Community pulls together after house fire

Penny Coles
Staff

Despite being unable to solve traffic problems plaguing the neighborhood around the site of a new medical centre, councillors voted Monday at their last meeting of the current term to rezone the property and allow the project to go ahead.

Council also handed over responsibility for site plan approval, which covers many of the details of the building, parking lot and landscaping, to the Town’s planning director so the developer won’t have to delay construction waiting for the site plan to come back to the new council for approval.

Last fall, Niagara-on-the-Lake family doctors from the Niagara North Family Health Team announced they had chosen Lloyd Redekopp’s property beside Crossroads Public School for their new two-storey medical centre. The site backs on to Niagara Stone Road, with an entrance from Line 2.

In addition to the medical clinic, which will bring all the NOTL doctors under the same roof, the project will include a pharmacy, laboratory, optometrist, physiotherapist, imaging and professional offices. The doctors, now split between the NOTL hospital building and the Niagara Medical Clinic down the road from the chosen location, will require new offices by the end of 2019.

But before the project could move ahead, the property required rezoning and Official Plan amendments to allow for commercial use, instead of residential.

A majority of councillors voted last month to defer their decision as they struggled with the need for safety measures at the busy intersection at Line 2 and Niagara Stone Road. They were also concerned about the problems of residents living on Henry and Andres Streets and Line 2, who are already dealing with increased traffic and cars parked on side streets in the area, and they had hoped a meeting with regional and town representatives and the property owner might find a solution that would make them comfortable with the rezoning.

They learned Monday the Region has said it’s a flat-out no to traffic lights or a crosswalk on Niagara Stone Road, which is a regional responsibility, although the Town and Redekopp have agreed to put some money behind fixing traffic concerns, councillors heard particular solutions aren’t going to happen.

Lawyer Tom Hanranhan, representing Redekopp, told council the developer was willing to put aside $75,000 for a traffic light if the Region had allowed one on Niagara Stone Road at Line 2, but a Regional traffic count and a traffic impact study initiated by Redekopp and confirmed by a Town-initiated peer review indicated numbers don’t warrant one.

Since councillors agreed it is unlikely the Region will reverse its decision, they asked as a condition of rezoning approval that the $75,000 be secured for two years, for any traffic-calming measures that might help the neighbourhood.

Coun. Martin Mazza continued his opposition to the Official Plan and rezoning amendments of the residential property, stating there is sufficient commercial office space available in town for the doctors, and nothing to indicate traffic concerns could be solved.

“Voting on this today without knowing how those concerns will be worked out is not responsible government,” he said. “$75,000 is not going to buy my vote.”

He also pointed out that if the medical centre owners decide to charge for parking, visitors to the site will use either Crossroads Public School or neighbouring roads to avoid the fee, and will only exacerbate the current problem, and that the staff report said the town has 57,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space that could be used for a medical centre without rezoning.

Coun. Maria Bau-Coste also turned down the rezoning, saying she knows from her former work with the doctors there are other appropriately-zoned areas to build the facility. In one of those “touchy moments around the table,” she said, “I wouldn’t be able to look myself in the mirror if I support this.”

Coun. Paolo Miele also opposed the rezoning due to traffic and safety concerns at what he considers a dangerous location.

Coun. Terry Flynn, who put the motion for deferral on the floor last month, said he didn’t want to hold up the development any longer, and that he hoped in the future everyone involved can come to the table and find a solution to traffic problems.

Flynn, Coun. Jim Collard, Coun. Betty Disero and Lord Mayor Pat Durate voted to approve the rezoning.
Newspaper clipping from "News Staff"

**Number of candidates for NOTL town councillor drops to 24**

Richard Harley
Editor

The number of candidates seeking the position of town councillor for Niagara-on-the-Lake has dropped from 25 to 24. In an interview to the Friday morning, former candidate Rob MacInnis said he will no longer be running due to a professional opportunity that will require him to be out of town frequently.

"Basically it's an external commitment that I didn't foresee, and it's going to have me out of town during the week. I don't feel I could be able to commit the time that would be necessary to serve properly," MacInnis said. "And I don't want to be that guy that's missing half the meetings and all the kind of stuff."

He said he "couldn't pass up" the opportunity, but added "it looks like we've got really good state of candidates, so I don't feel too badly.

It's a possibility he may run in the future, he said. "You know, four years from now, who knows what my circumstances will be. I'm getting to the point where I probably be looking at retiring, so we'll see."”

The municipal election is Oct. 22.

**Rundown of FocusNOTL candidate meetings: Pt. 1**

Penney Coles
Staff

The first of a series of meetings being held in various NOTL venues will begin Friday morning, former candidate Rob MacInnis said he will no longer be running due to a professional opportunity that will require him to be out of town frequently.

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The municipal election is Oct. 22.
Firefighters launch smoke alarm program

Lauren O’Malley
Staff

Expiry dates are tricky things. Sometimes you can ignore them on food with relative safety — but you can’t ignore them on smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.

Yes, those life-saving gadgets have expiry dates. Firefighters at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department are going door-to-door this month with the aim of making sure residents have the knowledge and tools they need to be safe in their homes. “Don’t be intimidated if we show up in your neighbourhood with a fire truck — we’re just talking with people and making sure everyone is safe,” says Andrew Allan, Fire Inspector and Public Educator.

The transparently-named Safe Home Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Program was twice a year, in spring and fall. “One of the things we find really surprises people is the ten-year expiry date on smoke alarms,” says Jay Pa-to, a fire prevention officer with the department. He encourages everyone to check for a label on their unit at home, and make sure it’s still visible. “When it expires,” he says, “the devices inside that detect smoke might not work anymore. It can still make noise that leads you to believe it’s fine, but the sensors may have worn out.”

Smoke alarms have a life expectancy of ten years. Carbon monoxide alarms vary — it is advised that owners check their units’ manuals for details.

Allan explains the program: “We are checking residential smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure proper function and placement. Citizens are also encouraged to talk to firefighters to learn more about keeping your family safe from fire.”

They emphasize the importance of an escape plan in case of fire, including agreeing on a safe meeting place. And one of their most important messages: Never go back inside a burning building. The firefighters find children are usually the most safety-savvy people in a household — perhaps because the fire department works in conjunction with schools and other youth groups to make them that way. “The kids will proudly quote what we told them at school,” says Plato with a smile.

If the visiting firefighters find smoke or carbon monoxide alarms that are not working for any reason, they will replace them. “We will not leave residents unprotected,” says Allan. A partnership with Penner Home Hardware pays for the alarms.

The firefighters from all five districts aim to visit 500 homes during the program. On Sept. 17 they visited the Old Town and Virgil areas; on Sept. 24 they will be in St. Davids, Queenston, and Glendale between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7 to 13.

Lawn signs ramp up

Richard Harley
Editor

According to a resident who lives in St. Davids near Canaday Park and Concession 3, a political sign was removed from her lawn and replaced with another candidate’s sign.

The resident, who asked not to be named, said while she was out of town, someone presumably switched sides. He said he stepped in to have a quick chat and col lect his sign, when he was told of the situation. The resident, after the con fusion, has decided she will no longer let anybody put signs on her property.

“If this is the way people are campaigning, we’re done for,” she said. She said she had attended a candidate meeting in Queenston and had told candidates they could put signs up on her lawn if they desired, though she didn’t expect anyone to actually put a sign up there.” She said, “I said they could all put signs up there,” she said.

The resident said now she’s going to save herself the hassle by not having anything displayed. “I already know who I’m voting for,” she said.

Group pushes for a natural Lakeshore park

Debi Goodwin
Special to TIR

While voters are asking candidates in the upcoming municipal election strong questions about development and its effects on our heritage, one group in town believes they should also be seeking candidates’ opinions on preserving the natural and historic Department of National Defence property along the Lakeshore before crucial decisions about that land are made.

