Chautauqua residents coming around to severance application

Christian Coulombe
Staff

Chautauqua residents are slowly coming together in support of a rezoning application for Circle Street. Although they don’t fully support the original proposed dwelling, they do support the severing of the Niagara-on-the-Lake lot.

“I am not really here to oppose this particular proposal but we do have something worthwhile to say,” said Victor Tarnoy, a Wilberforce Street resident, during the first Committee of the Whole meeting this year. He said residents decided they would rather see the lot split than allowing for larger development in the future.

“We sit down and talked about our ideals and it’s not that we’re against small properties or subdividing,” he said. “In fact I think a common sentiment amongst all of us would be better to sever the property than leave it as a great big property that might invite a great big house, which would be out of keeping and out of character for our neighbourhood.”

Susan Wheeler, planner for the 6 Circle St. project, presented the updated plans for the property. The Nov. 21 open house had such a high turnout, and so many concerns from local residents, Lord Mayor Betty Disero agreed a second public meeting would be held.

Previously, residents were concerned about the front yard setback, the validity of the arborist report, the location of the driveway, the streetscape and the location of a 75-foot silver maple tree.

The original application for rezoning included plans to sever the lot into two new lots with one being a triangular pie shape. Continued on Page 6
Garrison Village man hopes fellow dog owner will come forward after vicious attack

Richard Harley

Joel Donaghy is hoping a man whose dog attacked his dog on Dec. 18 will come forward to take responsibility for the incident — or at the very least apologize.

Donaghy, whose house backs onto a park in Niagara-on-the-Lake's Garrison Village, had just opened his gate to take his three terrier-poodles for a walk, when a larger black dog attacked his dog Poppy.

"The dog wouldn't release its grip," said Donaghy, clearly emotional about the incident.

Once the attacking dog did let up, Donaghy picked Poppy up in a panic and brought her immediately inside the house. By the time Donaghy went back out to confront the man, he and dog had fled the scene.

Poppy ended up with 22 stitches in her side, and according to Donaghy, the vet immediately inside the house.

Donaghy didn't get a good look at the dog owner, but said the dog was large and looked similar to a schnauzer or a bouvier des flandres, with "beautiful black fur."

Both dogs were off-leash during the incident. Donaghy said most dog owners in the area know they're responsible for their pets, whether on or off leash. Poppy is currently resting up at home and in good spirits, and Donaghy said he's contacted local animal control and encouraged anyone who may know something about the incident to report it.

This story has been updated to include a more accurate description of the attacking dog.

One week left to apply for Town committees

Brittany Carter

Looking to contribute to Niagara-on-the-Lake in a productive and positive way? The Town of NOTL is looking for dedicated residents to join its committees and boards for the 2019-2022 period.

Potential members have until 4 p.m. Jan. 17 to hand in completed applications.

The Town is seeking members of the general public who live, work or own a business in the municipality. Residents with a shared interest in improving and maintaining the standards set in place by the Town are ideal candidates.

The majority of board members work on a volunteer basis and are expected to attend meetings once a month. Peter Todd, town clerk for NOTL, says the members contribute to the development of policies, programs and initiatives that will enhance quality of life for the municipality. "The Town can benefit greatly from citizen volunteer expertise, enthusiasm and civic pride."

While some committees are mandated by legislation, Toddy says they are all valuable. Some of the specifics of the boards have changed over the years, but they say they have been used by the Town for decades. "Likely since the incorporation of the Town."

All boards and committees aim to create a healthy community for residents and visitors by advising on areas of inclusion, community wellness, licensing, urban design and transportation, to name a few.

A full list of committees and boards can be found on the NOTL town website.

Voices of Freedom Park under construction again

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva

Voices of Freedom Park on Regent Street was officially opened on Nov. 2, with the goal of celebrating the town's Black history. However since December of last year, the park's monuments have been covered as the Town is completing its construction.

Kevin Turcotte, manager of parks & recreation for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, said park monuments are currently tented while cement work is being done on the tiles of the park path.

"We have to do it in order to put the tiles in and heat the area so it's the right temperature to set properly," Turcotte said.

When the park originally opened, there was sand in place so that people could experience what the park would be like when completed, he said, explaining that was done so "[The Town] could open it on time."

"I think it’s going to be a great public art installation for years to come."

Turcotte is uncertain when the park will open again, and said he would have to contact the contractors to find out.

