Lake Report event a night to remember

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 the Willowbank School of 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.”

Continued on Page 3
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.”
Candidates square off in Queenston (continued)

People should be able to age and continue to live in NOTL. 

- GARY ZALEPA 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 DIERNO

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 have not been solved successfully, such as road safety and infrastructure. He also wants a timeline for capital investments in town, and a 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.

“At the council table to introduce 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 the 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 Regional Council. 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 example 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.”

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

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 every one 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 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, overwhelmingly — in the best way possible.

For me, to hear words from Penelope, our local politicians, and to receive encouragement from so many members of our community was an incredible humbling experience — one I won’t forget. I lend the paper plan to show our appreciation by continuing to provide the best newspaper possible. If I’m being completely honest, I think in any business, it’s the first step 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, “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.

I hope the Lake Report will not only continue to publish, but will continue to grow.

As the Lake Report continues to grow, we are going to need your help. We strive to operate with integrity and hard work is appreciated.

If you have a question or a suggestion, I would love to hear from you.

The lake Report

Letter to the editor:


Terry MacTaggart notes a recent study of “Best Places to Live in Canada,” which ranked NOTL at 25 out of 35 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, which may deter both tourists and people seeking to live here. Not only is the QEW an unsightly, noisy, snarled 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 then catch the train.

Sincerely, Melanie Morris, NOTL resident.
The 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 the 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, disrupting public safety and harming tourists.

“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 all we want, but we can’t 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 wildlife.

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

A wild animal was behaving erratically and dangerously, attacking vulnerable people and vehicles without 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 lunged itself at Calderone’s back, shocking him. He turned to it and roared, lifting his arms to try and fend it off. The animal was unprovoked. 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. Some called for help, because of the perception of this particular animal is that it is inherently harmless.

“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 it 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 NPF 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 inevitability.

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

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

The death of any living being is a sad thing. But relocating the situation seems to be the inevitable comedy behind this particular turkey's actions.

Thank you.

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

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

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

The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a check. 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 $92 issues per year, which we strive to keep to. That’s only $52 – less than most people spend on pizza and wings – and will help us grow for a weekly edition and ensure all households receive a copy.

Larger donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated. Donations of more than $1,000 will receive a special thank you (in our second 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, “limited” of 100 special mugs).

To support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, 10513, P.O. Box 724. Please make cheques to Niagara Row Ltd. and note it as a donation.

Thank you.
NRP services board thanked for support of NPC police

Penny Coles Staff

When the police services board held its Niagara-on-the-Lake meeting on October 4, 2018, it heard a lot of the 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 Darre 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 each year to promote awareness of its role of the police services board among residents.

The police services board has chosen to hold two off-site meetings each year to promote awareness of its role of the board to the public and to allow members to stay in touch with communities concerned policing issues.

The comments of Nominee Coun. Jim Collard. (Penny Coles)

The police services board, “The work they do is tremendous,” said Coun. Collard. “We know we have received much for what it receives. As a policing force within Niagara Parks, the 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."

Coun. Jim Collard, " duty care."

The police services board and board members sometimes get an "easy ride" in NOTL, he said. "We are doing our best to stay in touch with community concerns and current policing issues.

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

The issue, though, Coun. 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 had received considerable public discussion, 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. When you 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 responds, as needed, and they respond in a friendly and professional 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 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 formula, which is in place for the cost of police services to municipalities, which employer the Ontario Provincial Police, "is a look at a model that works, that’s been adopted across the province with a five-year phase-in, ‘bring it home. Your officers will still make the same responses."

"That’s why we’re here — the police services board has this opportunity to move to forward?"

Nominee 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 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 is 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 Gamel, vice-chair of the Niagara Regional 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 Gamel, and he wanted to make sure one was to come to the hands of the chief and the NRP before the maps disappeared.

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, Gamel said. "I think this is so 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 issues on the roads, 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 committee, formerly of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Policing Committee, which was formed almost 30 years, Gamel thanked the chief for his support in helping the committee to continue its work.

