



The Lake Report

Vol. 1, Issue 10

October 4, 2018

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Penny Coles
Staff

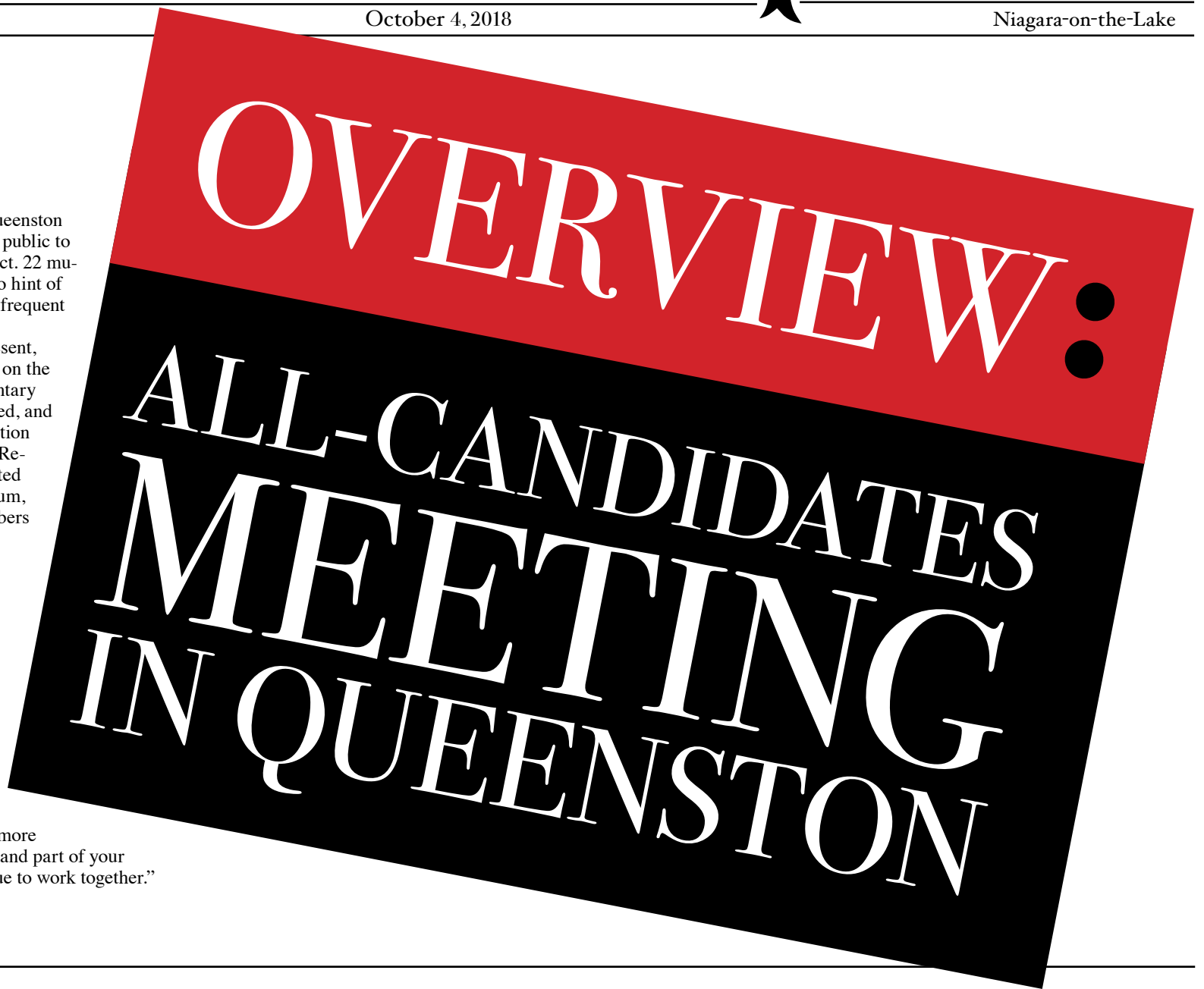
The all-candidates meeting held in Queenston Wednesday, the first opportunity for the public to directly question those running in the Oct. 22 municipal election, remained polite, with no hint of the disrespect or controversy those who frequent social media sites might have expected.

All but one of the candidates were present, with 23 Town council hopefuls jammed on the stage of the former Laura Secord elementary school, a stage that was probably last used, and more appropriately sized, for the graduation of a class of about 20 Grade 3 students. Regional and mayoral candidates were seated at tables on the floor of the old gymnasium, which was packed, some audience members standing.

Hosted by the Queenston Residents Association and moderated by Rob and Helena Copeland, the meeting had been moved from the traditional location of the Queenston Library to the former elementary school to allow for more people, who filled 160 seats.

Janis Barlow, executive director of Willowbank School of the Restoration Arts, which operates the former elementary school as a second campus, opened the meeting by saying how pleased she was to be able to partner with the QRA and hopes to see more such partnerships. "This is your history and part of your future," she said. "I hope we can continue to work together."

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Lake Report event a night to remember



The Lake Report
Editor

It was a night for the history books, for both the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the independent paper-that-could last Friday, as crowds of people came to celebrate the official launch of The Lake Report.

The parking lot of Mori Gardens was full by the time the event started, drawing more than 400 people throughout the night to meet the paper's editorial staff and have an all-around fun time, enjoying some great music and delicious food in the garden centre.

Throughout the night people dined on delicacies such as oysters and poached shrimp, crab stuffed mushrooms and carved beef tenderloin with poached lobster — all provided by Goodine Catering.

The night was hosted by local

comedian David Green, the punniest man in town, with a few words being spoken by MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Lake Report reporter Penny Coles and editor Richard Harley, and Toni Mori of Mori Gardens. Charles Kopun, journalism program director at Niagara College and former senior editor of the Toronto Star, also emailed some words of congratulations for opening a newspaper at a time when papers are closing across the country.

Gates also decried the closing of newspapers, spoke of the importance of a free press and community newspapers in particular, and congratulated Harley for stepping up to the plate and filling a gap made when the town's community newspaper was closed last fall.

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Lake Report launch draws crowds

Continued from Front Page.

Darte too spoke of the need for a community newspaper, and praised the Lake Report for its concentration on local reporting.

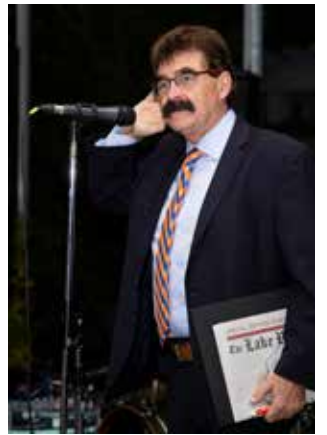
Tonie Mori, who generously offered the garden centre as the venue, a stunning location for the event, talked of the void that was left in the community when the Niagara Advance was “retired” last fall. She praised Harley and the Lake Report for filling that void, saying how much Niagara-on-the-Lake residents value their local news.

It was also an occasion for the readers and supporters of the Lake Report to meet the rest of the staff, including advertising manager Rob Lamond and arts and entertainment writer Lauren O’Malley.

The event included musical performances by Juliet Dunn of the TD Jazz Festival and Laurel and Hulley.

“There aren’t many words to describe the feeling you have when so many people in a town come together to support a cause — and I know I may be a bit biased on this, but I think local, independent journalism is a great one,” said Harley, thanking the community for its overwhelming show of support.

“Thank you to our readers and advertisers, and to all who have reached out to the paper with story ideas, emailed or written us letters of support, offered financial contributions and to those who have already stopped by the new office to say hi and chat.”



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Candidates square off in Queenston (CONTINUED)



Penny Coles
Staff

Continued from Front Page.

... Mark Cherney, the first of four candidates vying for one seat at the Regional council table to introduce himself, spoke of his love for the community and wanting it to remain the best place for his kids to grow up. He hopes to help NOTL get its fair share of Regional services, see smaller communities such as NOTL have a strong voice at the Region, and have local jobs go to local workers. He will support farmers, and protect the unique culture, architecture and heritage of the town, he said.

Chuck McShane, a local business person, long-time resident of NOTL and community volunteer, told the crowd he ran without success as a Progressive Conservative in the last provincial election. He is a Conservative, he said, but is open to ideas "from all sides." He will tackle the issues that mean the most to the NOTL community, including finding a balance between development and heritage preservation, supporting more housing for seniors, and seeking better traffic management. And like voters, he said, he wants a Regional council that demonstrates transparency, integrity and accountability.

Dave Lepp, life-long resident of NOTL, brings experience to the table, with 18 years as a Town councillor and two terms as Regional representative. He was a founder of Lepp Farms, which evolved to St. Davids Produce, and is now director of Vineland Grow-

ers. He has helped residents work through issues in the past and get results, he said, and promised at the Regional level to "work for the good of all, regardless of their politics." He wants to keep tax increases to below the cost of living, and to focus on safer walking, cycling and driving on Regional roads. Managing traffic at busy intersections is key, he said, he wants waterlines installed on Lakeshore Road, and "of course heritage preservation is essential."

"People should be able to age and continue to live in NOTL,"

- GARY ZELEPA JR.

Also offering experience as a former Town councillor, Gary Zalepa Jr., now working in real estate corporate management, says he's angry with what he sees going on at Regional government, and wants to get back into serving his community, this time at the Regional council table.

"We need to know where we are, where we're going, and what's our plan."

- BETTY DISERO

He promised to work hard at improving cooperation between the Town, the Lord Mayor and Regional council, and to work with the Region on some of the current issues that haven't been solved successfully, such as road safety

and infrastructure. He also wants a timeline for capital investments in town, and more long-term care.

"People should be able to age and continue to live in NOTL," he said. He would work at improvements in transportation, including the GO train, and ensuring Niagara becomes more competitive at attracting investment and jobs.

"I've talked to you, I've listened to you and I've learned from you," Betty Disero, the first of the mayoral candidates to speak, told the Queenston audience. She said the council term ended with a lot of unfinished business, and the next term must come together "with a united voice," with no more deferrals, and no delays to completing the Official Plan. "We need to know where we are, where we're going, and what's our plan." She aims to work toward fixing traffic problems in Virgil and St. Davids, "which is bursting at the seams," and finishing a master plan for Glendale. "For me it's all about service," she said, which means meeting with, talking to and listening to residents, and expecting everyone on council to do the same. About supporting the farming community, she said, "We have to listen to them, we have to celebrate them, and sometimes we have to leave them alone and let them get on with their farming." She also spoke of the reasons to celebrate the town, reminding the audience of the many firsts in NOTL, including being the location of the first legislation enacted in the British empire that led to the abolishment of slavery, and "changed the lives of everyone around the

world — and we live here."

The heritage of the town must be preserved, she said, while ensuring the quality of life residents have come to enjoy remains affordable and sustainable.

Daniel Turner was in his first year at Niagara District Secondary School when it closed, and was forced to finish his high school years out of town. He attended Brock University, and his first job after graduating was working as a data analyst at Statistics Ontario. He then became a teaching assistant at Brock University. He said he had no problem dealing with students misbehaving in class, and will know how to keep order at a council meeting. He's also worked in the Niagara Region planning department, where he became frustrated with Regional government. As lord mayor, he would also have a seat at the Region. He promised to put residents first, and improve communication with staff. With the money that was spent on consulting regarding a tree bylaw, it should not have been rushed at the last minute, he said, also citing the St. Davids pool as another issue that has been handled badly. It's seven years past its life expectancy, and again, at the last minute council approved spending money on a consultant, but during its term, didn't pursue grants or other sources for funding to help pay for a new pool, he said. He promised to work toward a "precise, actionable and accountable" Official Plan, which he said is far from where it needs to be, despite the money that's been spent on it.

Continued on Page 7.

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The Lake Report

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 Publisher: Niagara Now
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 Contributors: Richard Harley, Penny Coles, Lauren O'Malley,
 Rob Lamond, Denise Ascenzo, Owen Bjorgan, Writers' Circle

Editorial: Thank you to all who attended

Richard Harley
 Editor

Along with everyone at The Lake Report, I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who attended our launch event last Friday. It was great to see all of you.

While there wasn't a lot of time for me to chat with guests given how busy the event was, it was incredible to shake hands with so many members of our community.

It was a great indication of how many people are following the paper and enjoying the Lake Report's journalism. To see that gave all of us on the team the feeling that our hard work is appreciated.

It was, and I know I use this word frequently, overwhelming — in the best way possible.

For me, to hear words from Penny Coles, local politicians, and to receive encouragement from so many members of our community was a humbling experience — one I won't forget. I and the paper

plan to show our appreciation by continuing to provide the best newspaper possible.

If I'm going to be completely honest, I think in any business, it's the starting point that's the scariest.

As a business owner, especially a new one, you stay up late worrying if you've done things right, or at the very least well-enough.

Being a young man, I've had a great deal of these worries.

I've wondered if the paper is doing the right thing at times, and if people are truly paying attention.

We strive to operate with integrity, and I think we do a good job, but sometimes — at least in the beginning — you can get hit with a sense of what some call "imposter syndrome."

It's the medical student who picks up the scalpel for the first time in an operating room and thinks, "but I'm just me."

Seeing so many members of the community show up to



support what we're doing as a local independent newspaper was truly amazing, not just for our paper, but for the state of journalism — a crucial part of any free government, which as MPP Wayne Gates pointed out during his speech, is under attack.