"The park was well-supported by the community, local organizations, businesses and people," he added.

"We were really happy with the opening that happened in November."

An in-depth story of the financials behind Voices of Freedom Park is in the works. Check out niagarawnews.com frequently for updates.
**Town to tackle affordable housing options**

Affordable housing is a concern for Glendale resident Amarjog Johal. Johal had advocated for housing to remain affordable for Niagara College students. The Glendale Task Force proposed implementation of a long-term rental bylaw due to alleged Niagara College students living in rowdy, unkempt homes.

The long-term rental bylaw would include a fee for every unit, explained Johal. With this, Johal fears that rents will increase, making housing unaffordable and causing students to move further away from Niagara College.

“If you discourage rentals, where are these people going to go?” said Johal.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the town is planning on keeping the rental licensing fee low, which landlords can write off on their taxes.

Disero also explain that the rental licensing will allow the town to know how many students are in a rental, which would help improve parking requirements in the area.

Corks and Orazo owner, Maria Mavridis, has faced challenges when finding an affordable home close to Niagara-on-the-Lake. She said about 85 per cent of her staff live in Virgil or St. David’s, but can’t afford homes close to downtown NOTL.

“We grew up here, we want to raise out families here. It’s getting harder and harder,” said Mavridis.

The Wellness Committee is set to look into wellness in NOTL, which includes affordable daycare and housing. The final draft of NOTL, Official Plan states that the municipality plans to monitor affordable housing to “meet the needs of households unable to find adequate housing through the private market.”

The completion of the Official Plan has no set date, but a public open house will be planned in mid-February. During this open house, the Official Plan information will be provided for public review.

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**NPC chair position still vacant**

Brittany Carter
Staff

A void was left where previous chair of the Niagara Parks Commission once sat.

As of Nov. 15, 2018, Janice Thomson’s term as chair came to an end, as predeter-

mined at the beginning of her occupancy. The position has yet to be filled. Thomson says it was under her understanding that the Doug Ford government was going to fill the seat, along with many others.

“I was advised that the position would be posted when it became available, but I hadn’t seen any postings yet. It’s their prerogative to fill those positions.”

She says she would like to be considered for the role again.

“I’m very committed to the works of the Parks Commis-

sion. It served the people of Ontario well.”

Over her seven-year tenure, Thomson says, with the help of the Ministry of Tourism, she moved the organization forward from a $76 million operation to a current revenue of $120 million.

“The long-term rental bylaw due to alleged Niagara College students living in rowdy, unkempt homes.

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Editorial: Let’s make 2019 more friendly

Richard Harley
Editor

It happens to a lot of us in this day and age — we develop a tendency to dislike or even despise people we don’t even know based on their online identities.

Whether it’s differing political opinions, favourite sports teams or music tastes, social media is often the modern equivalent of rating fist-fights.

Having grown up going to Niagara District, I liken it to a group of punk teenagers meeting at Harvest Barn to fight at lunchtime.

And in the realms of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s social media groups, this behaviour seems to be more and more prevalent, and people seem to attach such hatred easily.

But really, how often do we get into rating fist-fights over a differing political opinions? For most grown adults, the answer is never.

Yet still, people of all ages hide behind screens to blast out hate towards other people they’ve likely never sat down with in person.

It’s a shame — we get generalization online insulting newcomers purely because they aren’t the same, and newcomers acting the same towards locals, basically calling them rednecks.

It’s a load of rubbish in 2019. We all have Netflix. We all talk to our phones. We’re all human. And odds are if some of the people who argue online were to sit down for a pint or a coffee together in person, some of them would end up as good friends.

There is one saving grace in all of this, and it’s that in the mirror of just about everyone who lives in NOTL, we have one thing in common — we love our town fairly fervently.

It’s been said before, that such a passion should bring us together, not divide us.

In 2019, why not try to keep our reputation as the friendliest town in Canada? Rise above the social media arguments and election results, and embrace what’s here right now.

Get the year filled with hate. It’s a free country.

The paper, however, will to look positively to the future and try to do what’s best for all residents of NOTL in 2019.

editor@niagararenow.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Harley,

Some of your letters to the editor speak disparagingly of Cannery Park in St. Davids. “The finishings in the Model Homes cried ‘cheaply built.’ The homes don’t fit the character of the town!” Also that we belong in Brampton. I’ve seen homes around this area that are little more than shacks with abandoned cars, trucks, shipping containers and who knows what else all over their properties.