For ten years now, the board of the Harmony Residents Group has been advocating for a public park on the land that would include trails and educational opportunities while protecting and rehabilitating its forests, wetlands and shoreline. The property contains one of the last stands of Carolinian forests on the Great Lakes with several endangered or threatened species of trees and is the habitat to a wide variety of wildlife including a valuable nesting area for the threatened chimney sweep.

“As well as preserving the Carolinian forest,” says Finn Madsen, Harmony’s President and Chair, “this will put the lake back to Niagara-onthe-Lake with the longest stretch of waterfront accessible to the public.”

The proposal, which can be found online at harmonyresidents.org, calls for the soon-to-be decommissioned Wastewater Treatment Plant to be returned to a natural wetlands area, keeping the existing building as a welcome centre and encouraging the ponds and surrounding land to naturalize.

“This is exactly what was done by the NPCA (Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority) with great success at Biggar Lagoons in Grimsby,” says Peter Harvey, the group’s Vice Chair.

The proposal also calls for the park to reflect the historic use of the land by Indigenous people, early settlers and the military. It believes such a park would be a draw in the growing market in nature and heritage tourism.

The ultimate use of the land has been left to DND cleared the property of any remaining armaments before giving it to Parks Canada who will decide its fate. In the past year, the clean-up accelerated to the point that the transfer is in progress. In preparation for its plan, Parks Canada has been hearing proposals from groups like Harmony. NPCA is now taking at looking at the lead in pushing for the park in partnership with the town, the region and Harmony.

To find out how much support the new council will give to the park, the Harmony board has sent out emails to all candidates asking them what they believe should happen on the property. The answers they receive will be posted on the Harmony Residents Group website.

Debi Goodwin is a member of the Harmony Residents Group board.

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Letter to the editor: Youth voices and leadership

Richard Harley
Editor

A letter recently was sent out by a local politically-minded group called Focus-NOTL outlining the group’s beliefs that our past council and school boards. There seems to be somewhat common ground — and arguably undemocratic.

The group has organized a series of candidate meetings to which the incumbents running are not invited. The paper reported on these meetings, and so far the meetings have admittedly been informative. But couldn’t everyone have been invited?

It could be argued these meetings will lean attendees in the favour only of the invited candidates — after all, any exposure is good exposure and this has been demonstrated.

The time required to properly serve you as a member of council is important. If I were to be elected, I offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who supported and encouraged me.

The Lake Report invites you to attend our official launch party this Sept. 28 at Mori Gardens in Virgil. The night will include a chance to meet the paper’s editorial team, mingle with other locals and enjoy some great food and wine.

There will also be a donation raffle, with all funds going towards keeping the paper free and independent.

The celebration will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until 9:30 p.m.

A fantastic menu will be provided by Goodnite Catering and wine will be available to purchase by the glass from Perridio Estate Winery. Craft beer will also be available to purchase, courtesy of Oast House Brewers.

The night will be hosted by David Green and Gary Fraizer and will include live music by local musicians including Laurel Minnes and Taylor Hulley.

All local residents are invited. Food is first come, first served.

For those who can’t make it, a second event will be held a week later (Oct. 6) at the NOTL community centre, with light refreshments provided by Sweets and Swirls Cafe.

The paper extends thanks to Miguel Mori for helping coordinate this event, to Collin Goodine for his generous contribution to the night at Mori, and to Erin and James Lockard for the afternoon at the community centre, to all of our advertisers, donors — and last but certainly not least, to our readers and contributors, who have made the launch of this paper a greater success than we could have imagined in a short time.

The Lake Report

Letter to the editor: To residents from Rob MacInnis

Rob MacInnis

Dear residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, I appreciate your interest in my candidacy in the NOTL Municipal election. As a former Municipal Councillor of 12 years in another Municipality, I was hoping to make a contribution in NOTL. Unfortunately unforeseen future commitments will not allow me the time required to properly serve you as a member of council. I ask that you not waste a vote on me as I will not be able to accept a position on council if I were to be elected. I offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who supported and encouraged me to run.

Thank you.

Rob MacInnis

Correction from TLR

The Lake Report would like to clarify that Gus Konronos will be attending the Oct. 9 candidate meeting at the Legion. A list of candidates was reported in our latest issue that did not include his name.

Letter to the editor: Supporting choice and education is one thing; meddling is another

Richard Harley
Editor

“Youth Advisory Council was that the time for youth voices and collaboration with Mayor Pat Darte about the idea of establishing a real youth and community centre, with light refreshments provided by Sweets and Swirls Cafe.

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The Lake Report
Terry Mactaggart

Opinion

Concerns have again been growing about development pressures building in our community, particularly in and around the Old Town. I say “again” because this is no by means the first time such concerns have arisen, nor will it be that last. There appears to be something more fundamental about this occasion that warrants our collective response.

These pressures and lacks of a clear path forward, coupled with our local election on Oct. 22, present a valuable opportunity. Now can become a time to observe and reflect on the expectations we hold with a wide cross section of our citizenry and, above all, what we deserve from you.

How should we think with purpose about a desirable future for Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well as take steps to improve the chance that vision will be fulfilled?

My perspective is derived from a 47-year residency, a long interest in creative community development and a 13-year tenure as executive director and president of DSBN Trustee.

The current debate about Randwood, the Institute acquired, improved and operated successfully during that time, is providing a major source of personal stimulus because I know that property intimately and how it could be compromised. That, plus a sense — unlike many who have been here a lifetime — of the town we love has now in some areas reached its limits to growth makes it timely to sound this “call to action.”

For years, Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) has been considered by many to be one of the more desirable small communities in North America. Its combination of historic, cultural and natural setting, combined with an agreeable lifestyle, provided an environment I felt equivalent to that of a Carmel or Nantucket — and certainly of Vienna. These are rich cultural and historical heritages, a growing reputation for fine wines and a distinctive mix of urban and rural life added to its reputation.

While the town has long been recognized as a tourism destination was growing, it hadn’t become overbearing — we could still ride a bicycle on Queen Street on a sunny summer afternoon without experiencing a life-threatening drama. One essential foundation we should never forget was the over-arching attitude of its citizens towards balancing “progress” and “preservation.” While not codified, this perspective was quite evident in the evolution of the town and township. Frankly, we were lucky, for without it we could have been overrun long ago by fast food and other encroachments.

So what’s changed now? — why does it feel quite different young people to move away, particularly in housing and hospitality — broadly exclusive community of aging drivers. We have nearly doubled the housing stock, reshuffled most of our constituent neighbourhoods and utilizing much available land. Meanwhile, the sample strong economy has created an unprecedented demand for housing (notwithstanding much higher prices) resulting in a notable acceleration of early retirement age people who wish to enjoy “Canada’s Prettiest Town.”

Traffic and related safety concerns have become a significant issue not just into and around the Old Town where the line of incom- ing cars on Highway 55 stretched out to the airport on a recent Sunday but also for St. Davids and Virgil.

And housing costs and a lack so what’s happening now is continuing to convince many to move away.

We appear to be trend- ing towards becoming an exclusive community of aging residents, many of whom are disconnected from the public life of the Town.

Much of this was predict- able given NOTL’s favour- able demographics and the inevitability of a significant migration and wealth transfer as baby boomers began to retire. I can recall discussion about as far back as the 1970s, about how the high traffic season should be handled by parking and peripheral parking. Spot situations like the busing invasion (92 in one day!) were confronted and solved effectively. And developers quite naturally recognized the number of profitable opportunities they could take advantage of.

New residents can provide a barometer of community wellbeing. While the lifestyle reasons for wanting to move here but increasingly report their impression that the community is changing and is not entirely the pleasant environment they expected.

A recent study of “Best Places in Canada to Live” also noted that Niagara-on- the-Lake had slipped 33 points in ranking last year from 55th to 88th — unde- rstandable evidence perhaps, but one can argue an indicator of a community in some decline.