And we intend to keep picking up the scalpel, and doing our best to serve each individual in the community by offering them news and local stories that are for them and about them, and not filtered through a partisan lens. I have to say thank you

again, and I hope everyone had a good time, because seeing you there inspires the paper more than ever to strive for the highest standards of journalism, which means tackling the tough issues when it's necessary, trying to be as timely as possible, doing our research, and correcting our mistakes when they inevitably happen.

editor@niagaranow.com

At least ugly social media tendencies haven't bled into face-to-face arguments during this election — so far

Penny Coles
 Opinion

With a few candidates' meetings for the upcoming municipal election now behind us, it's reassuring that the impact of social media on election campaigns, and in particular the dynamics of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, has not reared its head at those meetings.

In recent weeks, some of the more disturbing comments — accusations that can't be substantiated and attacks on character — seem quite horrifying and very divisive, presumably in an attempt to win support for certain candidates.

There was a fear among organizers of candidates' meetings, and some candidates, that those attacks, from possibly well-meaning but misguided supporters, would bring a level of nastiness to the meetings that hasn't been seen in NOTL before.

Fortunately, that hasn't happened, in fact it's been quite the opposite, at least so far. Candidates without exception have been extremely polite and respectful, as have the questions posed to them. There have been no signs of questions with hidden agendas, no slurs against any candidate cloaked in a



question. The only hint of anything resembling what we've seen on social media is the odd comment by some candidates talking about the need for change, or the occasional reference to problems not resolved in a timely manner during the last term of council — nothing that has been remotely representative of recent Facebook threads, and certainly nothing more than can be expected at an all-candidates meeting.

What that says is although some prospective voters are expressing their opinions openly, repeatedly and some might think more harshly than necessary to make a point on Facebook, in the real world, the candidates are keeping themselves removed from that style of campaigning. They've displayed re-

spect for the process and for each other. Of the candidates who are using social media as part of their campaign, most do so in a manner that is helpful, rather than being in attack mode.

It is worth saying that no voter should make a decision based on what they may have read on Facebook, which presents a distorted view of the truth. The all-candidates meetings are by far the most helpful for reaching a decision. Although much of what is said is repetitive — every candidate must feel compelled to say they support heritage preservation and a speedy resolution to the Official Plan — it's still best to hear them say it in person, to get at least a brief glimpse into who they are and what might be expected from

them if they win a council seat. The election edition published by the Lake Report has received a very positive response, and is also a good source, offering pretty much the same information candidates are disseminating at meetings. If you have a question and you can't make it to a meeting, reach out to the candidates and get their answer first-hand.

That seems especially important for this election and at this time in NOTL, when there will be at least four new candidates winning one of eight seats, and a plethora of possibilities for those casting that vote.

But here's a plea for those who have been involved in some of the nasty electioneering on Facebook to think twice before launching or engaging in such discussions. It's probably not winning anyone votes, may in fact do more harm than good for the candidate it supports, and it's not at all healthy for this community of people who will continue to live side-by-side long after the election is over, with the remembrance of harsh words that cannot be unsaid, battles waged that nobody won, and a divide that may not easily be overcome. And for all that, what does it accomplish?

You're (still) invited



Did you miss our launch party Sept. 28?

Not to worry — The Lake Report invites you to attend our second launch party this Oct. 6 at the Community Centre.

The afternoon will include a chance to meet the paper's editorial team, mingle with other locals and enjoy some light refreshments provided by Sweets and Swirls Cafe.

The day will also be the final draw day for our raffle prizes, with all funds going towards keeping the paper free and independent.

The meet-and-greet will start at 10 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

All local residents are invited.

The paper extends thanks to Miguel Mori for helping coordinate this event and to Erin and James Lockard for the snacks, and to all of our readers, advertisers, donors, contributors, all of whom 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:

Re: Terry Mactaggart "The call," Sept. 20, 2018.

Terry Mactaggart notes a recent study of "Best Places to Live in Canada" indicated that NOTL had slipped 53 points in ranking last year from 55th to 107th place.

One additional explanation for this may be the horrendous experience and lengthy time it takes to travel between NOTL and Toronto on the QEW, which may deter both tourists and people seeking to live here. Not only is the QEW an unsightly, noisy, smelly drive, downright frightening in inclement weather, wind, rain, snow, with numerous large trucks to navigate around, most know there are consistent and frequent gridlocked points along the route. Where, years ago, it took 1.5 hours to make the drive, now it is consistently two-plus hours. There no longer seems to be a good time to make the drive where one can expect conditions to be less congested.

The GO bus is no alternative as it faces the same challenges as drivers of cars with the added inconveniences of getting to and from the bus, cost, etc. The GO train is somewhat better but is also limited as one has to drive to Burlington and park and then catch the train.

One hopes City Council will include this issue of improving transit to and from NOTL and Toronto in its discussions to create a desirable future for NOTL. Working with Metrolinx, Toronto City Council and the province, NOTL city councilors are encouraged to appropriately assess the issues, identify the problems and come up with viable solutions to improve our town.

Sincerely, Melanie Morris, NOTL resident.

Correction from TLR

In our recently released special edition there have been a couple of errors spotted. Firstly, Stuart McCormack's name was spelled incorrectly. The paper apologizes to McCormack for any inconvenience caused. Secondly, Dan Turner's name was not included in the second "by candidate" index. Likewise, the paper apologizes to Turner for any inconvenience. McCormack is seeking election as town councillor and Turner is seeking election as lord mayor. The paper continues its pledge to correct inaccuracies and hold itself accountable.

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NOTL receives national heritage award

Penny Coles
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake has received a national heritage conservation award from Communities in Bloom, the organization that last year chose the town to receive the top, five gold bloom award for communities of its size.

This year, instead of continuing on in the competition for an overall win, which requires extensive preparation and judging, the NOTL Communities in Bloom committee decided to take a break from that level of activity and concentrate on what is called an “unevaluated” entry for the heritage award, said Betty Disero, chair of the committee. Working with parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte, she compiled an entry listing the organizations and programs in town dedicated to heritage preservation, such as the Ni-

agara Foundation, the NOTL Conservancy, the Town’s annual heritage awards, and the many successes, such as the Landscape of Nations memorial in Queenston Heights and the Voices of Freedom Park on Regent Street which will officially open Nov. 2.

These are all the elements that help keep heritage sites in town “animated and dynamic” for visitors, said Disero.

The Outstanding Achievement Award for Heritage Conservation looks at efforts to preserve natural heritage within the community, with focus on the integration of landscape and streetscapes in built heritage, the Communities in Bloom press release says. It includes heritage pertaining to monuments, memorials, artifacts, museums and history, archives, traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations in relation to parks and green spaces. Participation of groups such as historical societies and

conservation groups is also considered.

In NOTL, heritage is guided and celebrated by public policies and programs as well as through private residents and group efforts, the CIB press release said. “Town council is proactive in upholding standards for conservation and preservation of its numerous heritage properties, villages and attributes,” as well as Canada’s first federally-recognized heritage district, the press release said.

Winning an award for heritage conservation is especially exciting, said Disero, because of its importance to the town.

“The more people recognize how significant our heritage is, the more people will come to see how significant our country is in the contributions we’ve made,” she said. “That’s really important to us. For me, it’s amazing. I’m so proud of what our

heritage organizations have been doing.”

While NOTL’s 2017 international award is often referred to as “the prettiest town,” it means so much more, said Disero—it includes heritage preservation, floral displays, tidiness, celebration of culture and volunteerism.

NOTL also won the 2017 special mention for volunteer leadership and an outstanding achievement award for floral displays.

What happens next year is up to the next council, said Disero—a decision will be made whether to enter another level of CIB competition, or another unevaluated entry as they did this year.



Infamous wild turkey killed

Lauren O’Malley
OPIN

The infamous angry wild turkey near Fort George has been killed.

Parks Canada released the following statement regarding the turkey on Saturday:

“Public safety and the safety of visitors is a top priority for Parks Canada. On September 28, Parks Canada, with the assistance of Niagara Parks Commission Police and the Niagara Regional Police, removed a wild turkey that was involved in multiple incidents in the Niagara-on-the-Lake region, displaying bold behaviours towards people.”

“This action was taken after serious consideration. It was not an easy decision for Parks Canada staff, but in the end, it was a necessary action to ensure visitor and public safety in the vicinity of Fort George National Historic Site. Parks Canada reviewed all options and relocating the turkey was determined not to be a feasible option.”

We can do the Monty Python dead bird sketch and laugh for hours; We can make Thanksgiving jokes all the way to Oct. 8; but something we shouldn’t do is accuse the authorities of being gun-happy killers of innocent wildlife. Instead, we give thanks for the return of our public safety.

Replace the word “turkey” with the word “animal.”



A wild animal was behaving erratically and dangerously, attacking vulnerable people and vehicles without any provocation. Several people were injured as a result of this animal’s actions. Residents were avoiding certain areas of town for fear of being hurt by the animal.

The animal was not responding normally to the suggestions made by trained professionals from such reputable organizations as the Ministry of Natural Resources, which advised “ignore it and it will leave you alone. If it does approach menacingly, try scaring it by making yourself as large and as loud as possible.”

Gus Calderone ignored the animal and it approached him anyway on the recreational path on John Street near the Niagara River Parkway. The animal — unprovoked — ultimately flung itself at Calderone’s back, shocking him. He turned to it and roared, lifting his arms in the air. The animal was unmoved. Calderone was forced to kick it hard enough

to send it eight feet away, and make his escape.

People driving by took pictures of the event — as they have done in many reports of these attacks. No one called for help, because the perception of this particular animal is that it is inherently hilarious.

“The animal” was about four feet tall, had a wingspan of approximately five feet, and had a dangerous beak and razor-sharp talons with which he drew blood from innocent people more than once.

The three groups responsible for the safety of the people on this animal’s chosen turf are Parks Canada, the NPC and the NRP, and neither of these organizations ever found this wild animal amusing. They respected it, studied it thoroughly, and ultimately acknowledged it for the threat it was — and then spent a great deal of concerted effort determining every possible eventuality.

In the many conversations the Lake Report had with the various entities involved, each representative was very respectful of the animal and its breed.

The very mandates of Parks Canada and the Niagara Parks Commission include supporting and protecting wild animals — unless they are a threat to human safety.

The death of any living being is a sad thing. But relocation was not an option for this animal, which was clearly

abnormal. Moving a danger doesn’t eliminate that danger, it only puts other people or animals at risk.

The agencies involved spent several days observing the situation, confirming there was only one aggressive animal of this breed, and planning for the safest possible outcome.

Here is more from the Parks Canada statement:

“Trained Parks Canada resource conservation professionals from the South-western Ontario Field Unit assisted local staff with the removal. The operation was coordinated with the Niagara Parks Commission Police and the Niagara Regional Police, who provided traffic control along Queens Parade, which was closed from the Fort George National Historic Site parking to John Street for approximately 10 minutes.”

Interestingly, the likely reason it took from early incidents in May until the end of September to resolve the situation seems to be the inherent comedy behind this wild animal.

Had people been attacked repeatedly by a fox or a hawk — or a human — there wouldn’t have been shame and humour, there would have been immediate uproar and action. Victims would have called the proper authorities immediately.

LaurenOMalley@niagaranow.com

The Lake Report

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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 (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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NEWS

NOTL's cost of policing complaint heard at police board meeting

Penny Coles
Staff

When the police services board brought its meeting to the Niagara-on-the-Lake council chamber Thursday, it heard a bit of a mixed message from two local politicians.

"This town of ours is very proud of the police services and the police services board," said Lord Mayor Pat Darte in his official welcome to the members of the Niagara Regional Police board. The fact that the board chose Niagara-on-the-Lake to hold one of its regularly scheduled meetings, Darte said, "makes the residents feel proud and that they're taken care of."

The police services board has chosen to hold two off-site meetings in Niagara communities each year to promote awareness of its role of the board, and for board members to stay in touch with community concerns of policing issues. The meetings are meant to help the board be "proactive in engaging, educating and hearing from by the public," an invitation to the meeting said. Members of the public, council members and community groups were invited to attend, speak and ask questions.

Darte told board members they may "occasionally" have heard comments of NOTL having only two officers in town, but added, "we know we



Coun. Jim Collard. (Penny Coles)

have lots of officers available to us. They come when they're needed."

The police services and board may sometimes get "a bad rap" in NOTL, he said, but "we know and most of the residents know we're well-taken care of."

He mentioned an incident in Virgil a year ago when there was a situation which required police assistance, "and in 10 minutes we have 30 police in town. We're served very, very well."

The issue, though, Coun. Jim Collard pointed out later in the meeting, is that as good as the service is, NOTL pays too much for what it receives. As a

Town councillor now retiring from municipal politics, Collard has been campaigning for more than a decade to change the cost of police services based on assessment, as it is now, to a per-household fee. In a presentation that could have been considered his swan song, he told the board NOTL is the prettiest town in the world, and the safest town in the Region. "We clearly don't have crime issues very often. But when we do, I'm glad you're here with your team to raise the bar," he said, making it clear he was not criticizing the police service. "Every one of your officers respond, as needed, and they respond in a friendly and pro-

fessional way, in order to help us get through our challenges."