Your readers call Cannery Park a slum!! Well excuse me you snobby Citizens of NOTL! Not everyone can afford a sweet little Bijou House in Old Town!

The project was built on scrub land that at one time collected run off water from the Cannery. It looks a lot better than the abandoned field I saw before the houses were built. The model homes were lovely and done up to reflect different budgets! We now have gardens and houses individualized by owners! We will have a new park sometime next year right in the middle of our development. We have a mixture of retired, semi retired, young families and singles! We are a community! If you don’t like us, don’t venture into St. Davids! Stop protesting everything that you don’t like or isn’t done the way you want it! Start being a little more welcoming to new families now who pay the same taxes you do and contribute to the economy! If not for new residents like me NOTL would still be a little backwater town. Oh wait! That’s exactly how you want it to stay! (You are being weekly! I love the paper!)

Earle Vance

Other houses look worse

Dear Mr. Harley,

Today I saw a building under construction that has a traffic light putting the sign on the street. It is quite a unique sight.

Other houses look worse

Virgil needs some space

Central Virgil has become the place where architecture goes to die, all creativity crushed beneath the weight of proliferating uniform square boxes.

Irritated defenders of this “progressive” building often remark “We cannot afford to build pretty villages anymore.” So why not point to that out millions of people travel millions of miles to enjoy the beauty and human comfort of European towns and villages which are not only beautiful but still have shops within walking distance of their individual homes.

Visitors spend millions of dollars to soak up the atmosphere of such charming places. These towns manage to perpetuate their attractive atmosphere by maintaining the old facades and rebuild the interiors or just build with imagination.

I think this is proof positive that we do not have to allow the forces of greed to con- vince us to live in the mass produced plain and cheap so that they can live in the grand and glorious.

Planning by some people who actually care about architecture and the overall landscape of an area can create something of which the inhabitants would be proud.

I don’t believe anyone wants to live in a suburban sprawl where each inhabitant needs a car to reach absolutely anything. Human beings want communities with soul.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is fight- ing to keep this Virgil. She should be fighting to achieve it.

Ann Handels

Requiem for a small town

The little town weeps as change sweeps uniformity over its charm.

The little town gasps for air as the lightning speed of bricks and mortar covers its green spaces and denies its history.

Hotels change the very landscape that the visiting crowds come to enjoy.

The little town begs for reprieve but Profit wields a big stick so the little town breathes a sigh of submission. And becomes another suburb.

Ann Handels

MYAC 2018 recap

December of 2018 was a busy month for the Lord Mayor Youth Advisory Council!

We are happy to report our Second Annual Niagara Youth Holiday Celebration was a great success. We had a full program and a full house as our talented Niagara youth entertained.

The program showcased vocalist, violinists, pianists, the handbell choir, the ukulele club, and many individuals and duets all of who demonstrate that Niagara-on-the-Lake has talent.

Now, we are focused on planning our plans for our Second Grade 8 Health and Wellness Conference in May, 2019. The one-day conference first ran last year for the Grade 8 students from local elementary schools. We had approxi- mately 80 students attend and the feedback was all positive.

This year we are working to provide equally informative, hands-on and interactive workshop sessions, while delivering important messages to help youth navigate mental, emotional, social, and financial wellness.

Promoting teen literacy is also one of the MYAC’s goals and we continue to support the Teen Literary Alliance, a book club designed to bring the best displays of the month at the NOTL Public Library.

To encourage reading, we suggest everyone should start off the new year with a great new book!

There are a few other ideas and surprises we are discussing to bring forward in the near future. Our ideas are dedicated to promoting youth opportunities, a voice, and bringing the community together.

We thank the community for the continued support. We invite all NOTL youth to stay informed and have a voice by following us on Instagram @notllmyac and sharing your ideas on our web page www. jointheconversationnotl.org/ notlyouth.

Bethany Pfohl

In response to Mr. Moorhead

My wife and I have been frequent visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake for many years and have developed an affinity for the people and lifestyle of this town. We are retired and after a lot of contemplation decided to look for a smaller home.