My main concern is that parts of the town we are at — not only dotal evidence perhaps, but one can argue an indicator of a community in some decline.

Immediate causes are far too many. It’s the division on Council that’s to blame; some are in the de- vision that they don’t care; the way we are living, we have had to learn to do a lot of things. We are going through a difficult period and do not want to be in seeing, so provincial guidelines and the Town’s own process favour developers, and so on.

Such blame games, apart from not being constructive, are another manifestation of a community that is overheating and potentially trending in the wrong direction.

We might remember Pogo and consider whether “the enemy is us.”

The key question, of course, is what to do?

Car owners are in an incremenatal way the present ground rules will not result in a significant course adjustment regardless of who sits on the new council.

A more opportunistic view is to recognize that real change is usually driven by a combination of economics or a crisis, in some cases by a combination of the two. A persuasive argu- ment can be made that we are going through a transition as elements of both. What’s needed is a higher order formula that is citizen-driven. What can set a better course involves defining what we seek as a frame of reference and creating a structure that we seek as a frame of reference and create a framework as a template for future development.

Let’s therefore assume that we now have in a 25-year opportunity to take such a project. Let’s further assert that willing- ness and capabilities do so are present in the com- munity. What might such an effort look like and how might it be organized?

Definitions of what makes up a great community are relatively easy to come by. Several factors are often cited that go beyond simply a vibrant economy. “Strong leaders with vision and shared purpose, capable of inclusivity and teamwork” is near the top. Closely coupled are “a citizenry that knows the civic story, often shar- ing a ‘big dream’ and are engaged with its affairs.”

“Effective infrastructures” for education, transportation, housing, medical and other essential services as well as opportunities for recre- ation and cultural activities are inevitably mentioned.

A “healthy community” has also become basic as “a commitment to moving forward and more are seen to contribute to a commun- ity’s social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

At the core of such an effort are the are the place where citizens share about behav- iour the quality of their lives and their collective future.

Without using values as a toolstone and guide, growth and development usually lacks coherence, becoming ad hoc and incremental. Many communities following such a course have found themselves occupying a different and less satisfying space, incapable of an “enemy.”

If enough of us believe this to be a good time, it can become a critical one, to come together in order to map out a desirable future, and when I am confident that it can be done. Local initiatives have been taken elsewhere to great advantage and the process of finding common ground is well known. That is not to suggest that it’s easy; it’s usually involves someone in advance and a relatively large cross section of people throughout the community willing to suspend judge- ment and invest their energies for a couple of days in joint pursuit. An ideal time would be in the weeks following the late October election.

New council members could be prepared to act as citizens not lead by council or staff. The payoff aimed for would be a charter of sorts, an elabora- tion of a Desirable Future for NOTL which, while not binding on policy and deci- sion making, would serve as a frame of reference and tem- plate for conditioning how we approach issues as well as for guiding future development.

Who is prepared to respond to such a Call; to help wake up our commu- nity and plan for its future?

Letter: The Call — “let’s create a desirable future for Niagara-on-the-Lake”

Terry (He) Mactaggart

The Lake Report

The Lake Report strongly encourages readers to support the local businesses that advertise with us.

When reading, we ask you to please remember that the businesses you see allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent.

When you’re looking for a service or product, check the paper and try someone local first. There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from — don’t forget to mention you saw them in the paper!

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 in the paper. (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, P.O. Box 724, makes cheques to Niagara Now Ltd. and note as a donation.

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September 20, 2018
Community rallies for family after house fire consumes home

Donations have been shown up at the door of Spiewak’s house.

It didn’t burn down as well, thanks to the efforts of NOTL’s volunteer firefighters who ensured the house was blazed. It was unbelievable how a house can burn like that and not catch. It was so lucky that it wasn’t windy, Koopka said. “And those are the good parts.”

Koopka said he could replace at least one thing — something one of her sons was “pretty banging up about” — Spiewak’s son has a signed hockey stick, one he used in the NHL.

Koopka said he’s going to replace it with one of the last three he has. And then there’s Tucker, who has no longer forgotten about either — Sweets and Witchy Cafe has a donation box up for the family — and asked people to buy him a steak and cheese sandwich.

As well, piles of donations have been sent to their temporary home and to Spiewak’s parents’ house on Hunter Road.

At press time, a GoFundMe page had also raised more than $3,600 in three days with donations from 58 people.

A box of birthing photos was one of the only things found in the rubble.

The Fire Marshal investigation concluded the cause of the fire is underdetermined. Spiewak said the house was simply too far gone for a forensic investigation.

The family would like to thank the NOTL Fire Department, Victim Service Niagara, The McShane family, Dave Dick Jr. at Niagara Motors, Phil and Shannon Leboudec of Phil’s Valu-Mart, Silks Country Kitchen and the Sandtrap.

“Tucker was of course the first on the scene,” Konopka said. “And those are the good parts.”

Koopka said the family is now thinking about what to do next.
Council passes the bark on tree bylaw

Peony Colles
Staff

After four years of discussing an urban tree bylaw, Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillors have passed the bylaw to the backing of the incoming council, who will take the responsibility of balancing tree preservation with property rights.

Several new candidates are already campaigning on the issue across the region, and it was recognized at the final meeting of council Monday that it is sure to become an hot election issue, but after extensive discussion about the best route to go, councilors could not agree to the bylaw that was presented to them for approval.

The bylaw had been ap- proved at the concluding meeting of the whole meeting in August, and then when presented to council for ratification the following week, it failed, mostly because of Coun. Jim Collard’s con- cerns. Council agreed then to defer it to the September meeting, the last opportuni- ty for approval of the bylaw before the end of the term.

Although Niagara-on-the-Lake residents have overwhelmingly supported a tree bylaw that would apply to private property in urban areas, and councilors had asked staff to prepare one, when they were faced with it this week, they used words such as “intrusive” and “ag- gressive” to describe it as before them. Residents, they said, likely don’t fully understand the implications of a bylaw that would apply to every property owner, not just developers.

Coun. Jim Collard had tried to have some revisions made to the bylaw, but he wouldn’t support it as written, and after a lengthy discussion, the majority of council agreed to receive the report, take the bylaw off the table and have the information, with Col- lard's revisions, ready for the next council to deal with.

The bylaw as written, Col- lard said, would mean that a resident who just wanted to trim a branch on a backyard tree or take one down that was dying would have to pay for an arborist to evaluate the tree, pay for a permit to allow for the work, and then pay to have the work done.

He also objected to the stiff penalties for not following the process.

Residents had asked for a tree bylaw to curb develop- ers from cutting down trees, but instead, what was before council was aimed at control- ling what home owners could do on their own property, Collard said, calling the by- law “one of the most intrusive pieces of legislation” council has considered.

“If you’re going to use this bylaw to stop development, I don’t think it can be done,” he said. “Developers have ownership of land, and they have certain rights to do things on it. The bylaw as written is very aggressive, almost nasty, especially when you’re talking about thousands of dollars in fines.”

An urban tree bylaw on private property, Collard said, “is putting big city values on our town.”

Coun. Maria Bau-Cooite said she has never sup- ported a tree bylaw and wouldn’t support one before council.

“Don’t see residents cutting down trees with no reason,” said Coun. Terry Flynn. “If somebody is taking down a tree on their property, they’re doing it for a good reason.”

Although he spoke of NFTL being the envy of other municipalities because of its tree canyons, he said he’s concerned about “tree police,” people reporting to council when neighbours are taking down a tree.

“I’m becoming concerned about my rights as a property owner,” he said. “I understand we need something to control trees on developers’ properties, but this is too intrusive.”

Coun. Paolo Miele agreed. “The rights of a tree is not my main concern — it’s the rights of property owners.”

He suggested instead staff could look at a tree policy that could be attached to site plans, rather than telling residents they have to pay for an arborist before trimming a tree branch. He also wanted to look at op- tions such as educating the public and enhancing public participation in protecting trees — options that were of- fered in the staff report that outlined the bylaw.