Although the town has the lowest crime rate, and the lowest number of calls in the region, "every call is important," he said.

"When the police come to NOTL, they will always do the best they can, and that's wonderful to know."

But as a long-standing board member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Collard said he has listened over the years to the discussions which have led to a new way of determining the cost of police services to municipalities which employ the Ontario Provincial Police. The province, within each of its OPP detachments, now ensures every community, and every household, with a very few exceptions, pays the same amount of money, "because police services are like apples, not apples and oranges. When you get a call in NOTL or Port Colborne, the police are going to be there and do the job well," he said.

But neither AMO or the Province has extended that discussion to cover regional police services, he said.

"I challenge this board to be a voice, to take a look at the formula that's funding the OPP families, and do it here."

NOTL has three per cent of the population of the region

and about two per cent of the crime, he said, "and yet we're paying 12 per cent of the cost across the region. That's just not fair. It's not fair to our householders."

NOTL has access to the same services as St. Catharines, he pointed out. Grimsby, West Lincoln and Pelham also pay more than they should for those same services, he said, and probably, as rural communities, have fewer calls. "There's got to be a better way, a more fair way."

When needed, the police come out and do the job, and do it well. "I'd never be critical of the people on the front line of the police force because they're all professionals," he said.

"We talked to various communities around the region and we've talked to the Region but clearly there is a mindset we've got to get through. We've never chatted to the police services board. You have a voice, and a role to play in this."

He asked the board to take a look at a model that works, that's been adopted across the province with a five-year phase-in, "and bring it home. Your officers will still make the same amount of money."

"That's my only request - will this police services board take this issue and begin the discussion to move it forward?"

"No," board chair Bob Gale

quickly cut in to answer Collard's question. "That's not our mandate. It's not what we do."

It's up to the Province, or the Region, to determine the funding model, he said.

"I'd be moving on as chair pretty quick if I brought this up at the board," Gale said. "It's not our duty to arrange the funding."

Collard said he's talked to the Region, "but the Region hasn't done it's job."

David Barrick, a Regional councillor representing Port Colborne and a member of the police board, explained why some municipalities wouldn't support Collard's request. While Collard has been consistent on this issue for his community, it would be inconsistent with other local municipalities, Barrick said. "There may be winners and losers" in the current system, "but the model just shifts the winners and losers."

In the current model based on assessment, if the average house price in a municipality is valued at \$1 million, the municipality pays a per centage, or if it's valued at \$250,000, the municipality pays a per centage of that. "Some would view that as fair," said Barrick.

"It is a never-ending battle to try to find fairness," finished Collard. "Maybe the Region needs to step up and do its job."

NRP services board thanked for support of NPC police



Janice Thomson. (File photo/Lauren O'Malley)

Penny Coles
Staff

Janice Thomson, chair of the Niagara Parks Commission, took the opportunity of having the Niagara Region Police Services board meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week to thank members for their support of the Niagara Parks police.

"I would like to thank you enormously on behalf of the Niagara Parks Commission for your continued ongo-

ing strong oversight of the Niagara Parks police, and for your support of the existence of the Niagara Parks police as a policing force within Niagara Parks Commission," she said, addressing board members.

"The work they do is extraordinary and the breadth of the work they do is incredible."

With the large number of visitors to the area covered by the NPC police, "it's a lot of people they are providing safety and security for and I appreciate the support of this police board, and that you have continued to support the Niagara Parks police and the work they do," said Thomson.

"If I could make a general statement regarding policing in Niagara, through my role at Niagara Parks I've had the opportunity to be exposed to a lot of the individuals who provide these services for us, and when I hear the words services or resources it sounds so clinical and techni-

cal, when in fact these are real live human beings, with families and supporters and people behind them. We're very fortunate to have these dedicated and highly trained professionals with great integrity—that has been my experience and my observation and I'm very proud to be part of that."

Following the meeting, Thomson said the police receive criticism often enough but she feels they aren't likely to get the credit they deserve for the work they do, and she wanted to take the opportunity to thank them.

With more than 125 years of experience serving the needs of the tourism community, the Niagara Parks Police service patrols 3,274 acres of parkland along the Niagara River Parkway between the towns of NOTL and Fort Erie. Their headquarters are located across from the American Falls in Queen Victoria Park.

Police given cycling map

Penny Coles
Staff

It's been a little more than a month since the Town's first bicycle and pedestrian safety map was released, and it's almost sold out already.

The map was a project undertaken by the Town's community safety committee, at the request of the Town, following many complaints by residents about safety issues they've witnessed, mostly on rural roads.

Ken Gansel, vice-chair of the Niagara Region Police Services board, and a member of the Town's safety committee, used the opportunity of the services board meeting held in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week to present Police Chief Bryan MacCulloch with one of the last available copies of the popular map.

The committee had enough money to print 5,000 copies, said Gansel, and he wanted to make sure one found its way into the hands of the police chief and the NRP before the maps disappeared.



Niagara Regional Police Services Board vice-chair Ken Gansel (right) presents Police Chief Bryan MacCulloch with a copy of the NOTL Cycling and Pedestrian Route Map, produced by the The NOTL Community Safety Committee, at a recent meeting of the police services board held in NOTL. (Penny Coles)

During the last year or so, the safety committee "created the very first bicycle and pedestrian safety map, with safety messages on the back," with some assistance from the NRP and the Ministry of Transportation, Gansel said.

"I think this is so very important - that's why it's been issued. We have almost 3 million visitors to NOTL every year and a fair number come by bicycle."

Residents have been complaining for some time about safety hazards to bicycles, mostly ridden by tourists on wine routes along narrow rural

roads, with traffic travelling by at high speeds. The issue has become part of the municipal election campaign for several candidates, some of whom are advocating for more bike paths.

As a member of the safety committee, formerly the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Policing Committee, which was formed almost 30 years, Gansel thanked the police chief for his support in helping the committee to continue its work.

The map is available at the NOTL Chamber of Commerce office and in the lobby of the Town Hall.

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Cont'd: Candidates square off in Queenston

Continued from Page 3

Pat Darte, seeking a second term as lord mayor, talked about his roots in NOTL, with his four children and now grandchildren living nearby. He has experience in the business and tourism sector, he said, and has been serving the community for more than 20 years in other ways, including as a founder of the Niagara Community Foundation, FACS Family Foundation, and many other local projects. "After four years in office, I'm ready to continue my service to the community. I've learned a lot that will help me hit the ground running, in my role as mayor and Regional councillor." The relationship between the Town and Region is critical for the future planning of NOTL, he said, referring to the Glendale plan, on which he has worked closely with the Region, and which will help take development pressure off the rest of NOTL. His priorities include the Official Plan and secondary plans, such as the one for Queenston, protection of the Niagara River, traffic safety, and working on solving some of the problems Queenston residents are experiencing due to the relocation of the jet boat operation to the Queenston dock, including the buses going through the village each day. Queenston is also facing development issues, he said, and he will work to protect the lifestyle of the village community.

Candidate Lauren Goettler is hoping for a seat at the council table. She's lived in town three years and has always loved it, she said. About a year ago things started to happen that worried her — including trees being cut down by developers. She talked of neighbourhoods fighting development, including Randwood Estate, and warned "that could be your fight next year." The Town needs a completed Official Plan and a tree bylaw, and must include residents in the discussions. "If I could get rid of the jet boats I would," she said. "I'm not sure we could. I think they belong more towards Niagara Falls." She said she has no allegiance to anyone, other than NOTL. "I'm not doing this for a job," she said, offering to donate her council salary back to the town or to a charity. "We need decisive people and I'm that person."

Bernhard Peters introduced himself as a business

owner and developer, who has also been involved in several charities, including one that helps the homeless. He believes honesty and smart budgeting are needed on council. He recalled the days in town before the Shaw Festival arrived, and wants to help preserve heritage, keeping up the look of the town to sustain a healthy tourism sector. He also wants to provide better public transportation connecting the NOTL communities, and proposed a train line, possibly with a steam engine to look histori-

"We can do this and we can maintain it ... and at the end of the day we can get results."

- ERWIN WIENS

cal, might be the solution.

Simon Bentall, owner of the Scottish Loft on Queen Street, has also owned a cottage rental business in town. He has degrees in hotel, catering and tourism management, has worked as a historical researcher and helped to designate heritage buildings. "When I get hold of something I won't let go of it," he said, adding he would work for all of NOTL, not just the Old Town. He'd like to see buses connecting all the communities that make up NOTL, he said, more car parking around the Old Town, and tougher consequences for unlicensed B&Bs.

Stooping below the ceiling of the former elementary school stage to speak, Erwin Wiens said he was born in NOTL, attended Laura Secord and then Niagara District Secondary School before heading off to Carleton University. He's a grape grower with 160 acres of vineyards, part-owner of a small winery, and also a member of the Niagara Regional Police, where he's had experience with traffic safety, crisis intervention and crisis management. As a grower, he understands specialty crops, the need for an irrigation system, and the importance of the agricultural industry as well as heritage preservation. "Lose the farm, lose the charm," he said. He's witnessed first-hand the smell from the sewage treatment plant in Queenston,

and nearly been run over by buses as he jogs on the roads through the village, so understands the need to find solutions. The issues that are important in NOTL are "all about quality of life," he said. "We can do this and we can maintain it." He encouraged residents to get involved, take their voices to council, "and at the end of the day we can get results."

"I believe in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Gary Burroughs, hoping, after serving as lord mayor, and eight years as a Regional councillor with four of those as chair, to earn a seat as a Town councillor. "I've lived here and worked here for most of my life. I love what it is, but it is changing. I want to make it change for the better." He wants to ensure developers work with the Town, on plans which work with existing infrastructure, and that fit the vision for the future. "And we need an official Plan that states that vision." The town also needs to protect its trees, and have bylaws that support tourism and the infrastructure it requires to flourish, he said.

"I want to work for you and with you on council," said candidate Sandra O'Connor.

"Streets need to be paved, and we need a new traffic master plan. Gridlock on Niagara Stone Road is already here."

- NORM ARSENAULT

She was born and raised in Niagara, went to Brock University, and had a career in management with science organizations. Since coming to NOTL she has been active on many fronts as a volunteer, including health care, while getting up to speed on local issues "so I can be the best councillor I can be for you." Preserving natural, cultural and built heritage is a priority, she said, as is protecting greenspace, trees, and addressing the issue of bus emissions. "We are the stewards of this great community," she said. She also wants to build trust in the community, support unique and sustainable development, and safeguard the farming industry.

Norm Arsenault sees the Official Plan and transporta-

tion as priorities. He said the town is "floundering, and needs to get back on track." The Randwood hotel development should be built according to the 2011 plan, he said, not what is currently proposed, and future development must make sense, reflecting the needs of the town, not the needs of developers. Taking cash in lieu of parking from developers "needs to disappear," he said, and with the number of tourism buses increasing, bus parking needs to be looked at and a "hop-on, hop-off" option considered.

"Streets need to be paved, and we need a new traffic master plan. Gridlock on Niagara Stone Road is already here."

Gus Koroneos is a lifelong resident of Niagara now living in St. Davids with his wife and two little girls. "They are my inspiration," he said. He grew up on a family farm in Smithville, received a science degree from the University of Waterloo, and then attended a denturist and hearing program in Toronto before opening practises in Virgil and in Niagara Falls. He's running for council, he said, "because I want the next generation to see and feel all the beauty we have here in town." He wants to preserve the cultural heritage and the agricultural industry, which fit with his diverse background in health, agriculture and business. "I'm beholden to no one except the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I won't have to declare conflicts. I can take part in all discussions on NOTL town council."

Anne Kurtz-Just is the third generation of the Kurtz family living and working in NOTL, she said, with a family farm that goes back 77 years. Farming diversification began in her grandmother's kitchen, where she has memories of her grandmother making fruit-filled perogies. When Kurtz was old enough, she helped make jam with her mother to be sold at a roadside stand. "Today such markets are common," she said, as her parents led the way in value-added agriculture. It's time for such operations to be recognized in the Official Plan and for the sake of agriculture, residents and businesses, for the OP to be completed. Greenspace and heritage also "have to be cherished," she said.

Continued on Page 9

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Dock Area geese “rescued”

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Jim Reynolds — unofficial mayor of the Dock Area — was out for a stroll in his neighbourhood recently, and decided to check on the local fowl. A small flock of mixed domestic geese had managed to hatch some goslings earlier this year, and local residents (and visitors) have been enjoying watching their progress.



Dock Area geese. (Lauren O'Malley)

As he approached the flock's favourite spot, he reports he was shocked to see a rather dramatic scene: Two women had nets and metal dog crates, and were attempting to catch the birds and place them in the cages. “They seemed to know what they were doing,” he says. “One woman explained they were rescuing these distressed, abandoned domestic geese.” He says she went on to say they would not survive the winter, and would all die horrible deaths if they remained in the wild.

Reynolds explained to her this flock has been in this area for five years, and there was no reason to traumatize and remove them.

While the birds were hustled into the crates, Reynolds called the Niagara Falls Humane Society. Reynolds says the woman claimed she had their permission to “save” these birds. He reports the receptionist at the humane society said based on what they had been told, they felt the women were justified in rescuing these geese.

Reynolds' next call was to Ken Reid, NOTL's canine control officer and animal control representative.

