We hate it’

Neighbours oppose Circle Street rezoning

Penny Coles
Staff

Chautauqua residents are up in arms over a proposal to rezone a Circle Street property and sever a lot for a large house they believe will endanger a mature tree and spoil the streetscape of their neighbourhood.

They are also concerned about the future of their unique community, with small cottage-style character homes being replaced by larger, out-of-place houses that will lead to Chautauqua looking like any other subdivision.

Susan Wheler, a planning consultant representing the owners of 6 Circle Street, was at a meeting Wednesday at the town hall to explain the proposal, but those in attendance quickly made it clear by their tone and comments there were there to strongly oppose the large two-storey house that is currently planned.

The property owners have applied for a division of a 9,100 square foot lot into two smaller ones, and also a zoning amendment for a reduced front yard setback from 7.5 metres to less than 2.5 metres. They want to build a large house with a height of 27 feet at the front of the newly created pie-shaped lot, the only place on the property it will fit.

The tree that is of concern, a 75-foot silver maple thought to be more than 100 years old, is on Town property, and will be about eight feet from the front of the house if the reduced setback is approved.

Wheler said the large property is well-suited to be divided for an infill lot, and the new house will comply with the zoning bylaw in every way except for the reduced setback. There are at least 10 other homes on Circle Street with reduced setbacks, she added.

The newly created lot would be similar to others in Chautauqua, she said, but several people in the audience disagreed, defying her to identify another that’s the same shape.

“We object to you saying it’s similar. It’s not,” said architect Victor Tarnoy, a Wilberforce resident.

“We hate it.”

He also asked her not to refer to the 27-foot house as a two-storey.

“Your design is a two-and-a-half-storey house. There is nothing like that in Chautauqua,” said Tarnoy.

His concern, he added, is that once the severance is approved there will be no opportunity for the public to comment or object to the design of the house, which “will loom over the street and is completely out of character for Chautauqua.”

When Wheler said the house was of a similar scale and massing of others in the neighbourhood, another neighbour called that statement “foolish.”

Wheler said she and the property owners had looked at other options for dividing the property, but because of where a small house sits on the existing lot, the pie shape is necessary.

Tarnoy suggested that house is likely to be torn down and replaced by something much larger. “A lot of us feel you are showing something down our throats. There is no way we’re going to allow that lot.”

Continued on Page 3
Cameron gearing up for council
Balancing a family, a newborn and politics – Cameron does it all

Cameron gearing up for council
Balancing a family, a newborn and politics – Cameron does it all

Penny Coles
Staff
Clare Cameron might be the first woman to hold public office in the Town of NOTL, but that doesn’t mean she’s not well-versed in data collection. She is determined to be an effective councillor, supportive of staff, and wants to be sure there is a “great idea” from a staff member she can bring it forward from the inside.
She also wants to keep her finger on the pulse of what residents want, and will keep up to date on what people are saying through social media and the local news. “It’s important to feel in contact and be connected with people,” she said.
Cameron feels she has a good sense of the issues that will come up early in the term. “It’s my nature to collect notes, read a lot, write a lot and try to find patterns in things I can’t understand to learn about the current year, but how it fits in to recent years and into the long-term,” she said.
Cameron has been studying infrastructure issues such as roads, which make up some of the biggest expenditures, to prepare for the budget discussions. “They are often taken for granted, but are critical for getting people in and out of NOTL,” Cameron said.
Cameron’s approach to the budget will be to “start with what we have, and be fiscally responsible.”
There is good data available, she said, and she has been seeking out any added information she can find. She is looking for as much public input as possible throughout the process.

“I want to show we can do a good job. But that doesn’t mean getting out a wrecking ball. I believe in incremental change, building a positive relationship with staff, and improving service to the public.”

CLARE CAMERON
Customer service will be a priority, said Cameron. It was obvious from what candidates heard while knocking on doors that residents are not satisfied with the response they receive when contacting Town offices in the future to change that.
Staff should be given clear expectations and standards, she said, and the public also needs a clear understanding of what to expect from those providing the service.
Her rule of thumb for staff is “the second you feel like you’ve done enough, it’s time to do more.”
She wants to focus on the experience of customers being served, and looking at staff being “a little more empathetic.”
Communication on both sides is essential, she said, with a variety of channels to share information.
“Our population has grown, and expectations are high. We have a very engaged population. Town staff, however, has not grown, and there is great demand from residents, staff, and the Town. This was an opportunity to look at it from the other side.”
Councillors were also given an opportunity to meet one-on-one with each department, to learn about their challenges, said Cameron, who’s going “really well, and what the process looks like from the inside. We’ve had a lot of conversations about residents’ experience with the Town. This was an opportunity to look from the other side.”

In addition to serving on several municipal advisory committees over the last decade, Cameron is a program manager for business intelligence with the City of Burlington. Her job is to improve access to data and analytics for effective decision-making, and to develop and implement new processes and tools, she said.

Clare Cameron is gearing up for her first term in public office. She entered the race for mayor in the Town’s council elections, but won a seat on the council as one of the newly elected deputy lord mayor in her first term.

On election day, she and her husband stayed home, listened and watched results coming in, before deciding to head to the community centre to join the crowd of people gathered to hear the news.
“I felt a big wash of relief, excitement and elation,” she said about hearing the final numbers. “It was a very, very happy moment, along with a few tears. It was overwhelming, not to have to be home, but to be surrounded by people hugging, shaking hands, congratulating me — it was a very special moment.”

Since then, in true Cameron fashion, she has been going over all the notes she has taken on many issues, going back to 2014. She is preparing for the job ahead of her by reading up on the issues she expects will come up early in her term.
On Nov. 15, she delivered a baby girl, and even the arrival of her second child has not stopped her from getting ready for what’s ahead at the council table.

There have been two orientation sessions organized by the Town, including one on how to handle conflicts of interest, she said, “It was a topic that came up during the council election campaign. There will also be a review of the current budget Dec. 5 at 9:30 a.m., open to the public.
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St. Davids has wish list for new council

Penny Coles
Staff

St. Davids residents are preparing their wish list for the new council, with safety at the top of it.

Greg Dell, president of the ratepayers association representing the village, says candidates made all kinds of promises leading up to the election, “and we’re not going to let them off the hook.”

They plan to take their requests to the first business meeting of new councillors, hoping some of their issues will become priorities, he said.

At the top of the list, he said, is asking for a community safety zone to protect pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles travelling through the village. It would allow for speeding fines to be doubled, thus providing the village with more policing for enforcement, he added.

“This is very inexpensive and simple to do, with signs drivers will see as they get to the community. We want to make our community a safe place for our residents to live and to work.”

Heritage preservation is also on their list of asks. Villagers are hoping for a St. Davids Heritage District, which would put some restrictions on future development, limited to frontages on York Road and Four Mile Creek Road, within the urban boundary, said Dell. The ratepayers association put together a proposal, and last fall, council agreed to have the Municipal Heritage Committee look into it. “But after that, nothing happened. In my opinion, it was considered an expense.”

The MHC wanted to hire an expert to study it, but it was shelved because of the cost, he said.

The ratepayers association isn’t looking for designation under the heritage act, which puts strict controls on changes to existing buildings, he said. Residents want any new development that occurs within that area “to complement what we already have. We want to protect our community heritage, and this is the way to do it.”

Although grinder pumps were mentioned during the election campaign — a concern and an expense only in St. Davids, as they were considered necessary for about 90 home owners as part of the sewer system installed about 15 years ago — Dell said the issue today is that the pump installations don’t rely on them as part of any future sewer installations. “We would work with developers to instead get a pump station or a system that doesn’t require grinder pumps.”

Next on their list is a new pool. Last summer, residents were warned the St. Davids Pool, built by the Lions Club and donated to the Town decades ago, was failing and needed a more expensive reno. “We want to talk about a community centre that could provide activities for all ages, as part of an overall plan for the York Road property, and would also involve the St. Davids Lions Club in the discussion, he said.

St. Davids residents are also hoping the new council will ensure that the silver maple, which puts strict controls on any development, is not removed. The message during the election campaign was that the tree was not in good condition and the Town arborist, J.B. Hopkins, agreed with her. “It will likely need to be removed within 15 years, regardless of development,” she said, so shouldn’t prevent a project from going forward.

“St. Davids residents are still furious about the Maple issue,” Dell said. “We want to remind them that the maple is not in good health. It will likely need to be removed within 15 years, regardless of development,” she said, so shouldn’t prevent a project from going forward.

“If it was in good condition, I would fight tooth and nail to save it, but it’s not.”

She doesn’t do a lot of work in NOTL, she added, because there are no policies in place to require it.