Coun. Martin Maza iden- tified that council had asked staff for a bylaw, which had been four years in the mak- ing, and staff had presented them with 127 pages of information, “but I think it missed the mark. What’s on everyone’s minds is development, and the urban forest that has been lost due to development. Because this is the last meet- ing, we were pushing staff to give us something and they gave it to us.”

“Rather than pushing it for- ward so council could point to it as an accomplishment of their term, Maza suggested it would be better to let the next council deal with it.

He said he was looking for something much more simple — take a tree out, plant a new one, if not in its place, somewhere else — rather than what was presented in the document “that punishes good, honest homeowners who want to care for their properties or prevent an insurance claim if a diseased tree comes down.”

“This report isn’t com- ing out of nowhere,” said Coun. Jamie King, “but it’s a complex issue. I don’t think people in town have a clue about the implications — that’s the Achilles heel. This has the ability to greatly im- pact home owners and their responsibilities.”

He suggested it should be for the new council to decide, after being informed about what residents want while on the campaign trail.

“I think at the end of the day the campus is important to everyone in town. This is one tool. I think it needs to be revisited.”

Coun. Betty Disero was of- fended at Collard’s reference to “intrusive” and “ag- gressive” to describe it as anyone who wants a tree bylaw is bringing Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“I know it’s political, I get this is dying would have to pay for an arborist before trimming a tree on their property. To say it’s all these people from Toronto coming in and wanting it is wrong — and that’s the wrong message to send.”

Disero said she wanted a tree bylaw is going to bring Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“Let’s be clear,” she said. “This council has been ask- ing for a tree bylaw on private property. To say it’s all these people from Toronto coming in and wanting it is wrong — and that’s the wrong message to send.”

She reminded council that the number of times staff had come to council with a report on a tree bylaw, and council had sent it back to staff to start the process all over again, that the bylaw could not legally be aimed just at develop- ers and development lots.

She had reminded them of the many subdivisions of lots that have come before council, with large, beauti- ful trees already removed by developers before they applied for the subdivision. The only way to prevent that, occurring, she said, is with a general tree bylaw.

Disero said she would support the changes Collard had suggested, including reducing the costs of bringing a permit and the impact of having to get an arborist, and expanding the exemptions for weed trees, but she didn’t want the tree bylaw to be — it could be brought back to the next council, to try to use native trees, to take one that are not weeds, that are not dying,” she said, while protecting the rights of home owners with problem trees.

“Let’s be clear,” she said. “This is a big city intrusion coming from Toronto is unfair.”

King proposed council receive the report on a tree bylaw on private property for information, suggesting they wait with a month to go before the election was no time to revise it. His motion was approved with only Coun. Disero voting against it.

The issue “is going to come forward again - it’s not going away,” King said, adding “there’s been a lot of good work done with a lot of good information that should be circulated and brought for- ward to the incoming council.
There are better solutions than widening Niagara Stone Road, said Burroughs, such as Concession 6 once the Mewburn Bridge is completed. “The goal of this council should be to put aside a budget for Concession 6 so it meets current standards. The solution is not more roads, it’s a better way to get into the community. I’m not a fan of parking lots.” Candidates were also questioned about heritage preservation, with Randwood, the proposed hotel development on John Street, as an example of the issues that surface from development. “A mistake was made by council,” said Mewburn Bridge is coming through,” said Burroughs, referring to a 2011 decision to allow a hotel on the property. “It will be necessary to take a relatively strict interpretation of that bylaw.” He cautioned it would not make the developer happy and the decision would be left up to the local Planning Appeal Board.

“The town has the potential to create precedent,” said Davis. He too suggested council stick to the height allowed by the 2011 bylaw. O’Connor said she supports heritage in built and natural environments, and would apply those principles to any development in town. “We don’t want to change the character of town,” said Randwood, she said, “we have to be cognizant of what the original bylaw intended.” Burroughs did not support the 2011 Official Plan amendment and said, moving forward, that should be the baseline. In future he’d like to see the local mayor representing council and meeting with developers, to say “This is what our town wants and this is why everyone is so upset.” We’re not doing this, we’re allowing staff to work through the process, and that’s not the way to get things done.”

“This is a heritage town. If we ruin our heritage no one will want to come here,” said Peters. If the Randwood development has to go ahead, he added, “we should make sure it’s not an eyesore to the rest of the town.”

The final question of the evening was about health care delivery, with Davis saying the doctors have chosen the site for a new medical centre, and if the current council doesn’t provide the necessary rezoning, then the new medical centre will have to work out a way to do it and get the traffic problems solved for the neighbouring community. “The town needs to move forward and get the facility built.”

If the current council approves the rezoning for a new medical centre on Niagara Stone Road and Line 2, “we will always work with them to make it safe,” said O’Connor. If the rezoning isn’t approved, it will be up to the new council to work on the rezoning and the non-profit model the current council turned down. Then we should provide the infrastructure needed to keep our residents healthy.

Burroughs would have to understand why the current council, the Niagara Medical Centre, became an undesirable location to doctors, when it’s already zoned for a 30,000 square foot expansion. “Why didn’t they work, and what can we do to make it work?” he said. “I’m not keen on rezoning another property for that use when we already have one.” In addition to traffic problems, the site on Line 2 already has water issues, he said. “It’s very hard of creating the vision for the future of the area is done, with the second phase including the technical information about how that complete vision to be finished in May, 2019, he said.

The district plan is in need of growth and economic prosperity, by creating a community that attracts investment, talent and jobs, he said.

Donna Hinde, a consultant with Planning Partnership, said the site looked at about 40 acres east of Homer Road. She detailed some of what was on the at public and stakeholder meetings - that Glendale should be a walk-in clinic restored in 2019, he said. The Niagara Region has also include a hotel, and a new residential area along Concession 7. When phase 2 of all is developed, there will be more than 1500 information sessions and an online survey, said Villella, and the plan will be refined according to local input before being presented to regional and town council for endorsement. The plan will be shared on the region’s website.

Lord Mayor Pat Darre said one of the concerns of Glendale residents is that the planning is moving forward too quickly, and Villella asked “how tall” the tall buildings would be, and reminded Villella that “we have to be cautious and cognizant” that Glendale is a gateway to NOTL.

Following the meeting, planning director Craig Larmour clarified the height restrictions according to the 2010 secondary plan - allowing a variety of building heights including a 20-storey toronto tower. The CRA has yet to be established, which will, when council at the time of rezoning and site plan review.

Lincoln Interiors closing shop after decades of operation

Lauren O’Malley Staff

After more than 30 years of operation, Lincoln Interiors in Virgil is closing its doors. “It’s bittersweet,” says Petra Wiens-Browning.

Lincoln Interiors owner Petra Wiens-Browning, (Lauren O’Malley)

Wiens-Browning was a victim of terminal cancer four and a half years ago. “The decision to close the store is hard to make,” says Wiens-Browning. “I love this business, I love the customers, the staff, the networking. But my family needs me.”

Wiens-Browning has two children, 10 and 12 years old, and aging parents who live with her. “My dad has dementia, so he needs full-time care.”

Her father is Friedgied Wiens, a rather prominent business man. He started Peninsula Upholstery and Flooring in 1963, and then doubled his empire when he purchased Lincoln Interiors in 1978. Henry Wiens (no relation) subsequently used that money to invest in the Prince of Wales Hotel. Wiens-Browning was groomed to run Lincoln Interiors. She started working in the Virgil store after school and weekends in her teens, and then went away to university at the University of Waterloo. When she graduated with a degree in business administration, she had her choice of jobs at large companies such as IBM and GM. Her parents would support any decision she made, but, “They suggested I just try the store for a little while – and I never left.” So glad I made this choice: this is the best community to live and work in.”

The goal is to sell off all of the store’s inventory in a big closing sale, starting Friday, The side will go on as long as there is furniture to sell – Wiens-Browning hopes to be closing the store completely before December.