The map is available at the NOTL Police Services board office and in the lobby of the Town Hall.

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

"I would like to thank you enormously on behalf of the Niagara Parks Commission for your continued ongo­ing strong oversight of the Niagara Parks police, and for your support of the existence of the Niagara Parks Police," 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 who are providing safety and security for and I appreciate the support of this board, and that you have continued to support the Niagara Parks police and the work they do,” said Thomson.

"It would make a general statement regarding policing in Niagara, through our 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 techni­cal, 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 3,247 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.

Meanwhile, the Niagara Regional Police Services board vice-chair Ken Gamel (right) presents Police Chief Bryan MacCulloch with a copy of the NOTL Cycling and Pedestrian Route Map, produced by The NOTL Community Safety Committee, at the recent meeting of the police services board held in NOTL. (Penny Coles)
continued from Page 3

Pat Darte, seeking a second term as town mayor, talked about his roots in NOTL, with his family and what 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 ones also. "We sold our property in 2017, I'm ready to continue my service to the community. I've learned a lot that will help me to 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 to develop pressure off the west of NOTL. His priorities include the Official Plan and secondary plans, such as the one for 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 Goetz 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 neighbours fighting development, including those who had worked hard and warned “that could be your fight next year.” The Town needs to complete Official Plan and a tree bylaw, and must include residents in the discussions. "If we got rid of the jet boat tours I would," she said. “I'm not sure we could. I think they belong more to 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 to preserve heritage, by working 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 historically accurate, 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.”

“Lose the farm, and we lose the future,” said Gary Burroughs, who’s served 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’s 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 supports 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.

“Tennis courts need to be paved, and we need a new traffic master plan. Gridlock on Niagara Stone Road is already here.”

NORM ARSENAULT

continued from Page 9

NEWS

CANDIDATE RESPONSES NOW AVAILABLE

SORE is pleased to report that responses to our seven questions are now available on our website from 25 of the NOTL candidates in the October municipal election. Please visit www.niagaranow.ca for more information.

SORE Marotta Group Rand Estate Properties

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Dock Area geese “rescued”

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 Demoiselle-crane, Lakeit (pronounced Lah-kit), can be seen strolling around town…with a rather unassuming and 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 throw or harbor a tiny little visit her, I can go and visit the folks at Upper Canada Lodge. The last time I was in the office there gave me the thumbs up, so I figure I’m good to go.”

Lakeit ambles the sleek horse along the tree lined up to the nursing home’s common room windows once a week, and the residents within will always be delighted Burgess.

Man and beast then truly make their way to the water’s edge for a nice view and then do a round on busy Queen Street, stopping for photos and chits with locals and tourists.

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

About four months ago he had the call was made by a local resident who had been here for years, and would all die horrible deaths if they remained in the wild.

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

With the geese, were hustled into the crates, Reynolds called the Niagara Falls Humane Society to corral the animals on arrival. The woman who called the scene to reiterate her irritation, and knew asap!”

Thunders, now with a prominent ‘T’, is the son of Randy Lakeit’s companion and former poster child from the Sentinel farm rode their horses to the Wednesday evening SupperMarket in town.

“We still have a job to do to catch up and say, ‘Hey Fred…’”

Lakeit ambles the sleek horse along the tree lined up to the nursing home’s common room windows once a week, and the residents within will always be delighted Burgess.

“Hey Fred…”

One day this past summer Lakeit and a large group of equestrians from the Sentinel farm rode their horses to the Wednesday evening SupperMarket in town. “There were about 15 of us. Fred brought a trailer for us to catch up and say, ‘Hey Fred…’”

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 is 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 a store in town where NOTL Hydro now sits on Henegan Road.

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

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“I don’t even know where you can get one for free,”

Thunder, in a former life, was raced as “Tale to Tell” and was successful enough that he scarred his front legs, his owners decided to let him heal rather than end his own life.