Her report for the severance included a tree protection plan, suggesting hoarding around the silver maple, but “I put that in as added value. I didn’t use where the new house was going. If the Town wants more protection of trees they need to put more policies in place.”

“The report is made in a January meeting of council. The ratepayers association put together a wish list of what they want to talk about. It’s put into the report,” she said. “I would fight tooth and nail to save it, but it’s not.”

“Determined it was complete for a severance,” Burns responded. “Nothing more.”

As time ran out on the scheduled half-hour time slot, residents called for a second open house on the issue before councillors debate the rezoning in a January meeting of the planning committee.

There was a lot of work to be done before the Jan. 7 meeting, “or it will be a noisy mess. A lot of people are absolutely furious about this. This is serious for us. You either arrange another public meeting or the next one (in January) will be embarrassing.”

He suggested the lot configuration of the size of the house, the reduced setback and the tree protection plan all need to be resolved.

Lord Mayor-elect Betty Disero stepped in to say she would organize another open house to be held at the community centre before the issue comes to the planning committee.

“Arborist Robyn Pol- lard was not able to attend Wednesday’s meeting, but there was a good explanation for the substituted page. There was ‘nothing fishy’ about the replacement, she said, which showed a new layout with the driveway in a different location.

They changed the site plan, and asked me to re-label that document, which got put into the report.”

She agreed with Burns that her report should have been labeled to indicate it had been revised. She also said she would have included more detailed information about tree protection if she’d been asked to do a study for a planning impact analysis on the rezoning and the location of the house, but she wasn’t, nor was such a report requested by the Town.

She wouldn’t expect the applicant to “volunteer” a more detailed and more expensive report, she said, and the Town doesn’t have the policies in place to require one.

A request for a tree protection plan for the silver maple would have come from the Town and the Town arborist, J.B. Hopkins, agreed with her. “The maple is not in good health. It will likely need to be removed within 15 years, regardless of development,” she said, so shouldn’t prevent a project from going forward.

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The arborist report also noted the silver maple was failing and the lack of a detailed tree protection plan, said the arborist was asked to prepare a report for a severance, not for the construction of a house just feet away from the silver maple. By using the report in the planning impact analysis for the rezoning application, he told Wheler, “you are going around the process.”

Burns also had an issue with one page of the original arborist report being changed, but no mention of a revision, and it has been labeled to indicate it had been revised. She said she would have included more detailed information about tree protection if she’d been asked to do a study for a planning impact analysis on the rezoning and the location of the house, but she wasn’t, nor was such a report requested by the Town.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Tree protection should be for new development**

It was very interesting to note that once our election signs were removed from our property, they were immedi-
ately replaced with signs stating the following: “My trees don’t need a bylaw.”

Frankly, as a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tree Committee, I thought this attitude was deplorable.

It illustrates to some degree that things are not in accura-
tion for trees. But sadly I have seen too many cases where the availability of senior’s housing at this time to meet the aging population.

It is sometimes at this time to meet the aging population.

In the meantime we need to ensure development and actions by developers that are inconsistent with what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake a special place.

After what we understood were repeated and wide-
spread requests for the Town to stop the developer’s actions, we were relieved to see the Nov. 16 notice posted on the Join the Conversation website regarding an investi-
gation by Town officials and heritage consultants.

The notice also confirmed “significant damage” to the Dunnington-Grubb landscape features as well as efforts to take “appropriate legal action available.”

The Niagara Foundation urges the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to vigorously pursue all legal avenues to stop further destruction including seeking injunctive relief; require the owner to make good all damage to heritage attributes of the site; and seek maximum punitive dam-
age available under the Heritage Act, including directors of the responsible companies associated with the owner.

We also encourage the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to investigate the role provincial bodies (e.g., the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority) play or should be taking with respect to the Randwood Estate and other lands in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In this regard we applaud the question directed to the minister of municipal affairs and housing, by Niagara MPP Wayne Gates, as a positive step to engage multiple levels of government in dealing with out of control development and developers.

The Niagara Foundation looks forward to working with the incoming council and assisting you in finalizing a new Official Plan.

In the meantime we need to ensure development and actions by developers that are inconsistent with our community are opposed in the strongest possible way using whatever tools the Town may have at its disposal.

Michael Howe, president of the Niagara Foundation

**Correction from TLR**

Dear Lord Mayor-elect Betty Disero and council-elect, The Niagara Foundation is profoundly disappointed and frankly shocked to learn of damage to historical at-
tributes of the Randwood Estate as well as the large-scale removal of historic features as part of building.

We are writing to correct a story from last week’s issue regarding Pleasant Manor. The story mistakenly stated Pleasant Manor was recently taken over by Reversa Retirement Living and Long-term Care Services.

In fact, Pleasant Manor is operated by Radiant Care board member who was mistakenly quoted.

Samuel A. Young

**One resident’s ideas for the old hospital**

The elections are over and we now have a new mayor and numerous new council members.

During their campaigning I made a suggestion of prospective council members that I believed would be both beneficial and useful to our town and its citizens.

I believe the town now owns, to be put good use to benefit our seniors and the town as a whole.

Council should consider giving this building a new lease on life, by re-config-
ing the architecture of this beautiful town, and a complete restructuring that would enable it to have a number of one and two bedroom condo units for our aging population.

Our aging population fac-
es a major problem. We’re reaching an age where we no longer can be a burden in our large homes, but wish to remain in our beautiful town.

The big problem is the availability of senior’s accommodations in a timely manner.

There just isn’t a solu-
tion at this time to meet the growing need for new space in our large homes, which is how we used to live in Canada Post

Canada Post clearly has many problems, including a very poor union关系. One problem is that Canada Post now has many of its agreements with the federal government that it has had over the years.

The majority of the blame which got us into this strike is the fault of the feet of the government.

You probably think I am radical union member, any-
thing but.

I am a retired former Chief Executive and Business Owner with over 40 years experience in customer experience in multi plant en-
gineered product manufactur-
ing. I have done my career, direct hands on production negotiating experi-
ence with various unions and species could be exempt from the by-law, however, native trees and trees that have a distinct heritage value should be protected. Trees provide invaluable benefits for any community, and must be protected at all costs.

Here is my challenge to our new council:

At the very least, develop a strong tree preservation policy that targets all new develop-
ment. All present efforts at tree preservation with new development have been totally ineffective and inadequate.

My recommendation would be that new development be allowed on any future develop-
ment lands without a compre-

hensive tree preservation policy. If we don’t, we’re just going to trigger an immediate inves-
tigation regarding the impact on existing trees. Let us all become better stewards of our fragile environment.

Buddy Andres

**Destruction at Randwood Estate**

Negotiations is like a suc-
cessful marriage, there are lots of compromises along the way. Neither party walks away getting all of what they want however both parties should walk away feeling good about the final result.

To achieve such a result you must first respect the views and feelings of the opposite side. I strongly sense that Canada Post is void of this basic practice and in fact have no respect for their dedi-
cated employees — therein lies the problem which we regularly condemn these negotiations to failure from the outset.

What to do.

First, I would outline the labor minister and numerous members of Canada Post. This would be a major step forward. We want our view, demonstrate wanton disregard for what makes our property.

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spread requests for the Town to stop the developer’s actions, we were relieved to see the Nov. 16 notice posted on the Join the Conversation website regarding an investi-
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In fact, Pleasant Manor is operated by Radiant Care board member who was mistakenly quoted.
Pleasant Manor corrects the record

SUBMITTED

Pleasant Manor appreciates this opportunity to correct and clarify some of the statements made about us in the Nov. 15, 2018 issue of The Lake Report.

Pleasant Manor currently accommodates 41 long-term care residents. We know this is a challenging time to address the current needs, let alone the future needs, of seniors on the Lake and the Region. Accordingly, in consultation with both the health system and community partners we have developed a plan. We have achieved notable successes already. In 2016, the Ontario government authorized Pleasant Manor to redevelop our long-term care home with up to 160 beds. Earlier this year, the Ontario government officially allocated 81 licences to add to our existing 41. We are currently engaged with the Ontario government to obtain the full number of beds licensed for our growing seniors populations.

Radiant Care, that operates Pleasant Manor in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Tabor Manor in St. Catharines, is a completely independent, not-for-profit organization. We are committed to maintain that status and independent Radiant Care has never contemplated a sale or merger with Revera Retirement Living, or to or with any other organization and has no plans to do so.

The Ontario government allocates identical funding to not-for-profit and for-profit long-term care homes. Nonetheless, not-for-profit homes such as Pleasant Manor that are also registered charities receive substantial funding from community groups and individuals. We are able to support our goal of furnishing our residents with the best possible care according to our report, a contract was awarded to the same arborist (very well known in the area, Bill Buscanin, who is a master arborist) to proceed and do what was needed to save the trees in the Estate.