However there is a lot of inventory. “We’ll be emptying our warehouse as well. It’s on one of the properties considered for the medical centre, so we may need to clear it sooner, or a later date.”

Wiens-Browning plans to lease out the building when the current business closes, but is in no hurry and hasn’t yet begun that process. “I don’t want to be rushed out of the building,” she says. The plan is to keep the doors open for as long as there are items to sell, and then take a step back and assess what her next steps might be. “It might be fun to work two or three days a week – but I’m not ready to let go – and not ready to sell my parents and kids need me — and I’m happy to take it easier for a while.”

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Angry turkey on the loose

Lauren O’Malleys Staff

Angela Santilli was minding her own business, training for a marathon in early September by taking a run along the Niagara River Parkway by Fort George. As she ran, a tour bus slowed and its passengers stared at her. Annoyed by their rudeness and assuming they had chosen to stop and watch the runner, she said, “Don’t get chased, I don’t know what has happened.”

You might be laughing right now, but turkeys are inherently comedic. But this aggressive Tom is no joke.

Another local resident, who is withholding his name for fear of being mocked about aggressive Turkeys is no joke.

A woman watching the honking of many cars

In such a case, they would...

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Niagara Now’s printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests. The ink is also vegetable based.

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<td>NOTL Ukesters Sunday Ukelele Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena NOTL Ukesters Sunday Ukelele Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Katey Gatta - 3 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co</td>
<td>Little Red Tail Hawks - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre Community Pot Luck and Drumming Night - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
<td>Table tennis - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Rotary Club of NOTL - 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre NOTL Golden Age Club - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre NOTL Golden Age Bridge Club - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Urban Design Committee - 5 p.m. - Council Chambers</td>
<td>Simply STEAM Story Time - a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Library Drop-in painting - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre All candidate meeting - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Willowbank Lower - Fall Trivia League - 9 p.m. - The Exchange</td>
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### September Calendar

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

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#### Event Details
- **Babies and Books** 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Drop-in bridge** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **DNA Workshop** 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Akwe:go Afterschool Program** 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre
- **Weekly Fish Fry** 4:30 p.m. - The Legion
- **Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play** 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Wayne Gates Office** 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Minecraft Club** 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Akwe:go Afterschool Program** 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre
- **Weekly Fish Fry** 4:30 p.m. - The Legion
- **The Farmers’ Market** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village
- **Buffet breakfast** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. - St Davids Firehall
- **Niagara Historical Society & Museum**
- **The Farmers’ Market** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village
- **Public skating** 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena
- **Theatrical Cemetary Tours** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum/St. Andrew’s Church

For more information, visit [niagaranow.com](http://niagaranow.com) or send us an email at events@niagaranow.com.
Before the tough work of the last council meeting of this term began Monday, councillors took some time to celebrate their four years working together and to recognize those who have decided to hang up their political hats — at least temporarily.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte began the feel-good pads on the back of the thank-you. Coun. Maria Bau-Coote said her “hard work and dedication over the last eight years. Your perspective through the health care lens has been a great boon to our community. You’ve got such a good back-ground in it, you’ve brought a lot to the table and to our residents,” she said, wishing her the best in her work at the Good Shepherd Centre in Hamilton, which provides help to the homeless and vulnerable in society, a job she has come to love.

To Coun. Jamie King, Darte said, “Your experience in the education sector has probably imbued you and will welcome to your voice to this table. Your dedication to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro board has been commendable and I know you were very passionate about it. We wish you all the best as you continue your work at Sheridan College and as you pursue your Master’s of Education.”

Darte also said he knows Coun. Jim Collard since they were both young, although Collard is a little older and hung around with Darte’s older siblings when they lived down the road and swam in the lake together.

“Jim for many, many years,” Bau-Coote said, adding, “He's said he's known Darte for his leadership and for his leadership around this table. Coun. Paolo Miele said it has been a pleasure and an honour to work with each councillor around the table, and he'd learned a lot from them in the last four years. "We will miss you." While she couldn't share her accomplishments, including working on Town committees and council, the Community Alliance of Schools, and as a board member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

“Thank you all. We didn’t mess it up — we got it right most of the time,” he said.

“We worked hard to make NOTL the kind of town people want to live in.”

He said he’s looking forward to a holiday with his wife, and not having to rush home for council.

“I hope we’re leaving the town in a better place than we found it,” he said.

”I’m so proud to be able to be part of it. Thank you all.”

Darte acknowledged the help he’s received from council the last four years, and thanked them for being patient with him.

He said he ran for lord mayor because he wanted to see changes in town, and he wanted to show his kids that it’s possible to make a difference. What he and councillors have gone through have made them stronger, he said, and added to residents, “thank you very much for allowing me the past four years.”

Photos: Scout week brings out a bit of history

British red coats celebrate their victory after reenacting a battle. (Photos by Richard Harley)
Cadet program creates leaders, good citizens

Peony Cole
Staff

To Capt. Thomas Forsyth, the best part of being an air cadet is the camaraderie. Yes, the weekly meetings and training programs are about work and discipline, but they are also about having fun, he says.

The 13-year-old Cross Roads student, beginning his second year as a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake squadron, is meeting all the stated goals of the organization — he’s enjoying making new friends, taking part in interesting and unique challenges, participating in diverse training exercises, improving physical fitness and learning valuable work and personal life skills.

The one remaining goal, he already has in spades — his self-confidence is quickly evident as he lively open house recently held for the squadron as it begins a new season.

“It is a fantastic environment,” said Capt. Lemoine, commanding officer of the 809 Newark Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

But then he has confidence in all of his cadets most of them he has known since they join, or at least have the potential to be, “and we’ll find them if you don’t try to be the best to be here you just have to want to be,” said Lemoine.

The cadet program aims to bring in a diverse range of people and Lemoine sees that in the youth he helps train.

The squadron holds an “amazing” cadets, some who have gone on to work in other cadet training programs, and some to careers in the military.

The cadet program, he said, is particularly well-suited to 12 and 13-year-old kids who want to find out, don’t think they have the best academic students or great at sports, but they will find something they’re good at, that interests them, and they will make friends with who hold similar interests.

The program is attracting an increasing number of girls, and Lemoine says one strong benefit he sees among all cadets, but even more so with the girls, is the confidence they gain.

“When we teach them leadership, it gets rid of any self-esteem problems they might have. It’s great to see that,”

In addition to regular meets, cadets are encouraged to take training programs and other activities during the organization during the summer.

Forsyth was recommended to attend a general training program at the Trenton Air Force Base this summer, along with a six-year-old group, year cadets from the squadron.

Lemoine said he’d like all of his first years to attend the introductory program, but the cadets do not always allow him to send them all.

“I absolutely loved it,” said Forsyth, who attended two week training camp. “It was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had.”

The camp offered many interesting opportunities, he said, including a flight with a military passenger jet from the air base.

He also enjoyed the field training exercises, where cadets practised survival skills, and classes on aerospace, Canadian history, and the basics of flight.

He said he felt that it involved some hard work and a lot of it was fun.

“We were there to learn.

General training is the course when you expose you to something new every day.”

Experiencing a little bit of everything the cadet program offers helps younger cadets decide what courses they want to take in the future, he explained.

Lemoine said now and hopeful that he can take some basic aviation technology and astronaut programs.”

Forsyth, who hopes for a career as a pilot, said he’d recommend the air cadet program to anyone interested in aviation, but there are many other skills to learn, he said, including leadership and good citizenship — as well as having fun.

“I also really enjoyed the camaraderie with the other cadets. By the end of the camp we were almost like a family.

The highlight of his stay at camp, he said, was the opportunity to be the drill team commander in his flight — a responsibility he enjoyed taking part in and taking part in the drill team competition.

“We didn’t do very well, but I was still honoured to be chosen team commander.”