Reid says, “I received a call from irate residents regarding an issue on site. I came to the scene and understood the women were called by someone local who had witnessed the birds suffering and dying and had contacted a nearby sanctuary to rescue them.”

Having heard Reynolds' perspective, and knowing this flock well from his rounds, Reid found a simple legal recourse to have the women desist. He called Warwick Perrin, the Town's supervisor of bylaw enforcement, to determine if there were any bylaws being broken in this incident. Reid was then able to insist the women release the birds or be charged under the trapping bylaw, as they did not have the appropriate (or any) permits to cage and remove the wildlife.

“At this point, one of the women told me she'd been misinformed,” says Reid. “She had no idea the geese

had been here for years, and could see they were clearly very healthy. She was happy to release the birds and leave the site, and said she was confident the birds should stay exactly where they are.”

That woman is Megan Mostacci, co-owner of the

“They seemed to know what they were doing ...
“One woman explained they were rescuing these distressed, abandoned domestic geese.”

-JIM REYNOLDS

Black Goat Sanctuary in Smithville.

Mostacci describes what still remains something of a mystery. She says that a couple of months ago, she saw a post on the Ontario Poultry Fanciers and Hobbyists Facebook page. It read, in part, “Is anyone else here located in or near the Niagara region who want to adopt some abandoned geese? There are 4 adults, 3 white Embden one brown African/Toulouse/Chinese cross, and 5-6 Embden goslings. Someone dumped them on a local shoreline. They need a proper home. I will catch them and deliver them. Please let me know asap!”

Concerned for the welfare of these birds in apparent distress, Mostacci reached out. “I asked a million questions.” She was told a flock of domestic geese had been dumped and were dying. “I said I would be happy to help,” she says.

She arranged to meet the woman who posted the call for help on-site at an appointed time. Upon arrival, Mostacci was surprised: “They looked in great condition—looked better than most geese I've seen on private properties. I had expected the worst.” She confirms she called the Niagara Falls Humane Society to determine

the local protocol for animals that had been dumped — as she had been led to believe these had been. “I wanted to be sure that things were being done properly — at that time thinking they were abandoned pets essentially.” She says she was given the go-ahead by the humane society to corral the animals and take them to her sanctuary.

When Reynolds and Reid showed up and started questioning the situation, Mostacci says it confirmed her sense that something was not right with this whole story. She says she was deeply relieved to release the birds and be on her way. “That was the first and last time I will ever do anything like this,” she says sadly. She and her partner at the sanctuary typically receive animals that have been rescued from dire situations by animal control officers.

Reid and Mostacci both confirm she called him within minutes of leaving the scene to reiterate her frustration and disappointment. She wanted him to know, again, “I was misled. I firmly believe the birds should be left where they are. It's an established, healthy colony; clearly not in any distress.”

It is now clear no phone call was made by a local person concerned about the birds; that was simply a misunderstanding by Reid based on the facts he was given on arrival. The woman who posted the rescue request on Facebook, and who continued to mislead Reid, Mostacci and others, seems to have developed an apparently inaccurate perspective on the situation.

Perhaps the most distressing aspect of this tale is the fact that this woman actively continues to seek help “saving” them. Mostacci says the woman told her as recently as at press time that she is “waiting on city approval to take the geese.”

Local Spotlight: Randy Lakeit and his horse Thunder

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Randy Lakeit and his horse Thunder could be the poster children for “Canada's friendliest town.”

A modern-day cowboy, Lakeit (pronounced Lah-kite) can be seen strolling around town astride his rescued standardbred trotter.

He makes his rounds on weekend evenings, travelling from his brother's farm on Line 1 towards the Commons.

“I have a friend in a nursing home in the Falls, and I thought since I can't often visit her, I can go and visit the folks at Upper Canada Lodge instead. The woman in the office there gave me the thumbs up, so I figure I'm good to go.”

Lakeit ambles the sleek brown horse up to the nursing home's common room windows once a week, and the residents within make a delighted fuss.

Man and beast then typically make their way to the water's edge for a nice view and some grass-nibbling, and then do a round on busy Queen Street, stopping for photos and chats with locals and tourists.

“People say, ‘Only in Niagara,’ and they take pictures and ask me questions. I'm happy to talk with them and let them pat Thunder,” says Lakeit.

About four months ago he asked a ferrier friend of his if he knew of a good, cheap horse. “He said, ‘No, but I know where you can get one for free.’”

Thunder, in a former life, was raced as “Tale to Tell” and was successful enough that when he fractured both his front legs, his owners decided to let him heal rather than put him down.

“I think that's why he's so easy and affectionate now — because they babied him so much while he was recovering.”

The horse, who quickly became Lakeit's companion and partner, is 10 years old. The only evident souvenir from his life on the track is a branded code on his neck. “They use liquid nitrogen which damages the hair follicles so the hair comes in white. Did a little bit on me, too,” jokes Lakeit, who in his early fifties has some white hair mixed in with the blonde.

The ferrier's words stayed true: The only cost for taking in Thunder was shipping him from Vineland to the farm on Line 1 — which happens to be directly opposite the Sentineal farm.



“Fred Sentineal is the nicest man in the world,” says Lakeit. “He's always trying to help everyone, won't take anything in return. And if I ever have a question about horses, I can always just pop over and say, ‘Hey Fred...’”

One day this past summer Lakeit and a large group of equestrians from the Sentineal farm rode their horses to the Wednesday evening SupperMarket in town.

“There were about 15 of us. Fred brought a trailer for us to hitch the horses to.” Memories were certainly created that evening, for riders and SupperMarket patrons alike.

The brief version of Lakeit's life story follows the arc of a small agricultural town and its evolution. He's the eighth of nine children and grew up on a farm. He and his brother Rick — who now owns Caroline Cellars winery — had ponies when they were kids. They had a particularly memorable one named Thunder. Their parents owned Willi's Variety, which operated on the land where NOTL Hydro now sits on Henegan Road.

“My job was to eat the candy,” says Lakeit with his trademark smile.

They also had Willi's Grape Juice, and Judy & Wendy's Fruit Stand — the latter of which made it onto the pages of National Geographic in 1974.

In his 20s Lakeit tried his hand at farming mixed fruit, but it “cost more than it produced,” so he moved on to a long and successful career breeding dogs, specifically rottweiler and dogue de bordeaux (French mastiff) breeds. He's sold pets to owners all over Canada, and won many awards and trophies. “One of my young dogues won best Canadian male puppy,” he says with great pride.

Most recently the renaissance man does odd jobs, mainly working for wealthy newcomers — “everything but roofing,” he said.

Lakeit straddles distinctly different eras, and seems to have one foot in the past as he rides his trusty steed through the changing streets of town. The slow clip-clop of hooves on asphalt are reminiscent of simpler times.



Randy Lakeit and his horse Thunder. (Lauren O'Malley)



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Cont'd: Candidates square off in Queenston

Terry Flynn remembers several controversial issues he's debated over his years in politics—and although times change, he said, “we're always going to have those issues and controversies.” He's worked through the debates of moving the library, the purchase of Willowbank, closing Laura Secord, threats of development in Queenston, and also accomplishments such as a secondary plan for the village with participation from the strong ratepayers association to come up with solutions. He's also been involved in the decision to build a new community centre, new firehall and the library complex in the Old Town, he said, and for the last term of council, he was chair of the Niagara District Airport Commission. He's “really interested” in museums, and for the future would like to see a location specifically for all local artifacts.

“I'm confident solutions can be found with people in this room and others like you.”

- MARK BROWN

Clare Cameron grew up in Jordan, surrounded by vineyards and orchards, and always thought of NOTL as a special place. In 2011 she and her husband moved to Virgil “and we've never looked back.” In the last four years she's been active on several local committees and been an advocate for the public. Now she's ready to put her unique education and experience in the municipal sector to work, with priorities that include heritage preservation, economic development, supporting agriculture, completing a strong OP, and having a more comprehensive look at transportation to connect communities.

Katherine Reid has worked in the wine industry and has been at Joseph's Estate Winery “from day one,” as a winemaker. She is also heavily involved in the Lions organization, and sits on the Town's agriculture committee and safety committee, which recently produced

the successful map for safe walking and bicycling. She's concerned about the importance of an agricultural map, which she would like to see improved. She has a good understanding of the planning process, she said, and smart growth, agricultural preservation and safe communities are her priorities.

With a career in retail and customer service, and running a successful business in NOTL, Allan Bisback said he understands the challenges of keeping customers happy. He wants to change the way the Town makes decisions, and feels an updated OP is critical. He supports preservation of heritage and culture, and managing a balance between development and heritage with a clear set of deadlines. Council, he said, needs to stop deferring such issues. Managing traffic safety for pedestrians and cyclists is also a priority, as is protecting the business sector and encouraging residents to “shop local.” The Town must have a qualified CAO to manage staff and a council that works as a team to make good decisions for residents, he added.

“It's important to talk about issues, not around them.”

- JOHN WIENS

Mark Brown, with business and municipal political experience in Oakville, said he is running to be on council “because I care about this town.” He sees growth issues, traffic issues, community issues, “and people are feeling disenfranchised,” he said. “I'm confident solutions can be found with people in this room and others like you.” He suggests the Town consider “strategic acquisition” of heritage properties, consider options for traffic solutions and manage them appropriately, protect urban boundaries, and complete the Official Plan.

John Wiens has served one term on council as deputy lord mayor, a title he earned with the most votes in the 2014 election. He hopes

to bring his 44 years of experience in the tourism and hospitality industry and decades of community involvement to the table for another four years, along with his dedication to truth and “straight talk. It's important to talk about issues, not around them,” he said. “My job is to serve people. As a councillor, that was my mandate.” He's proud of his council record, to have been deputy lord mayor, and of his record of giving back to the community. The issues that will be important in the next term of council, he said, are the OP—no more delays—council pressing the Region to identify heritage areas to protect them from intensification, and the need to be fiscally responsibly while supporting “the quality of life we all enjoy.”

Jordon Williams grew up in Niagara, and has strong business and family ties in the region—he's seen what works and what doesn't work. He has worked for non-governmental agencies and government, and behind the scenes in federal and provincial politics, and moved back to NOTL, which he loves, but “I look around and see a lot of troubling issues.” He would bring a new, fresh voice to council, and would like to see “smart” development control, keeping taxes low and making sure “everything we spend is on something we need.”

Martin Mazza, standing

“To resolve the issues of the town, we have to work together.”

- MARTIN MAZZA

in the old gym in the former Laura Secord school, said “this reminds me of my first time here, when we were completing the Queenston Secondary Plan.” Those discussions led to the plans for the future of the village, including the school property — a portion of which is now a village park, and to saying no to townhouses in Queenston, to restrict development to single-family

homes, he said. “Our work is not done in Queenston,” and his is not done on council, he said — taxes need to be kept low, there will be a need for a new CAO, and the impact of the jet boat operation moving to Queenston, which is a real concern for residents, must be addressed. “Queenston is a community, a small village with a wish to preserve what it has, and I get that,” he said. “I've been a business owner in Virgil for 20 years, and I do deliver.”

“We need to listen to residents, and work in collaboration while we build plans for the future.”

- NORM ARSENAULT

Andrew Niven grew up in NOTL, works in NOTL, and is raising a family in NOTL. He wants to work with residents in a “united partnership,” and to work at the Regional level by sitting on Regional committees. “It's a critical time in town,” he said, and he will speak up for what's best for the town and not support the status quo. He will support farming, the wine industry, balanced economic growth and improved infrastructure. “To resolve the issues of the town, we have to work together.”

Wendy Cheropita, born and raised in Niagara, has worked in the wine industry and today consults in strategic planning for small businesses. She sees the population of NOTL aging, a growth in the wine industry, “fabulous restaurants and concerts, but sadly, things are changing.” Developers are not respecting the quality of life in NOTL, she said. “We have to honour the past, respect the present and imagine the future,” with a strict building code, architectural standards and complete master and secondary plans. “We need to listen to residents, and work in collaboration while we build plans for the future.”



Gus is a lifelong resident of the Niagara Region and an active resident of St Davids. He's a professional, a business owner in Virgil, an entrepreneur, and a farmer. Gus has served on multiple boards and commissions over the last 15 years, from beautification, healthcare, transportation, agriculture, and as past commissioner at Niagara District Airport.