As of today, our work has been done with the supervision of the Conservation Authority and the Town. SORÉ created a nightmare for everyone involved to the point that I called a meeting by letter to all immediate residents around the Rand Estate to engage and listen to their concerns and perhaps clarify things, as there was so much misinformation.

A small group of neighbours were around the neighbourhood to have a petition signed to not attend the meeting, and only six ended up attending.

David Bell, one of the founders and organizers of SORÉ, attended but behaved in a rude and arrogant manner, acting like he was the owner of the Rand Estate.

Within the Rand Estate there were 52 dead ash trees that the Conservation Authority asked us to cut down for safety reasons. This was done with the Conservation Authority's supervision. This became another nightmare with the SORÉ group, where we were accused of destroying the Estate. (Before the work began, we delivered a letter to all the neighbors affected and explained the reason for the tree removal). As of today, Two Sisters has planted 18 new maritimes trees within the Rand Estate.

At 200 John Street and 588 Charlotte, Solmar Development sent a letter to the Town and Conservation Authority notifying them of the clearing of the land of trees and shrubs. They both responded that it was okay to proceed with the work. During the evening, we had Conservation Authority and Town officials conduct site visits. The lands in question are identified within the Regional and Town Official Plans for residential use.

Solmar Development will submit in the near future, a development application for a new community based on the original maritimes trees that were removed. These lands have been zoned residential well before Solmar offered to purchase and take title. These lands were intended for residential development.

At no time was the Estate owner’s, we had Conservation Authority and Town condoned any action by others. We have followed due process.

Based on the history of what has happened, the SORÉ group needs to stop bullying companies and family names that are here to invest and improve the future of NOTL.

The existing businesses that we have in NOTL, including Two Sisters Vineyards, have nothing to do on a business level with the Rand Estates. 200 John Street and 588 Charlotte Street.

It is unjustified that the Marotta family name and the good name of Two Sisters Vilas resort is tainted through social media, threatening phone calls and the recent Nov 18 demonstration.

We believe that this is an organized campaign with intent to damage our family name. At this point, we have come to the conclusion that it is no longer about the trees on the Rand properties but that there is an underlying motive, that is very disturbing, and these bullying tactics are usually used by people intolerant of others.

We have given our defama- tion lawyers the names of a few people who we believe have crossed the line. I caution people not to get carried away by emotions and to consider the impacts of their actions on others.

I remind the new lord mayor and elected council- lators that to be elected by the public is a privilege and they should work closely with their professional staff members and potential new investors and not to fall in the trap of being influenced or intimidated by certain groups that were not appointed by the public to make decisions in the best interest of the town of NOTL as a whole.

Thank you.
Tweed doubles-up cannabis production

Jill Troyer
Special to TLR

The brand new greenhouse at Tweed Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake is filled with thousands of thriving new cannabis plants, and upgrades to the other two greenhouses have dramatically increased their production capacity.

The $70 million expansion and infrastructure upgrade project has ushered in several types of growth in the operation.

According to regional general manager Alan Cooke, Tweed has almost tripled in size from 350,000 square feet to one million square feet in eight months, while staff numbers rose from 35 employees in August of 2017 to 200 staff members today, with 40 more to come.

Crops have also doubled from two per year four harvests annually due to supplemental lighting. Final renovations to one of the three greenhouses is still underway, and expected to be complete with in a couple of months. Cooke added that all the cannabis produced here in NOTL is licensed by Health Canada for medicinal use, and they follow strict regulations to guarantee top quality. The increase in production is in response to increase in demand. Tweed provided medicinal marijuana to 25,000 Canadian patients in 2017, and now that number is 84,000 and still growing. Cooke said legalization of recreational marijuana is reducing the stigma and fueling the growing appetite for medical uses.

The rapid expansion injected money into the local economy. “Of the $70 million spent, 30 to 40 per cent went directly to local construction companies, and the larger companies we used also sub-contracted some work to local operations” according to Cooke. He pointed out that 85 per cent of the new hires were local, and the rest were from nearby communities such as Grimsby. Tweed’s ongoing operational spending contributes to the local economy as well, whether through jobs, spending at local restaurants and wineries, and operating expenses. As an example, Cooke cited the cost of electricity, noting Tweed is NOTL Hydro’s biggest customer. Tweed also contributes to the community through charity work, where collecting 2,000 pounds of food at Thanksgiving for a food bank, a top drive at Christmas, and painting a house for Community Care in St. Catharines. Cooke added he would welcome requests from NOTL groups who would like to partner with Tweed for a good cause, and suggested they contact him directly.

The pot producer has drawn complaints from near-by residents about foul smells in the past. The company has invested $1 million in 14 odour cannons, which emit a mist to counter the smells that occur when the cannabis plants are in the flowering stage. More recently, Tweed installed carbon cannons at vents, to scrub the air before it leaves the greenhouses.

“We don’t always get it right” when hiring, but “we do our best, and we treat our employees well”. According to Cooke, employees are paid more than minimum wage, all are given shares in the company, and Tweed favours internal promotion. Cooke said those are very new, and it’s too soon to assess how effective they will be. He added Tweed also has an engineering team actively pursuing additional solutions. “When we do get a complaint, we investigate immediately, and adjust the cannons to the wind direction. Complaints come from a one-kilometre radius of the greenhouses, and most neighbours are great.”

Cooke says the biggest challenge with this rapid expansion, both in NOTL and at Tweed’s other operations across the country, is people.

“We have a good, positive working relationship” with Tweed, and many NC students welcome the potential opportunity to work in an emerging industry right here at home. Kinnaird said “having good employment opportunities here is good for students.”

As for the future, Cooke said he’d love to see a visitor centre and tours at the greenhouse, and if council decides to allow marijuana storefronts in NOTL, Tweed would be happy to have a shop in town. The company has already opened several storefronts in provinces where that’s permitted, including Newfoundland and Manitoba. As for further expansion, Cooke said Tweed already has approval for plans that would allow them to expand a little, but no-where near the scale of their recent project.

Tweed Farms has increased production. (Supplied photo)

Tweed Farms growing at Tweed Farms.

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Glendale to take new look at old issues

Penny Coles  
Staff

The Glendale Task Force has been disbanded, but will begin again with a new look at old issues once it is established by council.

Steve Hardaker has applied to be part of the group that will be chosen in the coming weeks to represent his neighbourhood. It will be made up for the new council — the two councillors who sat on the task force were not re-applying. He has been working with other resident members to list priorities for residents of the Notting Green. Most of the problems that have come up have been ongoing for many years, although progress has been made on some issues, he said.

The issue that caused the most discussion at council was regarding a bylaw to license long-term rentals, and that turned out to be one of the priorities that topped the survey.

While the majority of residents responding to an earlier Town survey indicated they supported the licensing bylaw, it’s not as popular an idea in the Old Town, which doesn’t suffer from the same problems.

The Town has indicated it could be a human rights violation to address such a bylaw only for Glendale, where issues arise from student rentals.

Hardaker says other municipalities have dealt with similar problems by referring to it as a bylaw to license rooming houses, which would eliminate any concern outside the Glendale area.

“We could roll it out across the town, but it wouldn’t have any impact anywhere else,” he said.

It’s not something that all agree on, even in Glendale, he said — landlords would be impacted and are opposed, he said.

Other issues that arise from student rentals are absentee landlords who make it hard to get in touch with property owners if there are problems, and infractions of fire and other safety codes, said Hardaker. Licensing would require inspections, ensuring safe premises for students.

Many NOTG residents remember a fire a few years ago, with kids in basement bedrooms endangered. “It was a perfect example of why we need a licensing bylaw.”

Parking is also an issue, with a shortage of spaces at rentals leading to on-street parking. One of the recommendations of the previous task force was to have lines painted to control parking, and that came up in the survey as a priority. Also snow removal was mentioned, although it’s not the service but parking on the street that causes problems, said Hardaker.

Increased bylaw presence and enforcement was another of the recommendations the task force made to council in August that popped up on the recent survey, with residents concerned noise and property standards bylaws are not being enforced. With an increased police presence since school resumed in the fall, there haven’t been issues with loud, out-of-control parties, he said.

Speeding continues to be a concern, especially as more families with children move into the area, said Hardaker, but the Niagara Regional Police set up marked and unmarked cars to catch speeders over a recent two-week period and found only two infractions. The police said further action on their part isn’t warranted, but with kids playing in the neighbourhood, “two speeders are two too many. We’re hoping for speed bumps or other calming traffic measures.”