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“The horse, which quickly be- came Lakeit’s companion and partner, is 10 years old. The only evidence sofar from his life on the track is a branded code on his neck. “They use liquid nitrogen which marks the hair follicles so the hair comes in white. Did a little bit on me, too,” Lakeit says.

“The ferrier’s words stayed true. The only cost for using Lakeit in Thunder was shipping him from Vineland to the farm on Line 1 — which happens to be directly opposite the Sentinel farm.

Randy Lakeit and his horse Thunder. (Lauren O’Malley)
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 around.” He 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 town. He believes voting for the right person can come from the right people association to come up with solutions, he also has been involved in the decision to build a new community centre in Virgil “which is really interesting” in museums, and for the future would like to see a location specifically for all local archefacts.

I’m confident solutions can be found 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 running. “I’ve 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 strong business and family ties in the region — she’s seen what works in the Niagara, and has strong business and family ties in the region — he’s seen what works here. “We have to honour the issues of the town, we have to work together.”
-MARTIN MAZZA

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 as councillor as deputy 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 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 — the more delayed council pressing the Region to identify heritage areas to protect from intensification, and the need to be fiscally responsible 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 here. “We have to honour 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 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 stand 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.”

Wednesday October 6, 11-30-9 pm • October 7, 11-8 pm • October 8, 11-30-8 pm

939 Lakeshore Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Thanksgiving Dinner

With OLIV Tasting Room & Restaurant at Strewn Winery

Thanksgiving Dinner with OLIV Tasting Room & Restaurant at Strewn Winery

Dinner Features:
- Wild Boar Tenderloin Dinner
- Traditional Roasted Turkey Dinner
- Pumpkin Pie Cheesecake

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED: 905.468.1222 or olivestoneloft.com

Bikes For Farmworkers Bicycle Donation Event

Saturday and Sunday October 13th and 14th
10 AM to 4 PM
Drop Off at Old Virgil School
1665 Four Mile Creek in Virgil
(look for the ORANGE boxes on the old building)

Niagara-on-the-Lake
1830 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-4999
Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test
**Local Calendar**

**Sunday**
- Battle of Queenston Heights commemorative tours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Brock's Monument
- Thanksgiving - Statutory Holiday
- Notl Social Club - 10 a.m. - Sweets & Swirls Cafe
- 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

**Monday**
- 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

**Tuesday**
- Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena
- NOTL Ukesters Sunday Ukulele 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
- Tentative Sign Committee Meeting - 9 a.m. - NOTL Chambers
- Simply STEAM: The Body by John Scalzi - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Library
- Info Health: Chronic Lung Disease - 1 p.m. - NOTL Library
- Drop-in painting - 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Fall Trivia League - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

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- Trivia Night - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co
- Simply STEAM: The Body by Brandon Sanderson - 6 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- NOTL Social Club - 10 a.m. - Sweets & Swirls Cafe
- 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
- NOTL Newcomers Club monthly meeting - 9 a.m. - Council Chambers of Queenston
- Irrigation Committee Operations Board meeting - 9 a.m. - NOTL Chambers
- Drop-in painting - 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Fall Trivia League - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- The Farmers’ Market - 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Challenge: Power Off & Play - Healthy Kids Community Challenge - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
- Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- Tragedy Ann - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

**Thursday**
- Meridian Credit Union Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Brock’s Monument
- NOTL Ukesters Sunday Ukulele Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Sunday Songs at the Church - 3 p.m. - Silversmith Brewing Co
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- Tragedy Ann - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

**Saturday**
- Meridian Credit Union Public skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Brock’s Monument
- NOTL Ukesters Sunday Ukulele 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
- Notl Social Club - 10 a.m. - Sweets & Swirls Cafe
- Little Red Tail Hawks - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre
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- Irrigation Committee Operations Board meeting - 9 a.m. - NOTL Chambers
- Drop-in painting - 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Fall Trivia League - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- The Farmers’ Market - 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Challenge: Power Off & Play - Healthy Kids Community Challenge - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
- Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- Tragedy Ann - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

**Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**
- Lego Fish Fry Every Thursday!

**Friday**
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**Saturday**
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**Saturday**
- Lego Fish Fry Every Thursday!
September

Tuesday

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: Karem Abbas - Attraction - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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 Volunteer Firefighters - spaghetti dinner - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Queenston Firehall

Friday

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. - various locations

Saturday

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

October

Wednesday

Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
The Makeshift - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Drop-in Mah Jong - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Drop-in bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Building with Brandon - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

Thursday

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

Friday

Not specified

Saturday

Not specified

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**Rent My Husband in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

See what he can do for you at: https://www.rentmyhusband-notl.com

Or call me, Marion (905) 321-3776
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 fantasies 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 ‘80s and early ‘90s 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.

It put on superb plays for us, as well.

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 girl 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 Rhiana and I. Emily has loved it and now Richard as well. When he came along we were simply too busy.

‘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 smoulder 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

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.

Emily 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.

Emily established a career at the Shaw Theatre and met Herbert. The pair fell in love and were married in 1926.

He and his brother were immediately in jeopardy, along with their family.

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, she found her way into repertory theatre and met Herbert. The pair fell in love and soon married. In the 1970’s they emigrated to Canada where Herbert established a career in television, producing several highly popular Canadian TV series, notably A Gift to Last (1978-1980), 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 racoons, 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 2000, 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.
Cont’d: Candidates square off in Queenston

A lifelong resident of NOTL and former town councillor, Dennis Dick sits on several community 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 zoning and planning decisions. The Secondary Plan for Queenston, with urban design tools and landuse planning, also needs to be reviewed and updated, he said. He would like to see the next council investigate a new planning process and prioritize specific areas in a community and implements appropriate planning policies to mitigate concerns that particular area faces.

Paulo Mielle, a local business owner with a family background in Queenston, spoke of the much mentioned OP, which he says council tried diligently and wholeheartedly. “It was not council that could create jobs, or improve the business climate or increase property values,” he said. “It was not council that could remove a tree on private property. O’Connor said it was council that could acquire a permit, at a cost, to remove a tree on private property.”

Regional candidate Me- Shana, asked if she would support a smaller Regional council, she said she would support the current size or possibly have no Regional council at all, said she would not vote the “party line,” he would vote accord- ing to the will of his constitu- ents. “I don’t tow party lines. I do what’s best for Niagara.” Mayor candidate Di- sero, 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 com- munity 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. 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 the moment.”

Darte, asked about Region 23 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 Mo- tors and East and West Line, which should ease congestions. 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.

It was an appropriate note on which to end the speeches, with the meeting turned over to the audience to ask ques- tions 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 com- ment about Niagara’s lack of competitiveness, explained Niagara isn’t the getting the investment of other regions, and he wants to look at why, to make sure Niagara becomes attractive for inves- tors and gets the jobs the region wants.

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

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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 worldwide 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 Briame 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 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 Lavioe, field unit supervisor.

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.

“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-story 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 Lavioe.

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,” says Lavioe.

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 bits out of the shoreline,” says Lavioe.

Extensive work has been done to extend the shoreline, and the land has been hand-scooped 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 his 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 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. Zoetewey, 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 high up the top. The rounded corners were designed for glancing off cannon 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 Lavioe. “We have a partnership with e-Shoot 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 block bases will all be re-sided and given new windows. With his keen focus on adaptive reuse, Lavioe 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 Lavioe. “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?”

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.

Do you guess the number one cause of fires? Unattended 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 fire coffee with the firefighters on Friday, Oct. 12. They will be at the McDonald’s at 306 Taylor Rd. from 10 a.m. to noon, ready to answer questions and talk fire safety.