Gus Koroneos 

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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Battle of Queenston Heights commemorative tours - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Brock's Monument Traditional Powwow - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Montebello Park 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 Sunday Songs at the Church - 3 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co | Thanksgiving - Statutory Holiday | 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 Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library | Tentative Sign Comm Meeting - 9 a.m. - Chambers Simply STEAM Story a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Library Info Health: Chronic Diseases - 1 p.m. - NOTL Library Drop-in painting - 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Fall Trivia League - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Wine & Words: Michigan (sold out) - 7:30 p.m. - Estate Winery |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 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 Tragedy Ann - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co Trivia Night - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co | NOTL Social Club - 10 a.m. - Sweets & Swirls Café 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 Beer & Books: The Body by Stephen King - 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library | 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 Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library | Simply STEAM Story a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Library NOTL Newcomers Community meeting - 1:30 p.m. - Greenhouses Irrigation Committee Operations Board Meeting - 7 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Drop-in painting - 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Fall Trivia League - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Birthday Bash w DJ - 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. - Angel Inn |

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|--|--|--|---|
| | 4 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 Community Centre Practical Genealogy - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. spaghetti dinner - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Queenston Firehall Exhibit & Opening: Kareem Abbas - Attraction - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre | 5 P.A. Day Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Drop-in Mah Jong - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Movie - Avengers: Infinity War - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Queenston Firefighters spaghetti dinner - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Queenston firehall | 6 General Brock's Regiment March - 8 a.m. - Queenston Heights Park The Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Garrison Village Battle of Queenston Heights commemorative tours - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Brock's Monument Traditional Powwow - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Montebello Park Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena |
| 10 Committee Council Y Time - 11 NOTL Public ic Lung NOTL Public 3 p.m. to 5 unity Centre 6:30 p.m. to ge Brewery hael Redhill n. - Colaneri | 11 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 Community Centre DIY beeswax food wraps - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Building with Brandon - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Literary series: Suzette Mayr - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Laura Secord Homestead | 12 Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off & Play - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Drop-in Mah Jong - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Scouts Apple Day - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - various locations Bravo Niagara presents James Ehnes - 7:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church | 13 Scouts Apple Day - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - various locations Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena 206th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights - 2 p.m. - Queenston Heights Park Niagara Rhythm Section with Chuckee Zehr - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery A Simple Gesture - 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. - The Olde Angel Inn |
| 17 y Time - 11 OTL Public lub monthly . - Virgil ee - 2 p.m. - oom 3 p.m. to 5 unity Centre 6:30 p.m. to ge Brewery J Moose Mike The Olde | 18 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 Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Building with Brandon - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Akwe:go Afterschool Program - 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre Committee of Adjustment Hearing - 7 p.m. - Council Chambers | 19 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 Knit-a-Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Phil Lynett - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Oast House Brewers | 20 Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena Niagara Rhythm Section with Dylan Wickens - 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. - The Old Winery STEAK FRY AT THE LEGION - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. |

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Autumn Vignettes by Richard P. West

This Town

I came to this town for the first time in 1978 and purchased our first house just before Christmas that year. We liked the town because it had features which broke up the monotony of the grid system of roads, so loved by North Americans. Being from the UK we were more comfortable with the fascinations of what lies around the next bends in the roads. Clearly not a Roman point of view.

Our children went to school here and moved away when they became adults. But they seem to have been the last generation of young people in the town itself. Virgil is now where the young people buy houses and bring up their children.

We no longer have schools in Niagara-on-the-Lake old town. No more do we cram into school gymnasiums to see 'The Wizard of Oz' or whatever the children have crafted for our entertainment. In the late '80's and early '90's there was even a small school in the old town, to teach young people the art of acting. It put on superb plays for us, as well.

Although I still love the physical environment of the old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (even with all the development) I do miss the families and especially that special brand of chaos when children are around.

Perhaps in thirty years they will be rebuilding the schools and the town will boast numerous street hockey hot spots. I like to think so.

Leaves

'Emily be careful.'

Emily peeked out from the pile of leaves she was buried in, giving me a puzzled look.

She is playing in those leaves like a small child. It's hard to imagine she is the same eleven year old who has spent most days during the last two summers, acting at the Shaw Festival theatre.

'Little Richard is in there somewhere and he is a lot smaller than you.'

'Oh. Dad.'

She is really enjoying this game with her two year old brother. He is a tough little guy but accidents can happen.

We've lived here for seven years and this is the first time I have really enjoyed raking up the leaves from the trees outside the picket fence. Butler St. has a lot of trees but these three seem to have more leaves than the others on the street.

Buying this house back at the end of 1978 has been wonderful for Rhian and I. Emily has loved it and now Richard as well. When he came along we were shocked. By the age of 35 we both thought we were past having kids. Little did we know. With children separated by ten years it's like having two families.

'Dad'

'What is it?'

'Are you going to burn the leaves?'

'Yes. Once they are in the ditch, I'll set them alight.'

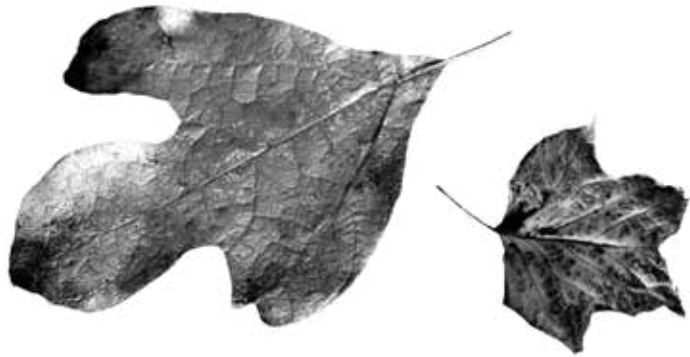
The leaves smolder for a day or two but finally burn away. Fall in Niagara-on-the-Lake is scented with smoke from burning leaves or old trees pulled up on the farms.

'Should I get Richard out now?'

I wish I could have played inside piles of leaves when I was a little 'un. Mind you, I got to play amongst the rumble on lots of bombsites during my childhood in London.

'He can stay for a few more minutes.'

Richard P. West is a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle.



Remembering a theatrical local couple



Angela and Herbert Roland. (Supplied)

Diane Debenham
Submitted

Niagara-on-the-Lake has long been home to many fascinating and gifted people, drawn to our little town for its renown as a centre for theatre, music and the arts.

Angela and Herbert Roland were two such residents.

They settled in town after retiring from colourful and interesting careers in theatre and television — both in England and in Canada — and it was here that my husband and I became their friends.

Born in Vienna to a Jewish family in 1926, Herbert was a teenager when the Anschluss, or annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany occurred.

He and his brother were immediately in jeopardy, along with their family. Desperate to find safe haven for Herbert and his brother (name), their parents were able to find room for them on one of the Kidertransport trains being arranged through rescue agencies in Europe and Britain. The two young boys, clutching the single suitcases they were allowed, watched as their mother and father stood on the platform holding back tears, smiling and waving bravely, not knowing when or if they would ever see their sons again. In fact, they lost everything they owned amid the chaos, desperation and brutality of Nazi controlled Europe. It is not known if they survived the horror.

The boys were fortunate to be billeted with a Brit-

ish family that saw to their education and treated them with kindness. Herbert soon developed an interest in the Theatre. As an aspiring actor, he apprenticed in Repertory Theatre and one day found himself playing opposite a beautiful young actress named Angela Clare. Angela, born Angela Clare in 1929, was never forthcoming about her origins and family. However, she did give us one fascinating glimpse into her past. One evening, (perhaps after a second glass of wine) she remarked that she had started her career in England as a Windmill Girl. The Windmill Theatre in London was a storied venue for Variety Shows from 1932 to 1964, and was immensely popular for its nude female tableaux, as well as singing and dancing and comedy acts. Angela coyly did not reveal what her Windmill role was. Eventually, however, she found her way into repertory theatre and met Herbert. The pair fell in love and soon married. In the 1970s they emigrated to Canada where Herbert established a career in television, producing several highly popular Canadian TV series, notably A Gift to Last (1978-79), written by and featuring Gordon Pinsent and Judge, starring Tony Van Bridge, well known for his career at the Shaw Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. For a time, Angela worked as a CBC Script Assistant.

After retiring to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Angela and Herbert loved to entertain in their modest home and

English garden where Tony Van Bridge was a frequent guest. Friends still remember Angela's annual New Year's culinary triumph, a spectacular Gateau St Honore. Herbert was the outgoing life of the party, while Angela stayed quietly in the background, providing delicious fare with a warm smile. Golf became a passion for Herbert, while Angela spoiled her five adored cats. Her love of animals extended to the local tribe of raccoons, whom she fed lavishly, not always to the approval of neighbours. Herbert worshipped her. At one birthday party he presented her with a full sized statue of the Venus de Milo.

Herbert died unexpectedly in 2003, leaving Angela lonely and struggling to maintain her home and to care for her many cats. In this she was greatly aided by Dr. Jim Turpel and the staff at the Upper Canada Animal Hospital. Eventually she moved to a seniors' residence in St Catharines, where she died in January of this year. Visiting her there, I would find her cheerful, lying on her bed, with the resident cat, Blackie, sitting nearby.

Angela and Herbert died childless but were generous benefactors of numerous causes and Institutions, including the Shaw Festival, the Cancer Society and the Humane Society. In addition, they established a trust fund to assist animal owners who could not afford life saving treatment for their pets.



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Cont'd: Candidates square off in Queenston

A lifelong resident of NOTL and former town councillor, Dennis Dick sits on several boards and committees, including the committee of adjustment, and chairs the agricultural committee. The OP needs to be reviewed and updated, he said, including incorporating current provincial legislation, which mandates infilling and intensification that can pose difficulties for small municipalities — the reason NOTL has lost most of its Ontario Municipal Board appeals of inappropriate development. The Secondary Plan for Queenston, with urban design tools and land-use planning, also needs to be reviewed and updated, he said. He would like to see the next council investigate a new planning process, which takes specific areas in a community and implements appropriate planning policies to mitigate concerns that particular area faces.

“It was not council that created the delay, it was because of staffing issues.”

- PAOLO MIELE

Paolo Miele, a local business owner with a family background in farming, spoke of the much mentioned OP, which he says council tried diligently to update.

“It was not council that created the delay, it was because of staffing issues,” he said. Council worked together, but couldn't get certain things done because of the timing.

He said council needs “someone who can be loud and stand up for issues.”

Traffic safety is one of his priorities, he said. “I will continue to be an advocate for all of Niagara-on-the-Lake, not just the Old Town.”

Crispin Bottomley has lived in Queenston most of his life, and began his community involvement at a young age. He became involved in his first OMB hearing before he was out of high school, he said. He has served on the parking committee and the active transportation committee, worked in tourism and hospitality, and now works for the Community Transport Group in town. His decades of community involvement “led me here.” Council and staff need to work better and listen better to residents and what they want, and council needs to support agriculture

and heritage preservation, and promote economic growth. In Queenston, “we need to make sure things stay the way they are for our village.” He suggested the jet boat operation impact will need to be managed, and the Queenston sewage plant repaired, infilling limited and lot sizes controlled. In St. Davids, traffic problems need solutions. “But most of all I want residents to feel this is your town, and you should all be proud of it.”

Stuart McCormack wrapped up the introductions of candidates almost two hours after the meeting started, paraphrasing W.C. Fields when he joked that “no good can come” of being the last candidate to speak. He related his experience as a lawyer for a major law firm in Ottawa, managing partners and the partnership, and working on behalf of both the provincial and federal governments. He is interested in a new community planning system, with a NOTL building code and mandated zoning bylaws. The new council, he said, will have to manage a \$30 million budget with raises to town staff of 4.5 per cent starting next year. Rather than talking about himself, which he has said makes him uncomfortable, McCormack chose to use his time to urge voters to pick candidates who are prepared to work together as a team, and are best qualified for the job.

“I don't tow party lines. I do what's best for Niagara.”

- CHUCK MCSHANE

It was an appropriate note on which to end the speeches, with the meeting turned over to the audience to ask questions of particular candidates. Zalepa, running for Regional councillor, was asked about supporting visual arts. He said it's important for the region to have an integrated strategy for culture, and to look at attracting people not just for wine and hospitality but for the arts as well.

Zalepa, also asked to explain further his comment about Niagara's lack of competitiveness, explained Niagara isn't getting the investments of other regions, and he wants to look at why, to make sure Niagara becomes attractive for investors and gets the jobs the region wants.

Regional candidate McShane, asked if he would support a smaller Regional council, staying at its current size or possibly having no Regional council at all, said he would not vote the “party line,” he would vote according to the will of his constituents. “I don't tow party lines. I do what's best for Niagara.”

Mayoral candidate Disero, asked her position on development in Queenston, said she's a supporter of the permit development system, which allows council and residents to work out a community plan that sets out what can be developed before any permits are issued, and any development would have to meet local approval. She also suggested strengthening the village's Secondary Plan.

In response to a question regarding an indoor pool, Disero said she doesn't think the community can afford to build and maintain one yet. The operating cost would mean a four per cent tax increase, she said. She would support an outdoor pool for St. Davids, but there are too many other things to do with the money it would cost to maintain an indoor pool. “I don't see it as a priority at this point.”

Darte, asked about Regional roads and the Region's lack of interest in looking after NOTL, said in the next two to three years the Region is looking at a third lane on Niagara Stone Road, between Niagara Motors and East and West Line, which should ease congestion, and he would like to see a complete turning lane from Niagara Stone Road on to East and West Line, to direct traffic off Niagara Stone Road.

“We're trying to have people think about how to replace a tree they take down. It's a plan for the future.”

- SANDRA O'CONNOR

Asked what NOTL could do to “educate the Niagara Escarpment Commission with regards to Queenston and the jet boat operation,” Darte said the property has been in turmoil for some time, and that he believes it's more of a “river issue than an escarpment issue.”

O'Connor, Town council candidate, was asked if she supports a tree bylaw that would require a resident to acquire a permit, at a cost, to remove a tree on private

property. O'Connor said while most agree a tree bylaw is aimed at developers, “we're trying to have people think about how to replace a tree they take down. It's a plan for the future.” There are ways to improve the system suggested in the bylaw council recently deferred, she said, so residents don't have to apply for a permit or pay for an arborist.