Although the work of the task force has centred on Niagara-on-the-Green, Hardaker hopes to include the Regional Glendale development plan currently in the works as part of its focus. The plan is intended to provide a vision for the future of what is considered one of Niagara’s key growth areas, and past public participation has helped to create the vision, which looks at parks, open spaces, transportation and community services, along with residential and commercial development on 400 acres east of Homer Road.

The plan is to be finished in May, 2019, and the Region intends it to drive growth and economic prosperity by creating a community that will attract investment and jobs. It could also include a new business district and a hotel.

Residents are hoping Niagara College will build more student housing on its campus, “and we’d like to put pressure on council to look at that seriously,” he said, to alleviate some of the problems caused by rentals in the neighbourhood.

There are also plans for higher-rise buildings, and we want to make sure they don’t hinder the view of the escarpment.”

More public participation is anticipated, and Hardaker wants the task force to be part of the discussions. Residents are “generally pleased” by what they have seen of the plan so far, he said, as a result of their input, and hope to see more amenities as the neighbourhood grows, with a population of 4,100 people expected by the mid 2030s.

NOTG is a wonderful neighbourhood, said Hardaker, and residents want it to stay that way. “We like to refer to it as the new young hip area of town. It would be great to have a grocery store, and there’s space for a school. We’re going to see tremendous growth in the area, and we hope it’s done properly.”

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Niagara-on-the-Lake fire chief Rob Grimwood is set to become the first firefighter from NOTL to sit on the executive board of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. Grimwood was elected last week to join the 2019 executive committee of the OAFC as a vice president.

“This will be the first time somebody from NOTL has sat on the board, let alone the executive and I am the only executive member from the Niagara region,” said Grimwood. “It provides me the opportunity to have a lot of government influence, where I can represent the region and the town.”

Chief Grimwood has been with the NOTL fire department since 1996, and has worked his way through the ranks before ultimately becoming the town’s fire chief last February. “I started in NOTL in 1996 as a volunteer firefighter, I’ve been with the department since then progressing through from firefighter, to lieutenant, to captain, to assistant district chief and I got promoted to chief in 2017.”

From 2007-2017, while remaining a volunteer with the NOTL fire department, Grimwood served as the chief of Haldimand county and joined the OAFC as a zone representative for southern Ontario. “I joined the association as a fire chief in 2007, and in late 2008 I took over as the position known as a zone representative,” said Grimwood. “I represented the Niagara Region, Hamilton, Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant County and Brantford.”

The steps of joining the OAFC board saw Grimwood go through two campaign processes. He had to be elected to the board, then elected to the executive board. “The election to the board was an online vote from chief fire officers from across the province, you had to be nominated by somebody else, accept the nomination and then you campaigned.”

After being elected to the board, Grimwood was nominated for the role of vice president on the executive board. “Those nominations were done on the floor by the membership that were in attendance,” said Grimwood. “I was nominated for vice president, decided to stand, gave a short campaign speech and was lucky to be one of the vice presidents.”

Grimwood, one of four vice presidents, felt that now was a crucial time for the fire service and joining the executive board was a way for him to make a significant impact on the future of fire services. “I thought this was a really key time to be involved in the executive level of the association and become more politically active and really advocate for the needs of the firefighters and fire chiefs.”

The town is happy a local will be on executive board, and thinks Grimwood will do a great job representing the region and the town of NOTL. “His extensive fire experience makes him a great addition to the board,” Holly Dowd, Chief Administrative Officer said in a town press release. “It is wonderful that there will be a representative from the Niagara Region on the OAFC Board.”

With his new role on the OAFC Grimwood will be transitioning away from some of the local committees that he is on to ensure that his workload won’t increase with his new role.
NOTL artisans offer local gift options

Lauren O'Malley Staff

“Shopping local” can get hyper-local if you look for artisans who make and sell their creations within your community.

Taylor Wright started her knitwear company Infinit—three years ago. “I was stressed at school, and knitting helped because it was just mindless and repeti-
tive enough that I could do it while watching TV or listening to podcasts,” says the teacher’s college student. “I realized I could do it while watching TV or listening to podcasts.”

The 24-year-old tries to participate in one artisanal show a month, and sells her hats and ear-warmers through four stores in Ni-
agara: Grant’s Gifts in Port Colborne, Shannan’s Candles in Thorold, Craft Arts Market in St. Catharines, and Cherry Lane’s in Lincoln.

She also sells her mod-
ern, colour-blocked and fur-pompommed hats from her family’s house near the library. “People often come to the house for pick-up,” she says. “The easiest way to get people aware is via my front porch.”

Wright loves working for herself — although she’s also enjoying her current teaching placement in a kin-
dergarten class. “I like con-
trolling where the business goes, and I love the feeling you get when someone pur-
chases something you made by hand,” she says, knowing that people want to spend their money on something they created. “It’s personal satisfaction, and I’m making people happy.”

You can find Infinit on-line at Etzy, via social media, and at events in Henry of Pelham (Dec. 2) and Mahaty Café in St. Catharines (Dec. 15 and 16).

Like Wright, Courtney Sendzik also stumbled into running her own creative business, Refined Linery. Sendzik studied graphic design and illustration, and also has an honours degree in visual arts, so it was natural that she would find drawing relaxing.

As a way of settling in for the evening Sendzik would ask her son Clark (now 5 years old) what to draw every night, and then she would go and create it. Ink on canvas, line drawings. “Most recently I’ve drawn a tractor train, vehicles, musical instruments...” she says. As an enthusiastic reader, Sendzik has always had a habit of collecting quotes. “Ever since I can remember when I read something poi-
gnant I’ll write it down some-
where,” she says. “I have been writing lists of quotes for years.” So she decided to merge two of her passions, and ascribe quotes to each illus-
tration. “I would like to pass those pieces of wisdom onto to my son, and this is a good way to do that,” she says. Some examples of her 8"x10" canvases are a sketch of an ambulance, with the quote “No act of kind-
ness, however small, is ever wasted.” (Aesop) A hot air balloon, with “Blessed are the forlorn where,” she says. “My husband Stephen and I climb into pits and caves and abandoned mines with our buckets and little chisels,” she says, eyes alight. “We harvest big hunks of quartz, ammolite, feldspar and black tourmaline.”

The 47-year-old creator then makes jewelry around them, incorporating upcycled vector elements. She started doing this for herself, as something that simply takes her to her “happy place” — and then “people started asking to purchase the jewelry right off my body, so I thought I’d try a couple of craft shows.”

Coconut Quartz is now in its third year, and Chiarelli’s works are sold at craft shows and shops all over Ontario — including Maison Apothec-
ary, Lakeview Wine Co., and the Fruit Shack, which carries her all-natural lip balms.

Apparently Chiarelli is one of those unique people who can unfold time: When she’s not climbing down mines, her full-time job as a civil servant somehow leaves her enough time to create her jewelry and study for her pilot’s licence. Oh, and she’s also a certified holistic nutritionist.

The Chiarellis moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from St. Catharines 10 years ago, “because I wanted to expand, to get to grow. I love the different feeling in this town,” Chiarelli says. She also wanted to be near her mother, who lives in Upper Canada Lodge.

You can find Coconut Quartz’s products online at her Etsy shop, social media. She also does custom work, and hosts “make-and-
take” events, workshops and classes around beading and essential oils.

Tammy Cowan is living her childhood dream. Frocks on the Run is her retirement project, a far cry from her working life as a foster parent in Toronto.

“I can make anything,” says the 52-year-old seam-
stress. “I inherited a Singer Featherweight sewing ma-
chine in 1977, took sewing in home ec, and became ob-
sessed,” she says. She’s been sewing for over 40 years, and has taken courses for making theatre costumes, historical garments, milli-
ery, and even cobbling. “Just don’t ask her to hem your pants — a request she says her Village neighbours often make.”

“I decided I wanted to put my skills into what I love best — dresses,” she explains. So she started Frocks on the Run, making one-of-a-kind farm and rodeo frocks, a classic style from vintage fabrics, as well as little girls’ dresses. “I make stuff people can afford, that people can actually wear,” she says with pride.

Her husband fixed up a trailer for Cowan to take to shows. “It’s a ’79 Trillium Jubilee trailer, my husband did a stellar job on it. It’s a childhood dreamy thing,” she says. “Little kids get in it and don’t want to come out — they want to have tea parties in there.”

Similar to the other artisans, Cowan also does custom work, and her dresses can be found through Etsy, and via social media. “I love when locals come by — you can meet your community,” she says.
Continued from front page.