Forsyth was also chosen to receive an award for being the Top General Training Cadet for his squadron of about 150 teens, an award, he said, that was based on criteria such as good behaviour, leadership qualities, active participation, and high level of enthusiasm for the program.

“It’s a great award to get, the top of your squadron,” he said.

Awards at summer training camps are not easy to get. They’re not given to everyone, but they are a great way to feel they’ve found that at the Experimental Aircraft Association Centre on Line 3, which also offers a great outdoor space for games and practice exercises.

The program is open to youth aged 12 to 18, with continuous Wednesdays for about 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. and Mondays for those who want to attend optional training. Anyone who feels they might want to join is welcome to come to a Wednesday meeting.

One of Lemoine’s favourite quotes, from Oliver Wendell Holmes, sums up what he believes is the essence of leading, “One’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension.”

The cadet program opens young minds to new ideas, and they will always be the better for it, he said.

Ferry Flynn

Harvest dinner to benefit Amy Janzen

Lauren O’Malley
Staff

Harvest is an important time in an agricultural community. It’s a time of abundance, of collaboration, of gathering.

That’s why Kirsten Young decided to host a harvest dinner for her friend—sister—childhood Amy Janzen.

Another young man and woman, the Janzen family lost her husband Ben to an agronomic accident earlier this year. This has left her on her own with two young children (Kendal is three and Brooke is six), coping with all that entails.

But of course in this town you’re never really on your own. Janzen’s mother Chris Forrer Forbes says, “One of the things that’s helped me through my grief is the immense amount of love and support from this community.”

Young and her fellow organizers also chose the harvest theme because Janzen’s immediate and extended family are farmers: they own Forrer Farms on East West Line.

“Harvest seemed like an appropriate time to get everyone together,” she said.

As fortune would have it, Forrer Farms on East West Line.

“We were there to learn.

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The cadet program opens young minds to new ideas, and they will always be the better for it, he said.
Fox run draws crowds for a cause

Richard Harley
Editor

The annual Terry Fox run in Niagara-on-the-Lake drew a larger crowd than ever this year, said Joan King, who has been the champion of the event in town for the last decade. She estimated there were more than 300 people who came out, she said, as she watched the runners finish the five-mile route. Runners started and ended at Simcoe Park, taking a scenic route along the Niagara Parkway trail after heading down King Street. Food was on sale, generously provided by local businesses to help raise some extra money towards the cause — the end goal being to fund cancer research that will hopefully save lives. Photos of Terry Fox when he passed through NOTL were on display for participants to see, courtesy of King’s personal collection. Fox famously ran across Canada in 1980 to raise awareness for cancer and died from his own cancer a year later. Since then his legacy has continued across the country, his name being widely celebrated as one of Canada’s greatest heroes. Joe Pillitteri, who put together a team and comedy night to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation, said he estimates the total raised this year was more than $85,000.

Photos by Richard Harley

Gus Koroneos

"Leadership is not about the next election, it’s about the next generation".

I am running for town council because I want future generations to see and enjoy all the beauty, bounty, and splendour that NOTL has to offer.

Please visit VoteGus.ca
Contact (905) 380 0655

Plans, Visions, and Ideas

• Create a collegial atmosphere around the council table, working together for our community
• Putting policies in place to ensure a bright future for NOTL
• Preserving our prime agricultural lands, heritage and history
• Responsible, suitable, measured development
• Enhanced transit for our seniors and people with disabilities
• Meeting recreational needs for the growing population of NOTL

MEET GUS

Sunday Sept 23rd | St Davids Lions Club
2:00-4:00pm | 1462 York Rd NOTL

Sunday Sept 30th | Royal Canadian Legion Upper Hall
2:00-4:00pm | 410 King St NOTL

Light refreshments will be provided

ANDREWS LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
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“Library” and “drag show” are two concepts we don’t often see associated. The NOTL public library aims to change that.

Toronto drag performance artists Fay (Slift) and Fluffy (Soufflé) will be at the library for an all-ages reading on Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. “It’s really just a lovely story time — with a lot of sparkle,” says Debbie Krause, the library’s community engagement coordinator.

The event is part of Culture Days, a nation-wide initiative to celebrate arts and culture over the last weekend of September every year. “We really wanted to be part of that event, and this reading seemed like a perfect fit,” says Laura Tait, library manager. Story time with drag queens is also part of a mandate within the library — strange as that may sound. “We’re about being open to and supportive of all members of our community regardless of race, gender or sexuality. LGBTQ+ is one group that runs under the radar a bit around here, so this seems important to do,” says Krause. There are even plans to make this kind of thing a regular event, as one way to celebrate diversity.

The stories read by Fay and Fluffy are in the children’s shelves at the library, and generally focus on diversity, personal strength, and tolerance. The reading will run for about an hour, and will include a little bit of dance, creativity or drama. (Where there are drag queens, there will be drama.) Krause and Tait have vetted the act themselves, and are confident that it is not over-the-top or racy in any way. Both performers work with children professionally (one is an educator with the TDSB and the other is a child care provider), and are respectful, engaging and fun, within a supportive and inclusive environment.

You can register to attend the reading via the library’s website, and drop-ins are welcome.

The ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has applied to increase its electricity distribution rates by $1.29 per month. This application may impact your bill for the next 5 years, starting May 1, 2019.

**WHEN?**  
Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

**WHERE?**  
OEB Community Meeting  
Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Community Centre  
Simpson Room  
14 Anderson Lane  
Refreshments will be served.

**REGISTER**  
Registration is not required, but appreciated! Visit oeb.ca/community-meetings for details.

**WHY ATTEND?**  
• Learn more about your utility’s costs and rate application  
• Find out how you can get involved in the OEB’s process  
• Provide your comments to the OEB about your utility’s application

**WANT TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AT THE MEETING?**  
If you would like to make a 5-minute presentation at the meeting, please email us at registrar@oeb.ca or call 1-877-632-2727 (toll-free). The OEB file number for this case is EB-2018-0056.

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Our offices are here to serve you!  
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open Fridays, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
at the Public Library

905-357-0681 • WayneGates.com

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Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Game played on horseback (4)
2. Capital of Croatia (6)
3. He asked “What is truth?” (6)
4. One (5)
5. Knock (4)
6. Very detailed picture receiver (1-1,2)
7. Scheme (4)
8. Bucharest resident, for example (8)
9. To an excessive degree (6)
10. Company known as “Big Blue” (1,1,1)
11. Hearty Sunday lunch (3,5)
12. Fan blade (4)
16. Mobs (7)
19. Close-cropped hair style (4,3)
20. Solvent (7)
22. Before sunrise (7)
23. Piled carelessly (2,1,4)
24. Scotch partner (4)
28. As good as it gets (7)
29. Scotch partner (4)
32. Flattened (8)
33. Hearty Sunday lunch (3,5)
34. Hard, durable wood (3)
35. Seller (6)
36. Science of heredity (8)

Down
1. Game played on horseback (4)
2. Capital of Croatia (6)
3. He asked “What is truth?” (6)
4. One (5)
5. Knock (4)
6. Very detailed picture receiver (1-1,2)
7. Scheme (4)
8. Bucharest resident, for example (8)
9. To an excessive degree (6)
10. Company known as “Big Blue” (1,1,1)
11. Hearty Sunday lunch (3,5)
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35. Seller (6)
36. Science of heredity (8)

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@niagaranon.com

Sudoku

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

GAMES

Niagara’s Luxury Leader

ROYALLEPAGE

MLS# 30674108
Perry Quinn*
342 Victoria St., NOTL $1,250,000

MLS# 30656327
Perry Quinn*
719 King St., NOTL $1,485,000

MLS# 30665854
James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*
285 Wellington, NOTL $1,425,000

MLS# 30664876
James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*
213 John Street, NOTL $999,000

MLS# 30676727
Robert Pozzobon*
310 Tanbark Rd, NOTL $1,275,000

MLS# 30656160
Michelle Reynolds** & Stefan Regier*
58 Johnson St, NOTL $2,250,000

MLS# 30667521
Doreen Ilba*
215 Ricardo #217, NOTL $1,298,000

MLS# 30682975
Cheryl Marr*
85 The Promenade, NOTL $599,000

MLS# 30684005
Helen Mosca* & Aaron Cherney*
92 Loretta Dr. #17, NOTL $599,000

MLS# 3066782
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redeckopp***
19 Ridgeview Cres., St. Davids $658,000

MLS# 30618523
Bev Wiebe*
18 Shakespeare, NOTL $675,000

Cartoons

MLS# 30680206
Heather Matte*
14 Aberdeen Lane, NOTL $729,000

MLS# 30685854
James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*
285 Wellington, NOTL $1,425,000

MLS# 30667521
Doreen Ilba*
215 Ricardo #217, NOTL $1,298,000

MLS# 30682975
Cheryl Marr*
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Council flip flops on development issue

Penny Coks
Staff

Some confusion over information given to council at Monday’s council meeting led to a contentious end to the final meeting of this term of council.