This town was never meant to be on our mind as the place to enjoy our senior years. When an opportu- nity arose to purchase a new home in town we decided to move into the Windsor Development, a small enclave of town houses on Anne Street. These homes may not suit the “ideal” Mr. Moor- head has in mind for his vision of Niagara-on-the-Lake and he is entitled to his opinion. However perhaps more impor-
Ross Robinson
Special to TLR

Faster your seatbelts, son. I will attempt to link a fabu-
loss seven hours with Hazel McCallion on Dec. 3.

Scattered thoughts and
holy of consciousness:
how to capture the energy and
positivity of that road trip?

After Betty Disero was
elected the first female Lord
Mayor of NOTL, a front-
page piece appeared in the
Toronto Sun featuring Disero and NOTL. The next morn-
ing, Hazel called Disero to con-
gratulate her and ask to
attend the Council Inaugural
Meeting on Dec. 3.

Disero arranged for Hazel
to get to and from the meeting.

“Hazel and I did a lot of
work together during my 18 years as councillor in Toronto. A.M.O., etc.
She wants to be here on Dec. 3. We will organize a car to
take her home and back.”

I told her not to worry
about that. “I am your humble
and enthusiastic chauffeur.”

My son, Scott, current vice
principal of McMaster University’s Student
Union, might want to join us.
What a fun opportunity?”

The date was set.

On the afternoon of Dec. 3, at 3:30 p.m., I picked
Scott up from McMaster and
headed to Hazel’s house where Joy Journeaux,
Hazel’s niece visiting from
Gaspe, answered the door.
Looking over my shoulder, she
commented on the snow.

“Look how beautiful the
snowflakes are. I love this
time of year.”

Most people would have
said, “Oh darn, I hope the
highways won’t be slippery. It’s
a long drive to Niagara.”

This was the first positive
comment of the evening. For
the next seven hours, only
positive words and thoughts;
no health comments, no organ
recitals, no bad weather. Hazel
was on the telephone in the
kitchen, solving problems
and helping people, as she
does.

“I want to talk to one
in a room with me and tell
them to solve the problem. I have
thrown many lawyers and
politicians out of rooms.”

As we left, I asked how she
would like to be addressed,
“We will stick to calling you
Mrs. McCallion or Mayor.

McCallion?”

Hazel replied, “You and
Scott will call me Hazel.”

She is gracious, enthusiastic,
personable, patient – a rock
star in her own right. Com-
menting on gas prices, road
signs and adding matter-of-fact
opinions about the state of the
community during the trip.

Driving, I missed a
turn from Erin Mills onto
Hwy 403. Hazel remarked, “I have
called the Roads Department
several times to get that sign
removed.”

I mentioned the new
Credit Valley Hospital. “I suppose
you have a lot to do with that
project. Hazel.”

She said they started plan-
ning that hospital 40 years ago on
her kitchen table. Now, in
the main foyer of the hospital,
her table is on display.

I asked about her leaving
Gaspe when she was 19.

“Yes, Depression was
ending. I went to Quebec City,
then Montreal, business
college. Got a job making $12
a week. $8 went to room
and board, so I had $4 a week left.”

She played hockey on girl’s
teams. “It cost $5 per game.
Great fun. The spectators
loved it. We were good.”

Passing a Petro Canada, Ha-
zel commented on the price.
“A dollar 12.”

She loves speaking to the
generations. “Now, as
Chancellor of Sheridan College,
I get to hand out 2,200 diplo-
mates each spring, to great young
people from around the world.
The President loves when I tell
them about that. “I am your humble
and NOTL. The next morn-
ing, Hazel and Scott will be calling
to solve the problem. I have
in the kitchen, solving prob-
lems, no bad weather.

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Chautauqua residents coming around to severance application

Continued from Front Page

The line severing the two pieces of land “created an awkward pie shaped new lot, uncharacteristic of the neighbourhood,” said Wheler of the original plan. There was also a potential negative impact on the streetscape because of the size and style of the house.

Wheler also agreed with the members of the community on the topic of the silver maple.

“Neighbours were worried the root system would be compromised during the construction phase when we were composing a 2.44 metre setback and they were entirely correct in that assumption,” she said. However, despite technical difficulties with Wheler’s slideshows, council and community members were quickly shown a new design on printed handouts.

According to the new plans, the rear lot line was adjusted to minimize the pie shape which was originally proposed, resulting in a slightly bigger lot area. Parking was also moved to the west side of the new lot, and both properties would now use existing entrance ways eliminating the need to create a new driveway. The proposed 2.44 metre frontyard setback was also changed to 6.7-metres to be more inline with the rest of the properties.