With temperatures being so low so early this year, in combination with the region’s poor growing season, it was important to get out and harvest early.

Shorter hang time helps with the yield, he said, and with a growing season that left a lot of grapes with rot, it’s “important to get out there and harvest as early as possible.”

The longer the crops hang on the vine, the more susceptible they are to be lost to blizzards and high winds.

At the college, it was the earliest students have ever been out picking, though in Giesbrecht’s 30-year career he can remember being out as early as Nov. 17.

“It’s the perfect day for it,” he said.

“You need -8 degrees and we’ve got -8 to -9, which is just about perfect. And it’s calm, so we’re not getting blown around out here with winds and blizzards as we have in the past.”

The time when winemakers decide to harvest their ice wine grapes is, in ideal years, largely due to stylistic differences,

“If you have repeated freeze-thaw cycles, the actual cellular structure inside the grape breaks down and you have enzymatic action, the same way that you do when you cut an apple and you get browning,” Giesbrecht said.

His preference is for an earlier harvest, which leaves more of the grape characteristic in the wine. The characteristics of a grape left longer on the vine be more like a “caramel, creme brulee or dried fruit,” he said, while an earlier harvest will have more of a clean, fresh-fruit taste.

An earlier-harvested grape will also make for a longer-lasting wine, he said.

The students at the college were harvesting vidal grapes, one of the most common used in icewine production, Giesbrecht said.

The students, in their first and second years of the college’s wine production program, didn’t seem affected at all by the cold or early hours.

Second-year students Steve Kornic and Michael Smith said they came prepared, having been out picking in their first year of studies.

“We learned,” they jested.

Giesbrecht said the group knew to dress for the weather.

“Everybody has longies on, and winter coats, and they’re in layers … and we’ve got warm drinks and things for them inside, so hopefully we’re keeping them warm and fuelled.”

Larissa Lima harvests grapes at 4 a.m. on Nov. 22. (Richard Harley)
Police looking to identify man who approached young girl

Austin Broad  
Special to TLR

The Niagara Regional Police Service is seeking to identify a man who approached an 11-year-old girl in Virgil Thursday Nov. 22.

The man allegedly approached the girl and offered her a ride at around 8:45 a.m. while she was walking to school alone.

The car drove out of the area after the girl refused the ride.

The incident occurred near Andrews Street and Line 2.

Construction begins along Niagara Parkway

Austin Broad  
Special to TLR

There will be several construction projects beginning this month in Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake as the Niagara Parks Commission begins its efforts to improve the Niagara River Parkway.

Starting on Nov. 19 construction work begins by the Queenston roundabout, near Queenston Heights, in the northbound lane.

Asphalt milling and paving work is also scheduled to begin near Service Road 52, continuing north to additional sections of the Niagara Parkway.

In addition, multi-year landscaping projects are set to begin around the Table Rock Centre as a part Niagara Parks’ strategic plan and the Queen Victoria Park master plan.

The paved areas will be removed and planting areas will be expanded under the Bridge of Flowers and north of Table Rock.

More construction projects began Nov. 26 that will affect the south end of the parkway.

Due to the construction and the other upcoming projects there will be temporary lane restrictions and possible traffic delays across all the impacted work areas beginning on Nov. 19.

Residents gather in front of the Randwood Estate Nov. 18 to hold a “funeral” for trees that were cut down in the weeks prior. (Fred Mercnik/Special to TLR)
**LOCAL CALENDAR**

**Sunday**
- Public skating: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena
- Toy Drive & Photo with Santa: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Kinsmen Scout Hall
- Queenston Ladies Choir: Annual Christmas Concert - 3 p.m. - St. Mark’s Anglican Church
- Holiday Open House: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Caroline Cellars 1010 Line 2
- CFWI Holiday Cheer Baking Class: Niagara College

**Monday**
- 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
- St. Davids Firefighters Annual Turkey Raffle: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - St. Davids Fire Hall
- Inaugural Council Meeting: 7 p.m. - Shaw Festival Theatre

**Tuesday**
- Table Tennis: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Rotary Club of NOTL: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena
- Public Skating: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena
- Rotary Club of NOTL: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- Public Talk: Conserving Fish & Wildlife, by Al K. Ill Fornello, by Al Kovach and Theresa Felicetti - NOTL Public Library

**Wednesday**
- Simply STEAM Story Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
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**LEGION FISH FRY**
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**Fort George Garrison Christmas: Fort George**
- St. Davids Lions Breakfast with Santa: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - St. Davids Lions Club
- Committee of the Whole: 6:30 p.m. - Town Hall
- Makery Workshop: Tinkercad: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- Simply STEAM Story Time: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
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<td>Drop-in bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</td>
<td>Building with Brandon - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
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<td>Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Akwe:go Afterschool Program - 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
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<td>Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off &amp; Play - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>NOTL Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</td>
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<td>Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off &amp; Play - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
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<td>Raising Healthy Teens: Alcohol and other Drugs - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Fort George Garrison Christmas - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
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<td>Akwe:go Afterschool Program - 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
<td>NOTL Christmas Parade - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
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<td>Raising Healthy Teens: Common Psychological Concerns - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Public Skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
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<td>Holiday Cocktails - Niagara College</td>
<td>Niagara Star Singers Christmas Showcase - 7:30 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre</td>
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<td>DIY T-Shirts - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>NOTL Christmas Parade - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
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<td>Coast to Coast: Canada’s Diverse Voices - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Laura Secord Homestead</td>
<td>Public Skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena</td>
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<td>Raising Healthy Teens: Alcohol and other Drugs - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>NOTL Christmas Parade - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Akwe:go Afterschool Program - 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
<td>Public Skating - 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Power Off &amp; Play - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Raising Healthy Teens: Common Psychological Concerns - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Christmas by Candlelight - 7 p.m. - Niagara United Mennonite Church</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Akwe:go Afterschool Program - 4:40 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</td>
<td>Niagara Star Singers Christmas Showcase - 7:30 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Local postmaster honours rescue workers**

Queenston postmaster Mena Spadafora presents a plaque to workers with CARES Niagara. (Austin Broad)

**Fort George ice rink to open Dec 1**

Lauren O’Malley  
Staff

“It’s not just a rink — it’s music, it’s lights, it’s fun,” says Parks Canada’s Lisa Curtis about the Vintage Ho
tels & Parks Canada ice rink at Fort George.

Heading into its third year, the rink represents a partner
tship between Parks Canada and Vintage Hotels. “Unlike
to give back to the community, and we’re always looking for
teresting places to perform. ‘It’s a way for youth in

National Director Airport during a special ceremony.

Spadafora attended cer
ty to say thank you in person

funda and the presentation of the plaque means a lot not

one step further,” said Spadafora. “We wanted to take the opportuni
ty to say thank you, in person for all that you do.”

Through their life saving
tures, search and rescue

ents are effective up to 15°C, but

chillers under the ice which
goes through to mid-March,

youth council to host holiday talent showcase for kids

Lauren O’Malley  
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For the second year in a

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“Forty George ice rink to open Dec 1”

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funda and the presentation of the plaque means a lot not only
to the Niagara branch but to the whole CASRA organi
tation and that it is a great honour to be recognized in this way.

“We were all volunteers and
to be recognized, not just by

out here but by Canio Post

in a supporting role with the

two entities entirely focused on

Christmas season to make a nice family

skate under twinkling lights even more fun, like a visit from

the Ice Dogs (March 12), and smores and children’s activities on PA days or for other holidays.

Skating is always free; skate and helmet rentals and concession costs money. The rink can also be rented out for larger groups.

Skating is open to the public every day, but the rink is closed Monday to Thursday, so there are no concessions, rentals or music and the ice cleaning is minimal. Skating is allowed between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on those days. The ice rink is staffed Fridays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more details visit the flies the website, the city’s visi
ters’ centre at 905-468-6644, or follow Fort George on social media.

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“I’m doing Under the Sea,” said Laverdi. "My theme was inspired by the famous song from The Little Mermaid.

The show starts at the holiday market centre on Christmas Eve. The event is free and open to the public.

The event is once again organized by members of the LMYAC. The group will be providing holiday decor, snacks for after the celebra
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The Study
Niagara Region undertook a Coordinated Federal/Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and recommend alternatives for the decommissioning of the existing Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) including the lagoons located at 1738 Lakeshore Rd., in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is proposed that the NOTL WWTP and lagoons at this site be fully decommissioned and the land restored to a wetland to facilitate transferring the land back to Parks Canada.