With no chance to deal with routine business until regular meetings of the incoming council begin in December, the council approved four bylaws to bypass council approval of site plan agreements, delegating the approval to Town planning director Craig Larmour.

One was for a distillery on Lakeshore Road, and one was the site plan approval for the new medical centre, once the rezoning was approved.

Two came at the request of Maurizio Rosato, representing Setnair, for two developments - 135 Queen St., a commercial building that has been in the works for about five years, the other at the corner of Four Mile Creek Road and Line 9 - to fill a gap in the retail and office area that includes a restaurant and patio.

Councillors had no problem with Rosato’s request for the St. David’s site plan approval use of the zoning changes had been okied by council to allow the commercial use.

But after some discussion about the Queen Street development, Coun. Martin Mazza moved the hearing around it for ten years, with a mural on it to improve the look of the wooded bays - councillors decided the property was too important to rush and it should come back to the new council for approval.

The development, which includes a large building that would house restaurants, a large restaurant, office and retail space, has been back and forth with the Municipal Heritage Committee for several years, a time while details were ironed out, and then when the developer wanted to change the design of the building to make it more financially viable - it has been an expensive wait game for the developer while at the same time the historical study held up construction.

“I wouldn’t want to see delays. It deals on Queen Street. I’m sure nobody wants to see it delayed,” Rosato told councillors.

Coun. Jim Collard added: “The proponent has done everything the MHC has asked them to do.”

The proposal has been there for a long time, he said, adding he hoped council would agree to delegate the site plan approval to the planning director.

But Coun. Betty Disero disagreed, saying the delay would be a matter of a couple of months and because of the location and some changes to be made, including a water fountain design and some trees planted at the request of the MHC, she thought it should come back to council.

Coun. Martin Mazza initially agreed with Disero, saying he was not a fan of delegating “bigger items like this. I think it should come back to the next council. It gives residents the opportunity to speak on the record.”

Disero questioned the authority of the council to do that and said the approval wouldn’t be meeting in that time span, a little longer would not affect the outcome of the development.

“We agreed it was an important location. We don’t need to rush it through,” she said, asking what had changed in the two and a half hours since it was last discussed.

Disero and Coun. Jamie Knezevic had asked for more information on the site plan, should council delegate approval to the developer.

Disero questioned the process of allowing the discussion they didn’t want it to continue without a say in the outcome of the development.

“It’s a long development. We don’t need to rush this through,” she said, asking what had changed in the two and a half hours since it was last discussed.

Disero questioned the authority of the council to do that and said the approval wouldn’t be meeting in that time span, a little longer would not affect the outcome of the development.

“We agreed it was an important location. We don’t need to rush it through,” she said, asking what had changed in the two and a half hours since it was last discussed.

Coun. Martin Mazza said: “I don’t agree. I think it should come back to the next council.”

Disero disagreed, saying the MHC had made recommendations to council and council had approved them so it wasn’t clear after all that the matter would be coming back to council.

Council had approved the MHC’s recommendation to order a 60-day delay after a zoning change had been made to allow time to consider the development.

Disero said there were substantial changes to the building.

Coun. Jim Collard said: “It should have gone to a public forum.”

Disero dodged, saying that an earlier decision of theirs on property owned by the same developer has been appealed.

A decision to have the Town initiate heritage designation on three John Street properties, including the Randwood Estates and one on Charlotte Street, has been appealed.

But councillors were told Monday that until the appeal is heard, no work can go forward on those properties - they must be treated as if they are already designated until the appeal is heard and a decision made.

The developer wants to put up a six-storey hotel on the Randwood property, and although designation doesn’t stop it, it would put some controls on the site and limit what can be done.

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American or Loyalist? make a decision: Was he evolution forced Butler to took place from 1764 to 1775, of 26,600 acres which he amassed a substantial estate named Catherine Bradt hawk Valley, married a wom- it was a successful battle. From the American point of view, it was a cowardly act against civilians. Butler claimed he did not give orders for prison- ers to be killed and scalped and that the Native Allies were only following their traditions of war — and were not being paid for scalps as was rumoured. This battle became known in American history as the Wyoming Valley Massacre. American novelist Joseph Alshleifer referred to Butler as a turncoat and a villain who sided with the Indians against white settlers. To the British, Butler was a loyal and skilled commander. When the revolution- ary war was over in 1783, Butler and his Rangers were in control of the frontier outposts throughout the Great Lakes region, from Niagara to Illinois. The bitter result of Butler remaining loyal to Britain was that all of his land in the Mohawk Valley was confiscated. His wife and children were removed from the property and sent pack- ing to Fort Niagara where many other loyalists were now fleeing to as well. Fort Niagara became very crowded with the loyalist who sought refuge there dur- ing the war. Butler sent his Rangers across to the west side of the Niagara River to complete surveys of the land. This was the start of the expansion of Upper Canada and a means to accommodate the loyalist settlers wanting to leave this new republic called the United States. Officers and regular soldiers were granted land first, then all settlers who swore allegiance to the King and Crown re- ceived their land grants. Butler's Rangers were all of which were in 'New France'. During the peace that fol- lowed these battles, which took place from 1764 to 1775, Butler moved back to the Mohawk Valley, married a wom- an named Catherine Bradt and raised five children. He amassed a substantial estate of 26,600 acres which he named Butlersbury, near Caughnawaga (now Montgomery County, New York). The American Revo- lution forced Butler to make a decision: Was he American or Loyalist? In Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are many references to Lieutenant Colonel John Butler — Butler's Barracks, Butler Street, Butler Home- stead, the Best Western Colonel Butler Inn and Butler's Bar and Grill, formerly Butler's Sports Bar (Sporty's to locals). There was also Colonel Butler Public School which closed in 2011 and Niagara College calls one of their beers Butler's Ritter. But who exactly was Colonel John Butler? Many American web- sites portray him as a war criminal, while Cana- dian websites see him as an honourable founding father of Upper Canada — quite the dichotomy. Butler was born in 1728 in New London, Connecticut and lived there with his parents, three brothers and one sister. In 1742, when Butler was 14-years-old, his father moved the fam- ily to Fort Hunter — consid- ered the frontier — in Mohawk Valley, New York. It was during the French and Indian Wars (1754-63) that Butler joined the Indian Department Regiment of Sir William Johnson, 1st Baronet and advanced to the rank of captain partly due to his ability to speak several Iroquois and Sen- eca. He was instrumental in found- ing the town of New London, Connecticut. He had learned as a young boy while living in the frontier. Butler was involved in the battles at Ticonderoga and Lake George (upper New York State) as well as the captures of Fort Frontenac, Fort Niagara and Fort Montreal, all of which were in 'New France'. By May of 1775, his deci- sion was made and Butler left for Montreal in Lower Canada, accompanied by his oldest son, Walter Butler, Daniel Claus (later superin- tendent of Indian Affairs in NOTL), Joseph Brant (chief of the Six Nations), and the Honourable Yost Schuyler (a Tory supporter and trusted friend of the Mohawk allies). Butler's wife and children remained in Butlersbury, thinking this was the safest place for them. Unfortu- nately, with Butler's decision to remain loyal to Britain, his family was detained by the Americans and placed under house arrest for the remainder of the war. In November of 1775, Butler was transferred from his post in Montreal to Fort Niagara, which is still stand- ing today on the American side of the Niagara River where it joins Lake Ontario. He was sent to persuade the Seneca Nation in the region to stay neutral during the revolutionary war. When the American Revolution was in full swing, Butler would later be ordered to use the Six Nations, of which the Seneca were members, as allies in several battles. It was the Battle of Oris- kany in Mohawk Valley, NY, claimed to be one of the bloodiest battles during the revolutionary war, where Butler's skill in carrying out military campaigns was mag- nified. After this battle, Butler was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and given the authority to raise his own regiment, Butler's Rangers. In July 1778, Butler led his Rangers and Iroquois allies in the Battle of Wyoming (in Pennsylvania) where he defeated Zebedon Butler (no relation) and took Forty Fort (one of the four forts in the Wyoming Valley). Americans suffered great losses during this battle: homes were burned, crops were destroyed, children were abducted and many prison- ers as well as fleeing soldiers were executed and scalped. This is why we must start to consider whether Butler was a true soldier or a war criminal. From a Loyalist point of view, was many other loyalists were now fleeing to as well. Fort Niagara became very crowded with the loyalist who sought refuge there dur- ing the war. Butler sent his Rangers across to the west side of the Niagara River to complete surveys of the land. This was the start of the expansion of Upper Canada and a means to accommodate the loyalist settlers wanting to leave this new republic called the United States. Officers and regular soldiers were granted land first, then all settlers who swore allegiance to the King and Crown re- ceived their land grants. Butler was one of the great leaders of Upper Can- ada, his achievements being Deputy Superintendent for the Indian Department, Jus- tice of the Peace and Command- er of the local Militia. He was also involved in the establishing of St. Marks Anglican Church and the Masonic Order in Ontario. The Masonic temple on King St. is Lodge 2. The first lodge (designated Lodge 1) which Butler was instrumental in founding was burned by the Ameri- cans in the War of 1812. Butler died in the town of Niagara on May 12, 1796, 26 years after his wife. Both of them are buried in the Butler family burial ground on the Butler Homestead site in Niagara-on- the-Lake. You can find the site of Butlersbury around the west end of Butler Street.