Bentall, who talked about the need to address unlicensed B&Bs, was asked by a Queenston resident who has two of them nearby what could be done about it. Part of Bentall's solution is to have a Town bylaw officer, full- or part-time as needed, to address that particular problem. He also suggested the issue has to be addressed for all NOTL communities by looking at limiting the number of B&Bs in certain areas.

Bisback, asked about how to solve problems related to winery tourists on bicycles, said he has a vision of connecting bike paths to the Niagara River Parkway. Some of the concessions and lines present a danger for cyclists, with traffic travelling at highway speeds, he said, and he'd like to see the town completely connected by bike paths.

Council candidate Mark Brown was asked about a comment he had made during his introduction regarding a “maximum” number of tourists the town could handle. He explained the town is approaching three million tourists a year, and there's no reason to think that number won't increase, suggesting at some point, possibly at four million, the town may have to say “too much. And when you do, what do you do about it? I think we need to start talking about it now,” he said, “so we're able to manage it.”

With the meeting wrapping up sooner than expected—moderator Rob Copeland was quick to cut off audience members who went on too long or seemed to be offering an opinion rather than posing a question, and timer Helena Copeland rang a bell loud enough to have quieted even the noisiest of students in the historic school building—the Queenston Residents Association was able to offer candidates more time for a meet-and-greet, proving that, despite problems anticipated and with rules clearly set out, 30 candidates could be handled efficiently and effectively in a meeting of a little more than three hours.

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Geocaching picking up steam in NOTL

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Peter Steinz has always enjoyed a good scavenger hunt — so when he stumbled on one right outside his window, it was kismet.

"I would see people peering into the holes in the tree, looking for something," he says, describing looking out of his second-storey window near Balzac's in Old Town.

He began to notice a pattern — people would poke around the tree, the ground, in the flower bed, with some apparent purpose. Some would find a small object and interact with it. Others would leave, evidently frustrated.

Steinz decided to investigate, and was surprised by an impromptu introduction to a popular international hobby.

Geocaching is like a world-wide scavenger hunt, using an app and GPS coordinates to find a wide variety of carefully hidden treasures. Some require complex partite solutions, while others feature a small gift exchange — and almost all involve some kind of logbook to track the successful seekers.

Apparently the cached object near Steinz's apartment is one of dozens in town. A search of the official geocaching site yielded more than 400 results within 10 miles of Old Town.

Steinz is quite the extravert, and enjoys helping people find their target.

"If I see them out there looking forlorn and frustrated, I go down and help them out. I never show them exactly where it is, but I'll give them clues like, 'you're getting warmer.'"

About two months ago, Steinz became aware the small metal pillbox that had held a long scroll of log-ins had disappeared.

"Maybe a squirrel took it? I don't know," he says.

He decided to replace it, using a small, empty plastic flashlight from the dollar store. He cut a long, narrow strip of paper and wrote at the top, "OMG! You found me! Congratulations. Now tell me where you are from. Good luck finding the rest in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The scroll has filled up with names of cachers from all over the world, including Australia, Abu Dhabi

and Switzerland — all this just since the beginning of August.

"I didn't know I'd wind up being the guardian of the geocache," says Steinz with a chuckle.

"Geocaching is really the last thing I would do in the world. When I travel I want to see museums, galleries, restaurants — not run around using my phone to find trinkets. But people seem to enjoy this, and I like helping them."

Steinz isn't the only local to have been touched by this unusual pastime: Several years ago, Adam Hawley proposed to his now-wife Brianne via a carefully geocached ring.

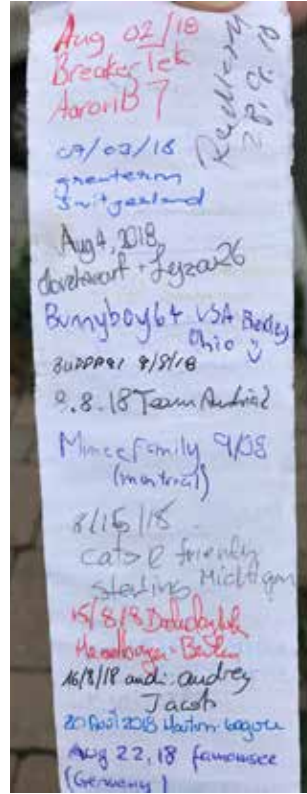
"I didn't co-opt another site, but I did put my box next to an existing one on Ryerson beach. I kind of pretended to find it and said, 'Hey, what's that?'" The pair enjoyed geocaching often. "We weren't always successful, but it's a an interesting added layer to a nice hike."

People say they enjoy the activity for a wide variety of reasons, such as exploration, discovery, or simply getting outside — you can do it while touring the world or just

make discoveries in your own neighbourhood.

To find local geocached objects, visit geocaching.com.

If you find yourself struggling with the cache near Balzac's, perhaps Steinz will come to your rescue.



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Feds invest in National Historic Sites

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Butler's Barracks grew a few inches recently due to a \$13.5 million federal infrastructure investment in Niagara's National Historic Sites.

The money will go towards the restoration of several historic structures, improving visitor accessibility, and shoreline protection measures. The work is being done specifically at Fort George, Fort Mississauga, Butler's Barracks and Navy Hall.

Butler's Barracks received new insulation on the outside of its historic walls to better protect the members of the southwestern Ontario field unit of Parks Canada, who now use the building as their main office.

The mandate of Parks Canada is to protect and present history and national historic sites.

"We connect people with nature and history," says Louis Lavoie, field unit superintendent.

One currently popular way to achieve these goals is adaptive reuse of the building. Compared to the barracks — built in 1854 — the building has seen many iterations and is now re-purposed as offices to be seen and visited by the public as they interact with Parks employees.

The work that is being done restoring historical buildings as part of the federal infrastructure refurbishment is care-filled and respectful.

A good example of the layers of time in these buildings is an I-beam nestled into an original wooden beam during a renovation in the 1970s.

"In this kind of work, sometimes things go your way, sometimes not," says Brendan Buggeln, asset manager. "This was a fortunate example of the former."

The ceilings in the old barracks were originally made of expanded lath — one piece of wood sliced and stretched into narrow strips. A corner of the lath has been left exposed in the showcase of a boardroom on the first floor of the two-storey structure on the Commons.

The buildings that share the Commons with the barracks will also be stabilized and tidied up. Chris Zoetewey, technical services officer and a local, remembers (perhaps unauthorized) parties in the Junior Officers Commissary building, and looks forward to seeing what the next use for the structure might be.

"Our first priority is to make sure the structures are sound, and not compromised by weather. Then we look for opportunities to use the buildings in innovative ways. A building with people using it is always in better shape than one left empty," says Lavoie.

Fort Mississauga is a fine example of the partnerships Parks Canada seeks and celebrates in the community. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club is the only golf course on a historical site in Canada. "They are outstanding partners," Lavoie says.

Recent work at the Fort has been diverse. Erosion on the water's edge was mitigated with boulders in the first phase, and the next phase will take the barrier up the river another 500 metres.

"Mother Nature has been

taking bites out of the shoreline," says Lavoie.

Extensive work has been done to extend the shoreline, and the land has been landscaped and revegetated. The next phase will begin shortly, he said.

On the fort itself, Buggeln is excited to point out the repair in the brick entrance walls. He jumps enthusiastically into one of the powder magazines to show off the buttressing that has been done inside to stabilize the structure. As asset manager and an engineer, Buggeln is passionate about moisture management.

"This is a double arch," he says, pointing to the ceiling. "There is a foot of air between the bricks to improve ventilation." Later, putting his hand on the wall that leads up to the sally-port he says, "200-year-old bricks don't like moisture." A wicking system has been created to draw water away from the vulnerable materials.

The fort's tower is in the process of being stabilized. Stacks of bricks salvaged from the floor of the structure will go toward repairs. Yoetewey, ever the historian, says the bricks originally came from the chimneys of the houses that were burned in the War of 1812. "The fort was originally built in a hurry in 1814. The walls are 10 feet thick at the bottom, tapering to eight-and-a-half feet at the top. The rounded corners were designed for glancing the blows of cannon balls and bullets. This structure is rated bomb-proof."

The first phase of the work on Fort Mississauga will also involve replacing the

roof. And then? "The Shaw Festival did pop-up theatre here this summer," says Lavoie. "We have a partnership with e-Skoot Niagara for tours of all the sites. We're always looking for more of these relationships with the community. There are never too many good ideas."

Fort George is also a beneficiary of the infrastructure investment, boasting smooth, broad accessible paths, bright lighting to guide you along them, and a new flagpole. "The old flagpole base was 80 per cent moisture," says Zoetewey. The blockhouses will all be re-sided and given new windows. With his keen focus on adaptive reuse, Lavoie says, "Many people don't know we have a commercial kitchen and do corporate programs here at Fort George."

Navy Hall, another significant national historic site, is also getting some love from the program. The ramp to the dock has been rebuilt with a solid surface, the retaining walls have been repaired, and the dock has been rebuilt. Work is currently being done on stairs and access to the basement.

"The beauty of this job is there is always something more you can do," says Lavoie. "There are so many different ways to expose history. We're definitely open to conversations. We want the community to use these properties creatively."

Over to you, NOTL — how would you like to see these properties used?



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Fire prevention week promotes education and awareness

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Look. Listen. Learn. That's the theme the National Fire Protection Association has set for this year's annual Fire Prevention Week, running Oct. 8 to 12. The Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters have found some interesting ways for you to follow along.

Can you guess the number one cause of fires? Unattend-

ed cooking. So the department urges you to please look while you cook. They have some fun swag to remind you to keep your eye on the stove.

The listening can be done over free coffee with the firefighters on Friday, Oct. 12. They will be at the McDonald's at 300 Taylor Rd. from 10 a.m. to noon, ready to answer questions and talk fire safety.

As for learning: Try your hand at fire extinguishing

lessons with a simulator that uses lasers to put out an artificial fire. Says Andrew Allan, Fire Inspector and Public Educator, "You should only use an extinguisher if you know how to use it properly." Jay Plato, Fire Prevention Officer emphasizes, "Getting yourself out and making yourself safe is the priority in a fire situation, but if you feel it's the right opportunity to use an extinguisher, make sure you know how."

You can also bring fire extinguishers from your home or business to have them inspected, and learn more about fire safety. All of this happens at Station 1, 2 Anderson Lane, on Wednesday Oct. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The firefighters will also be visiting local schools for witnessed fire drills and fire prevention talks, and sharing information via their social media channels throughout the week.

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GAMES



Have some fun

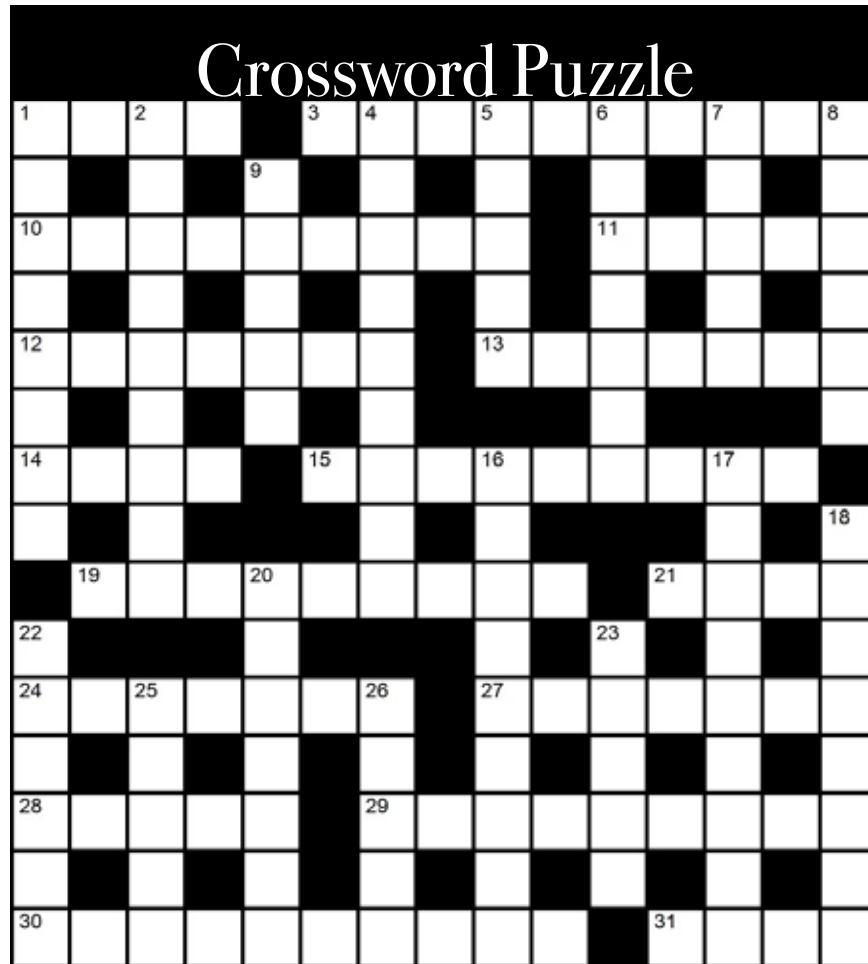
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 1. U S space group (1,1,1,1)
- 3. Court game (10)
- 10. Consequently (9)
- 11. Female sovereign (5)
- 12. Survive (7)
- 13. Bowling pin (7)
- 14. Skin eruption (4)
- 15. Pachyderms (9)
- 19. Sue (9)
- 21. German Mrs (4)
- 24. Passage (7)
- 27. Surrey commuter village (7)
- 28. Trembling poplar (5)
- 29. Mouth organ (9)
- 30. Science of numbers (10)
- 31. Undiluted (4)

