museum even better, increasing our capacity to serve the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake", explains Faith Bell, president of the Historical Society.

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Old Town. Space is limited so please call the Museum at 905-468-3912 if you wish to attend.

Keeping up with the Monarch Queen

Charlotte Letkemann
Submitted

Here are three photos taken last week.

I have taken five chrysalises to Chartwell Nursing Home so the residents can watch the magic of a butterfly being born.

I chose those that had pupated on different days so each should be ready to emerge on a different day — that way if they missed it one day, they might see it the next.

Friends have received others — it seems almost every day when I went out to get fresh milkweed leaves, I would find more eggs.

To date this year, I've raised at least 20 to maturity. The photo of the three chrysalises shows the middle one ready to "hatch" that morning.

The one on the rose was the first one born here last week.

I had carried it to the rose bush to take some pictures, bent down into my garden to do a few things and when I looked up, the butterfly was gone!

I felt it was much too soon, but accepted that it had possibly flown away already.

After going into the house and carrying on with my chores inside for at least 30 minutes, I happened to pass a mirror and noticed something on my back.

It was the butterfly!

My neighbour gently coaxed it off onto a craft stick, and we carried it out onto one of his flowers — a time for more photos.



Aoibhin and D'Arcy Davidson run a lemonade stand in August, in support of Team Pillitteri's goal to raise \$60,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. (Submitted by Lara Davidson)

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SCENE OF THE WEEK



Local resident Sandra Nass spotted three owls in a tree in her yard in early August.

"Perhaps another consideration for the Town to have an urban tree by-law? Our century old mature trees are a natural habitat for these beauties!" - Nass

SEND YOUR PHOTOS IN FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN OUR SCENE OF THE WEEK.

EDITOR@NIAGARANOW.COM



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms: Old Winery Restaurant

We really enjoyed the Old Winery Restaurant bathrooms. After our wood oven pizza we were ready to do some reviewing. Staff were informative and shared their rigorous bathroom cleaning schedule. Most impressive was the piped-in audio — whatever background music is playing in the dining room is not what you will hear in the bathrooms. Instead, enjoy a lesson in Italian. The Old Winery met our Gold Plunger Award Standards, so if you wish a gold plunger experience or wish to brush up on your Italian, we recommend a visit.

4/5 Golden Plungers



JOKE OF THE WEEK

"Never get drunk and play with an Ouija board ... It's not good to mix spirits ... Have a couple beers instead, that's a happy medium."

By David Green. Check out Monday Pundays with David Green, only at niagaranow.com.



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Farm-hers of NOTL: Rose Bartel

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

In another chapter of our "Farm-hers" series, we'll meet Rose Bartel, the dominant half of the team at Bartel Organics.

She and her husband Ken run the three-acre farm, selling a mix of edible produce and floral arrangements.

As Rose puts it, she really runs it, and Ken does what he's told.

Rose has a no-nonsense way of speaking, a quick and genuine smile and a strong vision for the farm — a combination which may have been what helped the business reach a point of smooth sailing.

That and a talent for arranging floral bouquets, which generally sell out every Saturday at the Niagara-on-the-Lake farmers' market.

Bartel stands at the back of their booth, cutting and arranging flowers from 7:30 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m., while Ken greets customers.

"Poor Ken, it was a real jump in the fire for him to be the front man at the market, while I make cut flower arrangements behind our table," she said.

The seeds of Bartel's career may have been planted when she was a child.

"I used to go around the fields picking flowers for everyone. I'm not sure if it was me or the big stink my mother made, but I loved the flowers."

One of five sisters, Rose jokes she always said they "were a handful," holding up her open palm and pointing out the five fingers.

Rose and her sisters all worked at Reimer Nurseries in NOTL when they finished elementary school, Rose staying for 11 summers.

It was there she gained a real appreciation for farming, soaking up as much information as she could.

"I was always asking 'why? why? why?' — I think I bothered my boss with all of my questions. But they were good to us."

"I always loved how nice it looked when you finished weeding a row," Rose added.

She must still love that look, as the rows throughout her three-acre farm are quite tidily tended.

The path to starting up the farm has been a rather organic one, generally having to do with Bartel's hands getting covered in soil.

After her years at the nursery, she studied horticulture at Niagara College, worked at various greenhouses and florists, and continued a nearly lifelong tradition of growing crops in the family garden.

Her family, then with



(Left) Rose Bartel takes a stroll through one of her organic flower gardens.

(Top right) Bartel holds one of her homegrown yellow heirloom tomatoes.

(Bottom right) Bartel's dog Edie enjoys a stroll through the garden lanes.

(Photos by Lauren O'Malley)



three young sons, moved to Perth so Ken could pursue his dream of studying heritage carpentry.

"We just packed up and went — it was one of the best things we ever did, because it disrupted our lives in a good way," said Rose.

She tells the story of their launch into the world of farmers markets from there.

"We'd been backyard growers all along, and now we took it up a notch. We had about two acres on good soil — I got a booth at the Perth farmer's market selling cut flowers, dried flower arrangements, and some of our vegetables — tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans. I made \$50 on my first day at the market."

She's been selling at markets ever since, and was one

of the seminal vendors in the first year of the Farmers Market at the Village, where her brightly-coloured and lushly-laden tables now anchor the entrance each week.

It's a lot of work, preparing everything for market days, Bartel said.

"All we do Friday is prepare for going to the market on Saturday. Market prep is a huge part of any farmer's work. On Tuesday and Wednesday we prepare for the CSA boxes; Monday and Thursday is weeding, picking, planting."

"When I come home from the market on Saturday afternoon, I sleep. I'm pooped."

And often, markets aren't enough to keep things going.

For small farms in Ontario, the Community Supported Agriculture box program is

a way to increase the farm's profits in the leaner months, allowing farmers like Rose to pre-sell products.

People pre-pay, usually in the early spring when produce farmers are often at the end of their financial rope, for a full season of produce. When summer comes, members of the CSA program go to the farm weekly to collect on their investment.

The program has doubled the income of Bartel Organics, and Bartel adds, is "a good way of visiting and talking with people."

Bartel also explores interesting new crops every year — this year it's purslane, chicory and ground cherries.

"We do five to six plantings of each crop — we're on our fifth or sixth planting of lettuce now."

She gestures towards flats of tiny seedlings in the sun.

The farm is organic, with no sprays or chemicals of any kind. Through careful companion planting and crop rotation, there is little — if any — need for them. The occasional pest is taken care of by hand and moved away from the plant so the eggs won't get a chance to repopulate the plants.

"People want organic because they want live food," Rose said.

"We grow organically because I learned at Niagara College that everyone sprayed and sprayed and thought everything was fine, but then realized it fills the body with toxins to a point of no return."

She also believes it strips the soil of its microbiome —

and healthy soil is paramount to Bartel.

Many of their homes, including the one to their current farm, have been chosen based on soil quality.

"It was too cold for too long in Perth, so we moved back to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a longer growing season," she said.

"We moved to a house where we had previously been tenants. We knew the property had good soil, and we wanted to farm it."

Vision and logic have led the way to success — Bartel said.

"Can you believe it? We make this much profit from our tiny farm!"

In our next issue read about Kim McQuhae, a farm-her who got into it raising livestock largely on a whim.

News that



Hits home

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