To learn more about the topic of this story you can visit the Niagara Historical Society & Museum website at, www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.org, or visit the museum for yourself. The Niagara Histori- cal Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Old Town, in Memorial Hall. Visit, or give them a call at 905-468-3912. For a regular Niagara Now contributor. Her full profile can be found at niagaratnow.com
Radio Noir to hit Ravine Vineyards in November

Lauren O’Malley
Staff

Barbara (Babs) Worthy’s home is punctuated with beautiful vintage pieces, giving it the feel of an Art Deco lounge. There are elaborately sculpted lamps, Tamar Fucaille-like paintings, and large leather sofas. And, of course, a 1920’s-era microphone.

Hardly surprising, then, that Worthy’s passion runs towards radio, especially in its golden age. After her theatre career, she spent two decades at the CBC as a radio producer, and has spent the same number of years creating on-stage radio plays.

Radio Noir is, in fact, a term coined by Worthy’s Shaw Festival cohort Neil Munro. They used it to describe live theatre recreations of old radio plays, complete with sound effects.

“The foley artist — the person creating the sound effects — is actually on stage with the performers. That’s one of the things that makes it fun,” says Worthy.

It’s almost a form of trans-temporal theatre: there is no trickery, no embellishment. The actors, in street clothes, hold their scripts and stand in front of microphones. The foley artist and musical accompaniment are also on stage.

“What I love about it is the immediacy: the audience can see the work in front of them, and they can travel in their minds,” enthuses Worthy.

With Radio Noir there is also an aspect of time travel: Each play is an adapted recreation of a famous 1930’s to 1940’s suspense-filled radio series, complete with the type of commercials that would have run during the broadcasts. Worthy adapts and writes the scripts herself, customizing them for each incarnation.

Worthy describes families uniting around the radio in that televisionless age, listening to these dramatic who-done-its and sharing the thrills. She hopes for a similar experience for Radio Noir audiences.

“I want them to feel transported by the story — the drama, the mystery, the romance,” she says.

There are three dates scheduled: Nov. 15, Nov. 29 and Dec. 14. The plays include Lucille Fletcher’s 1943 radio thriller, Sorry, Wrong Number. Edgar Allan Poe’s classic gothic fiction The Tell-Tale Heart, and After the Thin Man, based on the novel penned by Dashiell Hammet.

The plays will be animated by local actors and Shaw Festival alumni, including Worthy herself, co-producer Patty Jamieson, Guy Bannerman and Peter Millard. Shaw Festival associate music director Ryan de Souza will provide musical accompaniment, and Allan Trichmann is the foley artist.

General admission tickets to each performance are $40, and include a glass of wine and a snack. Tickets can be purchased at Ravine Vineyards.

Get out your selfie sticks & send us your photos!

Send to: editor@niagaranow.com

Radio Noir to hit Ravine Vineyards in

November

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Heavy Hearts getting lighter

September is for many a time of new beginnings. So it is too for Heavy Hearts, the musical project of locals Justin Glatt and Jamie Gorman.

Glatt and Gorman sit on a couch in their Virgil rehearsal space, finishing each other’s sentences. They’re millennials and musicians, with sleeves of colourful ink up their arms, band-logo t-shirts, considered hair, and lots of black garb. They’re also smart, funny, self-deprecating and polite.

The two long-time friends have been playing music together in this incarnation for about six years, Glatt on vocals and Gorman on bass.

“We started this band officially in 2013, but by then we'd been fumbling through it together for three years prior,” says Glatt.

Gorman adds, “We’ve had different variations of this band for years, starting in Justin’s garage — so hot! So cold! So loud!”

The band has grown steadily in success, peaking with a UK and European tour earlier this year.

“Germany was sick, it was incredible” says Gorman. “We played in a real small town and had very low expectations. When we got there, there were people wearing merch items of ours that we had sold out of two years ago. The crowd was amazing, singing the words back to us. Just a surreal experience so far away from home.”

While the tour was a hit, they knew changes were imminent. Drummer Davis Maxwell would be leaving the band on their return home.

“We knew going into it that it would be his last one so he could focus more on his recording career,” says Gorman. “That song is the closest to the old sound. There are some pieces of this new album that are totally different. I don’t know what people are going to think,” explains Glatt.

Gorman and Glatt manage the band themselves. “It has its pros and cons. Pro — we have complete control and do everything ourselves. Con — we do everything ourselves,” says Glatt.

“Being musicians as kids, and not focusing on school very much — sometimes the business know-how is over our heads and we have to make a few calls to professionals to get answers,” Gorman adds.

In the streaming era, there are musicians who choose not to follow the tradition of recording a group of songs and releasing them as a “record.” Regarding this, Glatt says, “You could just roll out one single after another, but putting out an album gives you the opportunity to rebrand, and create excitement. Plus it’s hard to maintain momentum when you release one single at a time.”

“We also plan on approaching live shows and how we play them a lot differently. We want to use this rebrand to be the best band we have ever been,” Gorman adds.

The band will play its first live show with the new line-up at HopeFest in Waterloo on Sept. 22.

“We definitely want to go back to the UK, and we’re planning on making our way back in to the US. I’m mostly just excited to see how this record goes,” Gorman says simply.

“My dream is to be able to continue to make records with my friends — I hope I get to do this forever.”

Jamie Gorman and Justin Glatt of Heavy Hearts. (Lauren O’Malley)