“The end I believe we have made a better plan that is more compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood,” said Wheler. But Tarnoy suggested a different option for severance. He suggested splitting the lot into two equal parts, what’s on other side.

“Tarnoy’s idea could be best for the Town to repave the road before installing parking meters,” said Bisback.

The proposed design needs to be more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, said Wheler. But Tarnoy suggested a different option for severance. He suggested splitting the lot into two equal parts. Tarnoy said Wheler agreed.

“It should be severed to two equal pieces each with an equal frontage, each with an equal area. This creates two reasonable lots that don’t require variances to build residential buildings,” he said. However, other concerns about safety were brought up in regards to the neighbour.

Barry Wilding, a Circle Street resident, mentioned there’s a speeding problem on the street and he’s worried he won’t be able to see traffic coming out of his driveway if his view is obstructed.

“I can’t see from right hand side and my fear is a big house will block my view from coming out of my driveway,” he said. Another Circle Street resident, Tim Johnson, agreed saying when driving clock-wise you can’t see what’s in front of you or what’s coming because of the hedges.

The original proposal had the house too close to the road and cars parked in the driveway would obstruct the view and there would be no way to see what’s on other side. “I’ve seen it so many times where smaller cars, sports cars let’s say, you can’t see what’s coming and people are pushing baby buggies, it’s almost happened,” he said.

“The new proposal seems to be farther back, I haven’t seen how close to the roads the car will park but if you park a long car like a van you’re going to have problems.”

If the severance is approved, the size of the two new lots would be 348 and 496 square metres.

The land owners and planner are working diligently with the Chautauqua community to better their plans and make sure that everyone is happy with the outcome and will continue to do so throughout this process.

“I want to thank lord mayor, council and residents association and the neighbours as well for the input,” said Wheler.

“I really do feel that the process has produced a better design. Obviously the residents have not seen the new design and they’re at a disadvantage and we realize they’d like to take the time to review the design, setbacks, lot configuration and the style and provide feedback as I’m sure the town staff will as well.”

Paving, parking meters in Byron Street’s future

Christian Coulombe Staff

The town of NOTL previously planned for road reconstruction and paid meters to be installed along Byron Street. Those plans were deferred to the 2019 budget.

According to a Town of NOTL report, the capital budget, council approved the installation of parking meters along Byron, between King and Wellington streets, though the budget of $110,000 still needs to be approved.

The budget also doesn’t specify how many parking meters would be installed.

Members of St. Mark’s Church and other community members opposed the decision and install the new road, according to Coun. Allan Bisback.

“I believe there was concern about curbs and gutters that local folks didn’t want,” he said.

Some residents believe a new road could damage nearby trees and ruin the streetscape.

But not all residents feel that way. Local Alicia Farinacci thinks Old Town needs to stay consistent with its heritage, though the road needs to be updated.

“I think people are so focused on how Old Town looks, that they don’t realize what it needs, and Byron Street definitely needs an update,” she said.

The parking along the road is gravel and not ideal for parking lower cars, according to Farinacci.

Both Coun. Allan Bisback and Farinacci think it would be best for the Town to repave the road before installing parking meters.

“I would assume any paving would be in coordination with putting in parking meters,” said Bisback.

He spoke to the director of operations and confirmed there are plans to mill Byron Street and pave the roadway. Operation staff will be holding an open house this year and a full information report is to be provided to council in the near future.

Town seeking sponsorship applicants for new ice resurfacer

Christian Coulombe Staff

The town of NOTL is looking for businesses to help sponsor a new Olympia ice resurfacer for the arenas in Virgil.

The machine will be rotated between the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial arenas in Virgil on a monthly basis, according to a Town notice seeking applicants.

Events held at these arenas include the NOTL Nationals Jr. A team, three major tournaments, and a large figure skating showcase with an attendance of more than 500 people.

Each company is asked to submit a package to the town of NOTL via electronic submission.

The package must contain a company profile, which includes how many years the business has been in the community, a sketch of the proposed design for the machine and a minimum sponsorship of $25,000 over 10 years.

The scoring will be out of 15 points — five points for the profile; five points for the design; and five points for the sponsorship.

The design needs to be ready to be installed within two weeks notice and the cost of the installed design will be on the winning company.