Are you a beginner? 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, Andrew 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.
Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. U S space group (1,1,1,1)
2. Court game (10)
3. Consequence (9)
4. Female sovereign (5)
5. Survival (7)
6. Bowling pin (7)
7. Skin eruption (4)
8. Pachyderms (9)
9. Sue (9)
10. Mrs (4)
11. Passage (7)
12. Surrey commuter village (7)
13. Trembling poplar (5)
14. Mouth organ (9)
15. Science of numbers (10)
16. Undiluted (4)
17. Beam over a door (6)
18. Started (6)
19. Medley (3-6)
20. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
21. Take away (8)
22. Las Vegas setting (6)
23. Racecourse (5)
24. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
25. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)
26. Belonging to a country (8)
27. Demur (9)
28. Papal (9)
29. Mouth organ (9)
30. Science of numbers (10)
31. Undiluted (4)

Down
1. Skin eruption (4)
2. Proficient (5)
3. Passage (7)
4. Beam over a door (6)
5. Beam over a door (6)
6. Started (6)
7. Medley (3-6)
8. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
9. Take away (8)
10. Surrey commuter village (7)
11. Leg joints (5)
12. Mexican liquor (7)
13. Female sovereign (5)
14. Survive (7)
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Want the answers early? Scan the puzzles using HP Reveal. (Must be following Niagara Now’s channel.)

Last issue’s answers

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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 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 rise. Why? 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. 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 fractures, 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.

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

Nature’s Lens: My favourite corners of NOTL

The benefits of visiting our local parks

Alison Stewart
Grow Niagara
Featured

When was the last time you visited your local park?

It’s no secret that being outdoors has psychological benefits, but what exactly does that mean? Well, aside from the obvious benefits of ‘exercise’ in and of itself, there are other perks to parks.

A study performed by Stanford University has shown that the effects of nature on those who take in 90 minutes of nature a day, reduces obsessive thoughts of worry, decreases the effects of depression, as well as reducing stress levels and improving happiness.

The Niagara region is incredibly fortunate to be the proud owner of some 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 jobs, we work on our homes, we work towards building assets and traditionally supported around the perimeter with posts, pillars, columns or treillage. Both a porch and veranda 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, it’s too small for seating, is over the front door, enclosed and can only be entered from one point, it’s probably a porch.

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

A portico is a roofed attachment to 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 veranda 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 veranda can be on any wall and can even extend to wrapping the entire house.

In short, it’s too small for seating, is over the front door, enclosed and can only be entered from one point, it’s probably a porch.
In my first article for Niagara Now, I spoke about an amazing woman, Janet Carraochan, 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, née Bell, was an 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 took 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 of being the Fort Major’s wife. Eliza eloped with a British officer, Thomas Taylor. As Mr. Taylor 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 Stony 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 enlisted 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 buoys 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 battlefield, 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 “mire” 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 light house 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 1825 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.niagarahistoricalmuseum.org, or visit the museum for yourself.

The Niagara Historical Museum is located at 43 Castlecrag St. in Old Town, in Memorial Hall. Visit, or give them a call at 905-468-5912. Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor. Her full profile can be found at niagaranow.com.
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 Infiniti 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)

The sheep have been shorn at Linc Farms. The bi-annual sheering event allows farmer Juliet Orazietti 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 Orazietti will clean and spin into yarn. Shearer Jerry Kelleher clipped 69 sheep this year.

RIDDLE ME THIS:
Enjoying the last bits

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

October 4, 2018

The sheep have been shorn at Linc Farms. The bi-annual sheering event allows farmer Juliet Orazietti 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 Orazietti will clean and spin into yarn. Shearer Jerry Kellehar clipped 69 sheep this year.

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

Last Week: AIR/BREATH

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
Taylor Hulley. (Lauren O’Malley)

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 incendiary, and Hulley is busy tuning 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 Dave Sheppard worked, and he 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 to 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. “I 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 down - he belonged to the Popcorn & Peanut Ranging Band & Beat It Barrelly Together Band. “When I held 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 Niagara Niagara. “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 Hulley on the creative energy surfacing around here. ‘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 listen- ing 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.