The Process
The project is being planned in accordance with Schedule B of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015). The Project File Report (PFR) has been prepared to document the planning and decision-making process for this study. By way of this Notice, the PFR is being placed on the public record for a thirty (30) calendar day review period from Nov. 21 to Dec. 21, 2018 at the following locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niagara Region Clerks Department</td>
<td>905-980-6000</td>
<td>Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Clerks Department</td>
<td>905-468-3266</td>
<td>Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil, ON L0S 1T0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library</td>
<td>905-468-2023</td>
<td>Monday; closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0</td>
<td>Tuesday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Interested persons should provide written comments within 30 calendar days from the date of this Notice. Comments should be directed to:

Mr. Tim Marotta,
Senior Project Manager
Niagara Region, Water and Wastewater Services
3501 Schmon Pkwy., P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6
905-980-6000 ext. 3645TTY: 905-984-3613
Fax: 905-685-5205
tim.marotta@niagararegion.ca

Ms. Melissa Alexander,
Environmental Planner
Hatch
5035 South Service Rd., 6th Floor.
Burlington, ON L2L 6M9
Telephone: 519-489-4109
mellissa.alexander@hatch.com

If concerns arise regarding the project, which cannot be resolved, you may request that the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks elevate the level of study to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act. A standardized form is to be used by anyone who believes that the environmental assessment process was incomplete, incorrect or that it failed to follow the required process. The required form can be found on the Forms Repository website (http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/) by searching "Part II Order" or "012-2206E" (the form ID number). Once completed, the form is then to be sent to both the Minister and the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch noted below and Niagara Region’s Project Manager. If no requests are received, and subject to the receipt of the necessary approvals, the Niagara Region intends to proceed to implementation of the Project, that is, detailed design and construction.

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Floor 11, 77 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5
minister.mcop@ontario.ca

Director, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st. Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
enviropermissions@ontario.ca

Personal information submitted in writing is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used by members of Niagara Regional Council and Regional staff in their review of this matter. Any written submission including names and contact information will be made available to the public. Questions regarding use of personal information should be referred to Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, at 905-980-6000 ext. 3222 or 1-800-263-7215.
If you’re looking for some drama and mystery to balance the onslaught of season cheer, perhaps a wintry ghost tale is just the cup of mead you need.

Veteran actress Tara Rosling is bringing her version of “The Mistletoe Bride” back to Silversmith brewery, Southbrook winery, and — new this year — to Oast House brewery this December. Jeanette Winterson’s somewhat gothic Christmas tale is full of darkness, shadows, and ambiguity.

Rosling, a Shaw alum of 11 years, met director Peter Hinton while working with him on “When the Rain Stops Falling” in 2011. “We fell in love with each other’s work,” says Rosling, “and this is our love child.” Hinton chose the piece and the pair adapted it for performance. “We rehearsed it in crazy places, like a linen closet at the Shaw,” laughs Rosling.

She approached Chris Pontsioen, owner of Silversmith Brewing, about doing a theatrical reading of the piece in the “church” — “I loved the parallels with the story, which includes a vent where mead is made,” Rosling says. “Chris said, ‘Absolutely.’ And then he asked what a theatrical reading is,” she says, laughing again.

When the evening came for what was intended to be the first and only performance of the reading, Rosling looked over the full house at Silversmith and asked Pontsioen, “Do these people know they have to leave when the show starts?” He answered, “They’re here for the show.” In fact, the reading was so successful a second show had to be added later the same night for the people who had been turned away.

Silversmith has hosted the event every year since, with Southbrook joining along last year. This year Rosling has added Oast House’s hayloft as a third venue for the readings. From its inception, all proceeds have been donated to Gillian’s Place, a women’s shelter in St. Catharines. “I chose Gillian’s Place because of the content of the story, which includes a woman’s regenesis — overcoming real darkness in her life, coming through to the light.”

To further honour the darkness-into-light theme, the performance at Oast House is set for December 21st, the day of the winter solstice. Performances are generally pay-what-you-can — with Rosling literally passing a hat at the end of the performance — and $550 was raised the first year. Last year the actress donated $1650 to the charity. “I hope to generate the largest donation yet,” Rosling says of this, her fifth year of performing “The Mistletoe Bride.”

The actress is heading into her twelfth year with the Shaw, so is no stranger to performing the same show many times. Of this particular piece she says, “The words are there inside me, but they live in a different place each time. As I evolve as a person the words mean something different.” She adds, “I love the language, so deeply poetic — and I love the fact that the story is ambiguous.”

Each location offers a different experience. “I love it in the ‘church’ at Silversmith,” says Rosling. “They turn off all the fridges and any ambient sound, and the room is lit with candles. It’s a pretty thrilling experience.” Silversmith performances take place on Dec. 17 and 18.

At Southbrook on Dec. 7 there is the option to partake in a meal prepared by AG Inspired Cuisine, or to simply attend the pay-what-you-can reading. “The kitchen will be open at both breweries too, so come early and grab a bite,” says Rosling. “But please put your cutlery down while she’s performing.”

Those who can’t attend the readings but want to make donations of support can drop them off in the care of any of the three hosts of the events, or by sending an e-transfer to yogabyheart@gmail.com. Details and reservations can be found on Eventbrite-ca https://www.eventbrite.ca, and on each venue’s website. Reservations are recommended — Silversmith reports there are few seats remaining.
T'ai Chi for Life

Jill Troyer
Special to TLR

Their movements are elegant; slow, controlled, and symmetrical. The expression on their faces is calm and focussed. The room is in utter stillness. This is the scene at ten o’clock Wednesday morning at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, where twelve women are gathered for the White Winds Tai Chi Group’s twice-weekly practice.

You wouldn’t guess it by watching the women in action, but their ages range from 70 to 94. Most of the women have been doing t’ai chi for many years, for decades. T’ai chi is an ancient Chinese practice that incorporates a sequence of gentle, flowing movements, often called meditation in motion. Diana Hepburn leads the t’ai chi sessions, and she has been practising for more than 25 years. “Some days I ask myself why am I here today, I don’t feel like doing this, but I always feel really good when I leave,” said Hepburn.

She is soon joined by Elisabeth Allen, who adds “it’s amazing, even on days when I’m just watching I get energy from the group.” Allen, now 90, is an active participant on most days. She started doing t’ai chi in 1984, and by 1989 she had become an instructor. Others in the group quickly chime in to the conversation, sharing an inventory of the benefits they feel from doing t’ai chi twice a week.

“[It] helps with strength and balance, and concentration,” said one. “It helps my memory,” said another. “It gives you energy … it’s good for my joints, and good because it moves everything in my body. It’s meditative as well as being good exercise … it keeps me flexible,” the group agreed.

The women are right about t’ai chi, and they feel the health benefits firsthand. Nurse Practitioner Christina Huntington knows the benefits from her work with geriatric outpatients at St. Catharines Hospital. “That kind of exercise maintains healthy bones, muscles, and joints. It’s especially important as people age and muscles atrophy without regular activity,” said Huntington. She added “keeping active can minimise symptoms of chronic conditions such as arthritis, and decrease blood pressure.”

Many clinical studies have demonstrated the health benefits of t’ai chi. One recent study, cited by the Mayo Clinic, provided evidence that t’ai chi is effective in reducing falls among the elderly, which is significant because “falls are the most common cause of injury-related hospital admissions among those aged 65 years or older” according to the Canadian Family of Physicians. Huntington added that any regular low impact exercise, including t’ai chi, has cognitive and psychological benefits as well. “It improves mood, reduces anxiety and depression” and provides social connection too.

The group at the NOTL Community Centre know that well. They said there is a “culturative and positive energy when we do t’ai chi together,” and when the silent practice is over, there is much discussion and sharing of experiences and practical tips, whether where to find a reliable handyman or what to expect when going to do their driving test after turning 80. Birthdays too are special social occasions, such as recently when Elisabeth Allen turned 90. There was cake and celebration, though t’ai chi, of course, came first.

Niagara College offering quick seasonally-themed courses during the holidays

Richard Harley
Editor

Niagara residents have a chance to up their entertaining game this holiday season, thanks to a roster of seasonally-themed workshops offered by the Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College.

Together with the school’s part-time studies program, CFWI is offering quick courses on a variety of subjects such as holiday baking, making appetizers that can be frozen, and a newly introduced course on holiday cocktails, during which participants will learn the basics of what makes a great tasting cocktail, how it’s prepared, and the history of the ingredients being used.

The cocktail workshop will be led by Andrea Fujarczak, wine judge, writer, and graduate of the college’s winery and viticulture technician program.

“We’ll learn the origins of cocktails, the importance of the balance in each drink, and help you customize signature drinks and impress your guests while you celebrate with family and friends this holiday season,” said Fujarczak.