Down

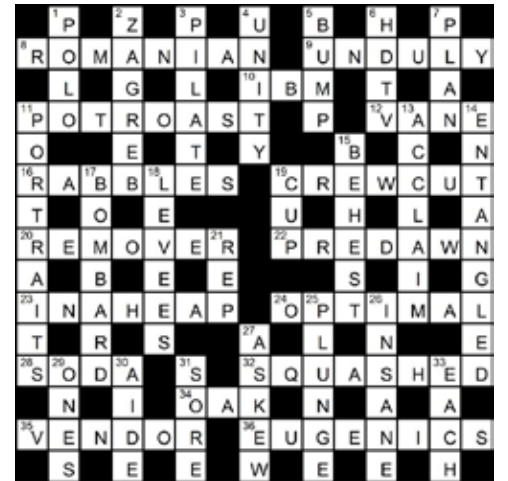
- 1. Belonging to a country (8)
- 2. Enticement (9)
- 4. Papal (9)
- 5. Leg joints (5)
- 6. Mexican liquor (7)
- 7. Proficient (5)
- 8. Beam over a door (6)
- 9. Started (5)
- 16. Medley (3-6)
- 17. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
- 18. Take away (8)
- 20. Squeeze together (7)
- 22. Las Vegas setting (6)
- 23. Racecourse (5)
- 25. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
- 26. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)



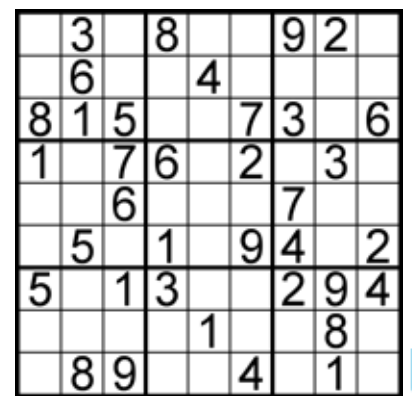
Want the answers early? Scan the puzzles using HP Reveal. (Must be following Niagara Now's channel.)



Last issue's answers



Sudoku





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| <p>9 Autumn Place, NOTL \$749,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30679000 Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***</p> | <p>94 Garrison Village Drive, NOTL \$689,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30689697 Doreen Ibba*</p> | <p>14 Aberdeen Lane, NOTL \$729,900</p>  <p>MLS# 30680206 Heather Matte*</p> | <p>342 Victoria Street, NOTL \$1,185,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30674108 Perry Quinn*</p> |
| <p>719 King Street, NOTL \$1,485,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30665327 Perry Quinn*</p> | <p>18 Shakespeare Avenue, NOTL \$649,000</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; transform: rotate(-30deg); font-weight: bold;">NEW PRICE</p>  <p>MLS# 30618523 Bev Wiebe*</p> | <p>121 Regent Street, NOTL \$1,999,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30669622 Michelle Reynolds** & Stefan Regier*</p> | <p>26 Vincent Avenue, NOTL \$759,000</p>  <p>MLS# 30689535 Michelle Reynolds** & Stefan Regier*</p> |



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FEATURES

Nature's Lens: My favourite corners of NOTL



Owen Bjorgan
Biophilic World
Featured



An excellent view at sunset hour can be found up along the Niagara Escarpment's Bruce Trail, from Queenston to St. Davids. (Owen Bjorgan)

When I was posting photos on social media of my frequent outings near my hometown of Queenston, Niagara-on-the-Lake, a recurring theme bounced back to me — an intriguing amount of locals wanted to know where these photos were taken, and other people seemed completely surprised that such scenery could exist in the area. Not only the scenery, but also the unlikely animal residents of the neighbourhood.

My love for the duo of photography and adventure was realized when I thought it would be fun to make a nature documentary about the whole Niagara Region- its absolute best natural features, aptly named the "Hidden Corners." In 2014 I set out to do just that over the course of the summer before my final university year. I drove home from Guelph the Spring, totally fired up about getting

cameras into Niagara's most remarkable and challenging ecosystems.

There were a few spots in Niagara Region that made a lasting impression on me while working in them. Wainfleet bog's eerie trails, with spongy grounds and the potential to glimpse an eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Then there was the foggy, flooded forest of Wilmoughby Marsh, which made your ears ring with frog calls, including three species of tree frog. Decew Falls and the surrounding deep woods of the Niagara Escarpment make you feel like you're somewhere in the Appalachians. How about Niagara-on-the-Lake? Let's zoom in and appreciate.

The old growth forest on the Niagara escarpment at the top of Concession 2 is a classic example of what much of the Niagara Escarpment looks like where it's in tact. I regularly hear eastern screech owls, barred owls, and great horned owls calling up there in all seasons.

Closer towards Queenston, the steep inner walls of the Niagara Gorge are home to some unusual reptile and amphibian activity. I have a verified observation of a blue spotted salamander in this area, which is currently not recorded in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. It is a well drained, volatile ecosystem made largely of rocks- an unlikely home for the swamp-loving blue spotted salaman-

der. I once saw an emergence of eastern garter snakes from their hibernaculum here. There were so many I had to watch where I stepped.

The Lakeshore property, colloquially known as the Conservation Area, is a myriad of habitats within a small but relatively unique area. Along the whole shoreline of Lake Ontario from NOTL to Toronto, it is the largest stretch of natural lakeside habitat. That's an exciting fact to add to our already stand-alone town. The property has enormous snapping turtles and a great variety of wildlife, including a the odd passerby bald eagle.

The last one that comes to mind for this article was right in the middle of Virgil. Taking a canoe out on the Virgil dams could definitely throw you some curve balls. My friends and I didn't expect beavers to swim up to our canoe and slap their tail, or to see herons pitch-forking fat carp out of the murky water. The water is almost always calm and makes for a nice sunset too.

You can check out the film, 'Hidden Corners: Niagara' by searching it on Youtube. I can personally promise- you'll be blown away by what's in your backyard!

bjorgan.owen@gmail.com

The benefits of visiting our local parks



Alison Stewart
Grow Niagara
Featured



of the most beautiful parks and green spaces in southern Ontario, but sadly as reported by Environment Canada, Canadians spend as much as up to 90 per cent of their time inside. We work at our job, we work on our homes, we work towards building assets and covet that illusive and undefinable destination of 'success'.

While much diminished by technology and modernity, our need for nature can be traced back to the early nineteenth century, with the likes of Thoreau suggesting that "we need the tonic of wilderness". Perhaps looking to our local parks and green spaces is a way for us to find success of a different 'nature', that of emotional success. According

to a paper published by the Harvard Medical School, the benefits to being outside for as little as five minutes are quite amazing.

The first, and most obvious finding is that your levels of vitamin D will raise. Why is that important you may ask? Vitamin D increases your body's ability to fight infection and disease, improves your ability to lose weight, affects your bone density, your hair, your emotional wellness and the list goes on.

Aside from the immediate benefits of a 'beautiful' environment, which most are able to appreciate; a walk in the park reduces physical aches and pains and lowers the likelihood of stress frac-

tures, osteoporosis, and some heart conditions.

With the opening of the Voices of Freedom Park here in Niagara-on-the-Lake in November, perhaps now is the time to embrace the outdoors, and take in some local history . Designed by Raymond Tung in collaboration with the Town's planning department, and storytelling installations by Toronto artist Tom Ridout, Voices of Freedom Park recognizes the contribution of early black settlers to Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well as the abolition of slavery, and the beginning of the Underground Railroad.

There's so much to gain from spending just a few minutes in a park. With parks such as the Voice of Freedom Park just around the corner allowing you to walk through some of our local history, there's no time like the present to put on your walking shoes, zip up your jacket, and take in some fresh air and vitamin D.



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ARCH I TEXT: with Brian Marshall Portico? Porch? Veranda?



Portico, porch, veranda. (Supplied photo)

Portico, Porch or Verandah?

This is a question that tends to raise eyebrows because all too often the terms are used interchangeably. So just what is a portico, a porch and a verandah?

A portico is a roof attached to the wall of a house directly above an entry. Small ('flying') porticos supported by brackets shelter only the entry, while larger versions not only protect the entrance, but also shelter, define and highlight an unimpeded approach to the entrance.

Both a porch and verandah are roofed and defined exterior spaces which are deep/wide enough to comfortably accommodate seating and traditionally supported around the perimeter with posts, pillars, columns or treillage. However, while a porch will always contain the main entry, normally be enclosed with some form of balustrades and have access from one (occasionally two) point, a verandah may not shelter the front door, is typically not enclosed and can be entered from multiple (or any) locations around the perimeter. Further, a porch is normally confined to the facade (occasionally wraps around a second wall), while a verandah can be on any wall and can even extend to wrapping the entire house.

In short, if it's too small for seating, you likely have a portico. If it's large enough for seating, is over the front door, enclosed and can only be entered from one point, it's probably a porch.



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Four notable women of NOTL: Part 1



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

In my first article for Niagara Now, I spoke about an amazing woman, Janet Carnochan, who insisted that Niagara-on-the-Lake needed to preserve the history of the town.

As well, we all know about the famous walk Laura Secord took.

But there are several other women whose stories should be told. Here are four of them.

Eliza Taylor, nee Bell, was a poor Irish girl born in the town of Newry, near Belfast in Northern Ireland in 1785. Oh the horror her parents must have felt when in November 1800, at the age of 15, Eliza eloped with a British officer, Thomas Taylor.

The two lived for several years in the safety of Ireland, until the Napoleonic Wars overtook the continent of Europe from 1803 to 1815. Maybe to the relief of Eliza's parents, her husband was shipped out to the wilderness of Upper Canada and not to the European continent.

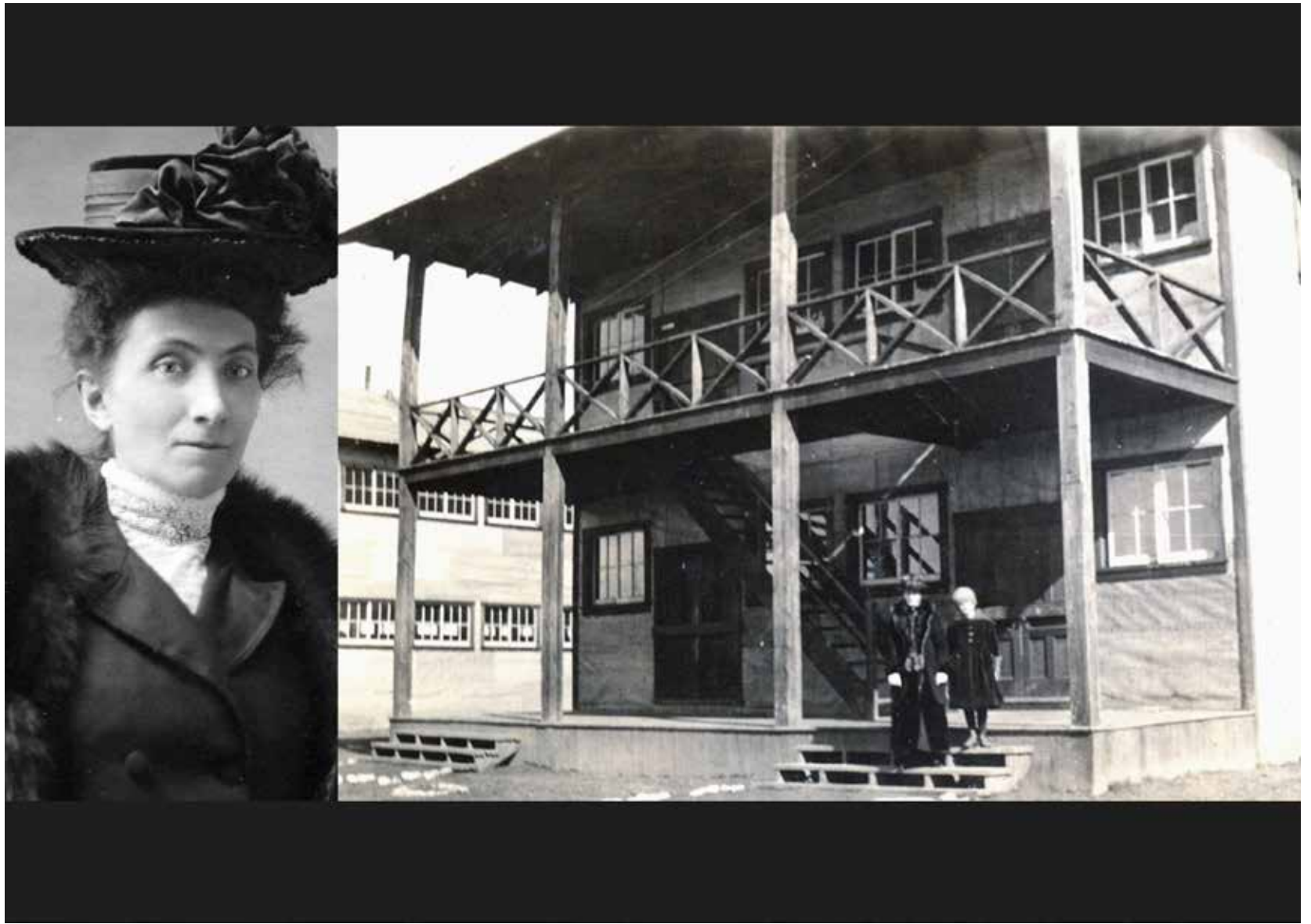
At this time in history, women were permitted to accompany their husbands into war. Eliza counted herself "lucky" to be able to accompany her husband to Newark (NOTL) and Fort George.

Taylor was assigned as the Fort Major, which afforded Eliza the luxury as an officer's wife to move the family into a home in the town and not have to live in the fort.

An American invasion of Newark on May 27, 1813, during the War of 1812, saw her luck run out. The bombardment from Fort Niagara on the American side of Niagara River saw a cannon ball strike Eliza's home. With four children to keep safe, she knew it was time to leave.

It must be understood that the wife of a military officer is on her own. When trouble strikes, the officer's first duty is to his regiment, not his family.

While Taylor was on the march with his regiment



Elizabeth Ascher (to be included in Part 2). (Supplied photo)

out of the fort and heading to Burlington Heights (near Burlington Ontario today), Eliza bundled up the children, took what she could carry and headed to the "wilderness", the home of the Claus family.

This wilderness property is located at 407 King Street, across from the legion in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As Mr. Claus was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Eliza felt she and her children would be safe there. Imagine her dismay when she arrived at the home to find the Claus family had fled.

American soldiers were already looting the home and soon torched the house and barn. With no buildings around to seek shelter, she ended up moving her family into a fruit cellar on the property which many described as nothing more than a pit.

Eliza stayed there for several months, not knowing where her husband was, or if he was still alive.

She eventually managed to find passage by boat for her family to Fort Henry in

Kingston, Upper Canada. There she received word her husband was alive but had been wounded in the Battle of Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813.

Being an officer, her husband had been transported to the town of York (Toronto) to convalesce, so Eliza, with all four children, made her way to York to assist with her husband's recovery.

After the war, the family moved to a small town called Hamilton.

Mr. Taylor is recorded as being the town's First Chairman (Mayor).

Eliza Taylor was in NOTL visiting her sister when she passed away on June 6, 1833 at the age of 46. She is buried in at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Mary Madden Henry was another Irish girl who married a British Officer and ended up in NOTL. She however was in town long before the war of 1812 broke out. In fact, her husband Dominic Henry retired from the British army in 1804 and was appointed

the lighthouse keeper.

The lighthouse, located at the point where the Niagara River flows into Lake Ontario, was the first one to be built on the Great Lakes.

Unfortunately it was torn down after the war of 1812 to make way for Fort Mississauga, which was built on the foundations of the light house.

The fort can still be viewed at the end of the first hole in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course located at 143 Front St.

On May 27 of 1813, the American forces invaded, landing on the shores of Lake Ontario just north of the town. There is a cairn, at the north end of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course, marking the landing site and telling the story of the invasion.

Nowhere in the town was safe as cannon balls were flying from American ships on the lake and from Fort Niagara. The lighthouse though was spared the bombardment as the Americans knew that it would be useful to them once the war was over.

All around the lighthouse bullets whipped through the air, cannon balls exploded and smoke fumed all around amidst the cries of wounded men coming from the battle field.

Henry, knowing her husband would have been killed or captured, ordered him to stay in the lighthouse with their children while she went out on to the battle field to help where she could.

She took water or biscuits to any and all wounded soldiers and did her best with attending to the injured. She would sit with a soldier as he lay dying. Some soldiers wrote she was like an angel walking through the "mist" to help them.

After the battle, Henry continued helping the town's folks who had been injured in the invasion. It was because of her courage on the battle field, even helping wounded American soldiers, that she and her family were left alone at the light house.

Then, on Dec. 13, 1813, the Americans retreated from the town, but not before they torched the homes. Many people, desperate to save

their few belongings headed out to the lighthouse.

Henry and her husband packed the lighthouse tight with whatever belongings people came with. Their small home was also packed with people trying to survive the cold winter months.

After the war, Mary Madden Henry was compensated for her war losses and recognized for her heroism.

She died in 1823 and is also buried at St. Mark's.

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

The Niagara Historical Museum 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.

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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



Photo: Etsy event hits Niagara Stone



The brisk and beautiful autumn day held a perfect backdrop for the Niagara Etsy Artisans show at the Farmers Market at the Village on Saturday, Sept. 29. The well-attended event featured nearly 70 artisans from all over the Niagara region, including three local NOTL women; Courtney Sendzik with Refined Linery sketches; Cheryl Chiarelli with Coco Quartz jewellery; and Taylor Wright with Infinittay hand-knit accessories.

Karrie Bannerman has been running the Niagara Etsy Artisans group for more than three years. She chose the field by the Village for the event because she wanted to give back to her friends at the market, she said. Bannerman was a vendor at the NOTL market for several years, selling her hand-made skin care line. **(Lauren O'Malley)**

SCENE OF THE WEEK



The sheep have been shorn at Linc Farms. The bi-annual sheering event allows farmer Juliet Oraziatti to check in on each individual in her flock. She vaccinates them, trims their hooves and gives them a selenium supplement — as well as freeing them from their long coats, of course. The community event sees local residents invited to help sort and bag the fleece, some of which Oraziatti will clean and spin into yarn. Shearer Jerry Kelleher clipped 69 sheep this year.





COMMUNITY DONATION PROJECT

Never got around to having that garage sale this summer?
Need to de-clutter or re-organize those closets & cupboards?
Been meaning to drop off your unused or unwanted items to Newark Neighbours?

We have a solution for you!

Newark Neighbours and the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake have partnered to hold a one-day donation drive

teams are available to come to your house to pick up your donations

Saturday October 20th, 2018 10:00am - 3:00pm
Registration closes Wednesday October 17th, 2018

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✓ Approved Items

- Cash Donations (cash, cheque or gift cards)
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- Non-expired canned and dry food (non-perishable)
- New or gently used (clean) clothes for women, men and children, including belts and hats
- New or gently used shoes and boots for women, men and children
- Bedding (sheets, pillowcases, shams, duvet covers, blankets, quilts) – all sizes
- Towels (bath or kitchen)
- Dishes, Glassware and cutlery, in good condition
- Pots and Pans, bakeware
- Small appliances (coffee makers, toaster ovens, microwaves)
- Lamps and other small décor items
- Window coverings (drapes, curtains)
- Toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies

✗ Not Accepted

- Kitchen or bath cabinets or other fixtures
- Furniture, including computer
- Office equipment
- Large appliances,
- TV's and other electronics
- Books (any kind), VCR or cassette tapes
- Children's toys or car seats, child strollers
- Carpets
- Mattresses, box springs, baby cribs
- Building material, yard waste, paints
- Hardware & tools
- Sports equipment & helmets





Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
Oast House Brewery

Whether sipping back a famous Niagara Nag cocktail on the Federal, or enjoying a tasting of Farmhouse ales in the Beer Shed you are bound to seek out a restroom. Oast has a philosophy to let the soul of the land and all its components guide their beer. This guided beer tour final destination had us looking for the washrooms. We found the restrooms by the ping pong table. Our favourite thing was the roomy multiple use shelf. This bathroom experience was a gold Plunger Award winner.

4/5 Gold Plungers 

RIDDLE ME THIS:

“What food do you throw away both the outside and the inside, but still consume?”

Last Week: AIR/BREATH



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CREATIVE - CUSTOM - CATERING







Hanging with Hulley

The winemaker & the musician.

Taylor Hulley. (Lauren O'Malley)

Lauren O'Malley
Staff

Welding copper might be one of the only things Taylor Hulley doesn't know how to do.

The dripping pipe in his home next to an elegantly deteriorating barn on Coyote's Run acreage is incidental, and Hulley is busy turning music into wine.

The local musician and artist spent some time in his twenties travelling in BC and Costa Rica. On his return he decided to go out and get a job. "I was riding my bicycle, thinking I should apply at Tim Hortons or something when a car pulled up next to me. My friend Andrea Sheppard was in the passenger seat, and her dad leaned over and said, 'Hey, want to work for us tomorrow?' I had no idea getting a job was so easy," he says, smirking at his own joke.

He didn't even know where Dave Sheppard worked, and had to call his friend to find out that his job the following day would be at Coyote's Run Estate Winery, where Sheppard was the winemaker. That day of casual labour rolled into another and another, with Hulley's myriad skills moving him from outdoor construction to indoor tile work to bar-

rel cellar jobs. "One day they told me to come in on Saturday for a job interview for a position in retail. I said 'Nah, people aren't my thing.'" He went to the interview anyway. "Turns out the only question in the interview was, 'What size T-shirt do you wear?'"

Hulley started at the winery in 2010, and eventually became so passionate about the industry that he took a course and graduated from Niagara College in 2016, promptly becoming the assistant winemaker. With Sheppard's departure Hulley stepped up to become the official winemaker. "I've overseen the full cycle now, a full year of winemaking. I can ease up a bit, have some free time."

"Free time" is a relative concept, given Hulley's passions. "I love making wine, but when I dig deep and ask myself truly what am I on this Earth for, it's making music."

For Hulley, that began when his parents bravely bought their 10-year-old son a drum kit, and signed him up for lessons with local percussion legend Penner MacKay. "I still remember Penner drumming on tables, walls, ceilings. He was amazing," reminisces Hulley. "I haven't stopped playing since."

He's also learned the bass

guitar and sings too. "I was playing bass in the Hammer Brothers [a local funk band], then they all started having kids and the band just dissipated. So I decided screw it, I can learn how to play guitar." Keen local supporters of live music at Silversmith Brewing Company brought Hulley in in the early days of their own inception, and he honed his singer-songwriter skills in "church."

Enter Laurel Minnes, Niagara force majeure — or Majora, as her band is called.

"Laurel saw me play, and I asked if she would sing on my album, mostly so I could just look at her and be with her — but also because of her amazing voice," Hulley confesses. Soon the pair became a couple, and also formed a musical partnership. They share the house in the vineyards with Minnes' four rescue cats, and share the stage as Laurel & Hulley.

Minnes' is a long shadow — she's currently up for three Niagara Music Awards, and has several prominent projects on the go. "I'm trying not to get lost in her personality, which is so big and strong," says Hulley. "It would be so easy because she is so amazing. But I want to keep my own vision."

That vision runs throughout his passion for wine, music and Minnes. Part of it is a seemingly simple wisdom he discovered while reading theology during his travels. "I asked myself, 'What is important? Why am I here on Earth?'" The answer became very clear — fun. "I'm trying to blend fun into all aspects of reality."

Hulley's mother Judy is a bookkeeper, and his father Doug is a trained clown — he belonged to the Popcorn & Peanut Banging Bump & Beat It Barely Together Band. "When I hold a guitar, I feel my mother's logic in my left hand, making the chords. I feel my dad's playfulness in the right hand, which can do anything it wants on the strings," he explains with great gratitude for his beginnings.

Hulley is a champion Niagarafile. "What an incredible place Niagara is. The thundering waters get into people's soul." In his teens, Hulley won a Young Citizen of the Year award. Roddy Heading, who nominated Hulley and ran the fondly-remembered teen-focused Beehive, says, "Hulley represented us all with energy and focus, speaking loudly and proudly for all the young people in Niagara." Sharing

Hulley's love of the area, Heading goes on to say, "Excelling in paradise is a fine life goal. The future of Niagara looks bright with men like Hulley taking up the torch."

Hulley's torch does indeed shine brightly into the future. This 31-year-old winemaker seems to have found roots and wings and everything in between, and is ready to soar. He also seems to have found a way to unfold time — perhaps using fun as the tool. Along with being the winemaker and main management of Coyote's Run, Hulley is also very involved in a new venture: Garage D'or Ciders. He designs their cheekily clever labels and works in other capacities with the team. The ciders are often available in NOTL at Silversmith and the Pie Plate.

Various music groups in Niagara count Hulley as a member, including alt rock Ol' Child and Minnes' award-winning Minuscule project.

He's also in high creative gear. "I'm ready now to move on to the next album," he says, pointing to a thick black binder of songs on the kitchen table. "I have an idea of making an album around wine, and wine around music. Make a bottle of wine and an album together — sit down with the

bottle and press play. Blend it together: New wine release, new music release, with amazing local talents like Whitney Pea, Majora, Laurel.... The talent around here is immeasurable." As usual, Hulley starts with his own ideas, and ends up tooting the horns of others.

In further plans and blends, Hulley enthuses about the living organism that is wine, and his belief that it responds to the creative energy surrounding it. "I play music in the barrel cellar — the wines are aged in music." To further this process, and to celebrate local talent, Hulley is launching the Barrel Cellar Songwriter Series at Coyote's Run this Saturday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. "Free to get in, wine by the glass, maybe some barrel samples, we're launching some new reds — but the important thing is this is all about listening, really listening to the music."

Hulley also has plans to revive the Peace in the Park event — a youth-focused multi-entertainer concert with art and other activities in Simcoe Park. "Maybe we'll even get Starlit Lounge to reunite for the show," he says dreamily.

Laurel & Hulley will be the Old Winos' guests at the Old Winery Restaurant on Oct. 12.



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Election Day is Oct 22