The course will be held Thursday, Dec. 6, and is open to anyone 18 and older. Craig Youdale, dean of CFWI, said the courses are “an opportunity for our community and region to experience what [NC] students experience each and every day.”

Participants get to take home whatever they create, said Brianna Hawley, wine program student liaison. She said the courses are a great way for anyone to spend an afternoon with friends or family during the holiday season, and that it’s not just a short course, it’s an immersive experience.

“It’s a full afternoon.” A full list of CFWI’s part-time training courses is available at www.canadianfoodandwineinstitute.ca/courses.

Jeff Steen, industry engagement and corporate training manager at CFWI, said it’s a great way for the college to make use of its top-of-the-line facilities during the times when students are away for the holiday break, and that it’s a rare opportunity for the community to come learn and use the equipment.

Registration is also open for the NC Greenhouse’s annual holiday workshop, where participants can enjoy fresh baked products and hot beverages prepared by Benchmarc Restaurant, and learn to create a visually stunning display of holiday greens to adorn the home.

Four sessions are available from Nov. 18 to Dec. 8.
Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

Across
9. Radical (9)
10. Accommodate (5)
11. Find the answer (5)
12. Holy Land (9)
13. Increase in speed (10)
14. Finishes (4)
16. “The great grey-green, greasy ... River” (Kipling) (7)
19. Scholar (7)
21. Possesses (4)
22. Quantifiable (10)
26. Heaven or hell, maybe (9)
27. Sort of line dance (5)
28. Marijuana (5)
29. Dear (9)

Down
1. Army dining room (4,4)
2. Leaning letter (6)
3. Armed resistance (9)
4. Smoked herring (6)
5. Sporting competitors (8)
6. Silence! (5)
7. Group of spectators (8)
8. Makes over (6)
15. Grease (9)
17. Lack of variety (8)
18. Unequal (3-5)
20. Adolescent (8)
21. E.g. Seville (6)
23. Drowsy (6)
24. Outlaw (6)
25. Experiment (5)

Last issue’s answers

1. Army dining room (4,4)
2. Leaning letter (6)
4. Smoked herring (6)
5. Sporting competitors (8)
6. Silence! (5)
7. Group of spectators (8)
8. Makes over (6)

Sudoku

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

GAMES

Play fun games and puzzles only at NiagaraNow.com

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

Niagara’s Luxury Leader

Visit carriagetradeproperties.ca
For All Luxury Listings

Mistletoe Bride- Dec. 7
Reading by Tara Rosling
Join us for dinner by AG Cuisine OR simply attend the reading
Reserve at Southbrook.com

ROYAL LePage Niagara’s Luxury Leader

92 Loretta Drive #20, NOTL $525,000
MLS# 30690328
Helen Mosca* & Aaron Cherney*

15 Ridgeview Crescent, St. Davids $699,900
MLS# 30678957
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

3 Hillside Drive, St. Davids $769,900
MLS# 30696904
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

F #9-92 Loretta Drive, NOTL $525,000
MLS# 30692300
Jo-Ann Cudmore*

2 Samuel Street, NOTL $1,395,000
MLS# 30691472
James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*

14757 Niagara River Pkwy, NOTL $3,795,000
MLS# 30678390
James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*

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

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

121 Regent Street, NOTL $1,999,000
MLS# 30669622
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Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

3 Hillside Drive, St. Davids $769,900
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An occasional glimpse into the life of the artistic director of the Shaw Festival

Tim Carroll
Special Feature

“So, things are quietening down for you now, I guess?”

This is the time of year when I hear that line about ten or a dozen times a day. I can see where it comes from — my second summer at Shaw and I need to be finished, there is only one show on now instead of eleven.

This, surely, is my chance to take a deep breath and think deep thoughts about life, art and the theatre. Right?

Wrong.

Time has a funny way of not stopping. The 2020 season may seem a long way off, but if I don’t start thinking about it now, I will soon be in a pickle. I start thinking about it now, I will be too busy to focus on it in 2020. This means that we have till the end of February not only to decide on the plays but to have a pretty good idea of who we want to be in them. Since casting alone takes up most of January and February — the long days of pencil and eraser work — the playbill for 2020 really needs to be in place by Christmas.

That may seem very early, but then we are a long time to finish — some of the directors I hope to hire need to be in place by Christmas.

So, things are quietening down for you now, I guess?”

I was still looking at my friends in silence. They were frozen, I looked at each of them, and parked my car. I walked around me, left then right to see what had happened. Across the gorge on the American side, the whole wall of the power plant building came crashing down, crushing the power plant building below and leaving it a bed of twisted metal and rock.

The entrance to the overlook — the stairway leading to the gorge — was unacceptable that the making of glass was an artisanal process. There was nothing that couldn’t be made better, faster and cheaper. The Chance brothers in England, having witnessed the new methods developed in France and Germany to the ancient cylinder glass technique, recognized this process, unlike crown glass, would lend itself to industrialization. In 1832, they began producing cylinder glass on a major scale. While still dependent on glassblowers, the technique was simpler; a tall narrow ‘bottle’ (ideally more than five feet high and one foot in diameter) was blown, then cooled prior to the top and bottom being removed and the resultant cylinder cut longitudinally. Thus prepared, it was reheated in an oven until it stumped into flat plates measuring over 18” wide by up to 60” long. While the resultant glass plates still had ripples and occlusions they were less pronounced than in crown glass, and could be cut into larger panes with minimal waste.

During the remainder of the 19th century, more refinements further reduced the ripple effect (although still evident when viewed obliquely), while the cost of glass panes dropped substantially. State-of-the-art until the 20th century, cylinder glass supported the transition from the small pane Georgian windows through to the largely uninterrupted windows of the Queen Anne.

ARCH | TEXT: with Brian Marshall

History of glass: Part 2

A six-over-six window with early-cylinder glass pane. (Supplied photo)

For the British in the throngs of the Industrial Revolution, it was unacceptable that the making of glass was an artisanal process. There was nothing that couldn’t be made better, faster and cheaper. The Chance brothers in England, having witnessed the new methods developed in France and Germany to the ancient cylinder glass technique, recognized this process, unlike crown glass, would lend itself to industrialization. In 1832, they began producing cylinder glass on a major scale. While still dependent on glassblowers, the technique was simpler; a tall narrow ‘bottle’ (ideally more than five feet high and one foot in diameter) was blown, then cooled prior to the top and bottom being removed and the resultant cylinder cut longitudinally. Thus prepared, it was reheated in an oven until it stumped into flat plates measuring over 18” wide by up to 60” long. While the resultant glass plates still had ripples and occlusions they were less pronounced than in crown glass, and could be cut into larger panes with minimal waste. During the remainder of the 19th century, more refinements further reduced the ripple effect (although still evident when viewed obliquely), while the cost of glass panes dropped substantially. State-of-the-art until the 20th century, cylinder glass supported the transition from the small pane Georgian windows through to the largely uninterrupted windows of the Queen Anne.

Brian Marshall

Assistant, The Hilburn Guide to Architectural House Styles

Direct: 416.414.4235
Fax: 416.236.2233
Email: info@hilburnhouseguide.ca
Website: www.hilburnhouseguide.ca

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905.359.2270
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Virgil figure skater headed to national championships

Austin Broad
Special to TLR

When Kyra Marotta set her sights on representing the Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club at a national level three years ago, she meant business.

Just three years later, at the age of 16, she’s made her dream a reality.

The lifelong Virgil resident finished seventh place at the provincial championships in Oakville this year, booking her a spot at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge, set to take place in at the Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre in Edmonton from Nov. 28 until Dec. 2.

“She’s super, super excited about it,” said NOTL Figure Skating Club coach Judi Boyle-Krzeczowski.

Marotta said she’s “extremely excited” to have the chance to participate in a national competition at such a young age, and is eager to taking on a new challenge.

“I’m looking forward to the chance to get out there and skate with all new people from across the country, and skate in front of a new panel of judges and to just have fun,” she said, during a celebration at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil on Wednesday.

Competing in the national challenge will be another notch in the belt of the club, and in an already successful career for the young figure skater, who was also the first in the NOTL Skating Club to pass her gold level tests in free-skate, skills, and dance, all in the same season.

She has a strong support system, according to coach Boyle-Krzeczowski, including a dedicated family. “She’s a super hard worker, she trains hard and her parents are totally committed — they put the package together.”

Marotta’s friends and family will be cheering her on as she competes. Anyone interested in joining them can watch the live stream of the competition at, https://skatecanada.ca/2019-skate-canada-challenge/.

Virgil figure skater headed to national championships

Kyra Marotta and coach Jui Boyle-Krzeczowski. (Austin Broad)
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Someone from the group who he could see up the passage there was no rain, it felt like and lightning rumbling the “tunnel.” was conducting part of the years ago. tours are run by Tyler and lightning. Several present and past NAPS investigator’s report performances. In 2015, the Niagara Area investigation of the Niagara historical museum. NAPS investigator’s report states that any ghost that might come out and perform during the night, thereby discouraging of the night and placed few ghostly happenings and a liking to the museum display. One story Upton tells is the weeping was the trooper sergeant major of the king’s dragoon guards. It was not Barracks or just outside the looking dress in a red dress. They have tried to turn on and off, and even waving sleeping guests. Not a gentle or possibly from the judge. The town of NOTL is filled with tales of the paranormal, but who is to say whether there is any truth to it. Personally am quite happy to just write about the tales. I would like to thank my friend Briar Collins for giving me a tour of the Festival Theatre, to Kyle Upton for his stories of Fort George, and a special thank you to Connor MacNeil for the use of his rendition of Sarah Ann. To learn more about this topic you can visit the Niagara Historical Society & Museum website at, www.niagarahistoricalsociety.com, or visit the museum for yourself. The Niagara Historical Museum is located at 43 Castle 

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Ross Robinson  
(#9, Blue Team)  
Submitted

Early each Sunday morning from October until late April, approximately 22 enthusiastic Niagara area hockey lovers show up for their Wallbangers Old Timers game. Both dressing rooms are filled with good-natured banter, and inquiries about each other’s injuries and medical issues. After getting suited up in Blue or Red sweaters, the two captains make last minute line adjustments, in the attempt to produce a close score at the end of the day.

Breakfast at Silk’s Country Kitchen follows the game, and awesome servers Lisa, Jon and Michelle tell us the conversation around the table is much more civilized following high-scoring, penalty-free games. There are no referees at Wallbangers games, so all games are penalty free. On occasion, angry words may be exchanged after bumps along the boards or in the dirty zone in front of the net, but cooler heads always prevail.

Last Sunday at Blue Team’s dressing room, winger and goaltender Sean Simpson went on at some length about his thinking. “There’s lot of advantage to stretching the ice, pulling defensemen back and creating gap challenges. Use the stretch, guy, and take advantage of speed underneath.”

It all seems a bit complicated for our level of hockey, but overall, this results in “an integrated approach to optimize Old Timers hockey.”

Meanwhile, in the Red Team dressing room, smiling Marcel Lounsbury from Rectangle Auto Service and Supply, a third generation source for service, used auto parts and new cars on Cashman Road at Welland Avenue in St. Catharines, was going on about something he had learned at a recent Hockey Canada coaching seminar. “We warfare wingers to say Go. Try the home run pass, and if it is not successful, check down and look for guys underneath.” Several of his teammates looked up from taping on their shin pads and muttered, “Huh?”

This season has seen several new players join Wallbangers hockey. Joe Doria has convinced his high level goal tending buddy Ricky Watson to set his alarm clock for 5:55 a.m. on Sundays, and this quick and slick forward has been a great addition to Blue Team. Ricky has already treated us to a few highlight reel goals, giving a lot a credit to his former kids hockey coach Al Janzen. “He stressed positioning. Don’t go to where the puck is. Go to where the puck is going to be.” Ricky is very patient with his young players, and always has a positive comment as we change lines. We are all trying our best.

There was no talk about the new cannabis legislation, as our various levels of government have made a total gong show, to be polite, of the rollout. Confusion about growing methods, retail and distribution continues, with the ongoing strike at Canada Post further clouding the situation. Bill Dickson and the Wallbangers Competition Committee will meet sometime to draft a league policy regarding this new issue. Think medicine, not drugs, might guide their thinking.

Last Sunday’s game ending in a 6-6 tie. Despite the high score, Blue Team’s defence was stellar, led by rock solid veteran Dave Shantz.

Almost all Wallbangers Old Timers met for breakfast at Silk’s Country Kitchen for camaraderie after a disputed 6-6 tie early last Sunday at Meridian Arena. (Supplied photo)

A stay-at-home player, in the mould (model) of legendary Montreal Canadiens Hall of Famer Doug Harvey, his style of play allows his son Mark (Blue Team captain), Mike Bruce and Josh Wisharyk to be aggressive, jumping into the rush and in some games they score more goals the Blue Team forwards.

After this fun and competitive contest, 18 of the 22 players showered up and made their way to Silk’s Country Kitchen for a debrief. Team captains Carl Glanser and Mark Shantz eventually agreed that my first period lazer like shot to the top right corner over Rob Vanderpek’s shoulder had indeed gone in. It was in and out so fast that play had not been stopped.

Terry St. Amand, owner of the Welland Harvey’s, described this play as “a bewdy-fal thing. A Big Hare.”

This former Merrittville Speedway Sportsmen’s division champion was the only spectator at Meridian Arena, and said he could actually follow our “slow motion hockey.”

But I digress…

Wallbangers Commissioner Bill Dickson had already entered the score in the Official Score record, so to save any hassle, the league office agreed to leave it at 6-6. That way, almost all players are happy, and this is the overriding goal of Wallbangers hockey. A good 167 game with great goals, no injuries, and lots of good-natured banter at Silk’s later.

Resident photos

Local resident Donald O’Connor’s dog Ace enjoys the first snowy walk of the season. (Submitted)

A telephoto shot of Toronto from Brock’s monument. (Frank McPhee/Facebook)
Local pizza maker earns Naples seal

Just off Queen Street in Old Town Niagara-on-the-Lake, two locals are preserving a little slice of Italian heritage.

Husband and wife Laryssa and Maurizio Cesta, owners of Pie’za Pizzeria, have worked hard for years to have the restaurant certified by the Verace Pizza Napoletana (VPN) Association.

This November, their hard work paid off.

“It’s like the VQA of pizza,” explains Laryssa, during an interview at the restaurant.

Maurizio, having been born and raised in Naples, brings authentic Neapolitan pizza-making experience to his kitchen, and has a unique respect for the history of one of the world’s most popular foods.

When it comes to Neapolitan pizza, it’s all about traditional cooking methods, and traditional ingredients, he explains.

“Pizza used to not even have tomatoes.”

The couple is serious about pizza — every aspect of it, including the type of tomatoes used in the sauce, how those tomatoes are shipped and packaged, and the soil the tomatoes are grown in — having flown to meet the family who farms them.

They use only the highest grade of Italian certified San Marzano tomatoes, grown in volcanic soil, and they are shipped in ceramic-lined cans, so they stay sweet and don’t adopt a metallic taste, says Maurizio.

Those ovens “cannot hold the temperature that well. So the pizza used to come crispy.”

“If you bake at 750 degrees, it’s called a shock style so when they didn’t have these types of ovens, it was impossible.”

Maurizio could probably talk about pizza, dough, tomatoes, and tomatoes for hours and hours — Laryssa too, but as she admits, she “doesn’t touch the pizza.”

One of the reasons why, until 30 years ago, they didn’t have many pizzerias Napoletanas around the world, was because of the ovens. Most of the ovens were electric and gas,” he said.

Those ovens “cannot hold the temperature that well. So the pizza used to come crispy.”

“The oven is between 60 and 70 per cent of the pizza ... 30 per cent are the ingredients ... I would say the pizza maker is about one per cent.”

Maurizio

And while the main ingredients are as authentically Italian as one will find, Laryssa and Maurizio do step into the local market too, sourcing most of their cheese from Ontario producers.

“The oven is between 60 and 70 per cent of the pizza ... 30 per cent are the ingredients ... I would say the pizza maker is about one per cent,” says Maurizio.

“It’s all relative, cause you can have 99 per cent, and if you’re missing that one percent ...”

As Maurizio says, “pizza is the mother of the bread.”

“The original pizza is the margherita — the one with tomatoes, mozzarella and basil,” he said.

He recently got a letter from the VPN association that says it’s mandatory that if margherita pizza is on the menu, it has to be called by its traditional name.

The pizzeria is just like any you’d find in Naples, Maurizio says.

“We were just there and we went to one of the oldest pizzerias in Napoli — Matozzi — that has been there since 1833. The original name was ‘two rooms,’ because it started with one room and eventually they got to the second floor.”

The simplicity in the name is reflective of the simplicity of these early pizzas, Maurizio says.

“They tried to stick to very simple and basic ingredients, and then they add.”

In Canada, we “have a bit more freedom.”

While most traditional pizza restaurants typically only have five or six kinds of pizza, Maurizio feels free to explore a bit.

One special he cooked up for the paper is his mushroom, truffle pizza with a large portion of mozzarella and burrata cheeses.