The deadline to submit is Jan. 18, 2019 with the winning company announced Feb. 1, 2019.
Local favourite geese killed in hunting accident

Editor
Richard Harley

Four local domestic geese were recently shot in a hunting accident on the Niagara River, causing a wide uproar in town and on local social media groups.

The geese, known to many locals for years for hanging around the Niagara Docks, had been driven down river by an unusual amount of people trying to fish brown trout.

A group was legally goose hunting along the river in a boat when they came upon the local gaggle. A young hunter fired after being instructed not to by a more senior hunter.

The young hunter was given a stern talk to about what happened, according to local Alan Plut, who claims to have the full information.

The young hunter only fired once, killing four geese and wounding another. The injured goose was later put down by the Humane Society due to extensive injuries.

Local hunters have criticized other media outlets for poor reporting of the incident, claiming the story was sensationalized to shine a bad light on hunting. Goose hunting along the Niagara River is legal from Sept. 6 to Jan. 5, except for Sundays, with no daily bird limit.

- With files from Brittany Carter.

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

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

FISHERY
At The Legion
Every Thursday
4:30 - 7:30pm

410 KING ST. NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

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

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SHAW FESTIVAL
FILM SERIES

Jan 12 BlackKkKlansman
Jan 19 I Feel Pretty
Jan 26 Green Book (TBC)
Feb 2 Colette
Feb 9 Can You Ever Forgive Me?
Feb 16 A Star is Born (TBC)

(TBC) Films still to be confirmed.

Saturdays at 3pm
Doors open at 1:30pm

Festival Theatre
Single tickets $12

shawfest.com/films
905-468-2172

Advance and same day tickets available at the Shaw Festival Box Office. All prices include tax. Presented by the Shaw Festival in association with Film Circuit, a division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group.

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Swimming like a penguin

Richard Harley
Editor

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, certain events have become winter staples — the Candlelight Stroll, the Christmas Parade and the Icewine Festival are a few which never fail to draw crowds.

But another local tradition, one that may seem rather wild, is the act of submerging oneself into the freezing cold waters of Lake Ontario during the depths of winter. For decades a group of local “penguins” has gathered at Ball’s Beach in Niagara-on-the-Lake to take the frigid plunge on Boxing Day.

Exactly how many years it’s been taking place was a little hazy — perhaps due to the cold water in the ears — but many who have been dipping since the beginning agreed it was the 43rd annual Penguin Dip.

About 12 people participated this year, while a crowd of about 20 people watched.

The number seemed rather low to Chris Bjorgan, who has been dipping for more than 35 years.

Some years have seen as many as 50 people participating, he said.

He suspects part of the reason this year’s turnout was one of the lowest in decades is because there really “wasn’t much of a challenge,” with the temperature being so warm for December.

In 2017, and in most other years, the mouth of the River was still fairly cold. According to the penguins, the dip first took place in 1975 on the former Ball property next to the beach. Mary Ball, whose mother owned the house, was in attendance this year.

Originally the “penguin swim” took place in April, she said, but for about the last 25 years it’s taken place on Boxing Day. It was then when the tradition truly came to life, with rules being made that each participant must dip three times, three years in a row, to become an official penguin.

Back then, there used to be a wood furnace in the house, which people would use to warm up between plunges. In modern times, the penguins keep the tradition (and themselves) alive by getting a trailer with a heater to serve the same purpose.

Ball claims she was the first one to call the group “penguins.” Since then, there have been record books, trophies, banners, shirts and more. Much of it has been lost, but The Lake Report intends to dig up as much information as possible for a future story.

The group of penguins traditionally ends up heading to a local tavern to warm up and celebrate. This year was no different, with the penguins heading to the Sandtrap Pub & Grill for a bite and a cold one.

Donations were collected after the swim in support of Red Roof Retreat.

Newark Neighbours helps 33 families during holidays

Christina Manocchio
Staff

In December, 33 families in need had a full, fruitful Christmas thanks to Newark Neighbours and the community, individuals and families will receive gifts, a full Christmas dinner and two weeks’ worth of groceries thanks to the community’s donations and support.

Ten of those families have children aged one to 18 that receive gifts relative to their age group, and even adults receive gifts for Christmas. The organization tried to get gifts that children and families requested, explained Pat Hicks, gift coordinator at Newark Neighbours.

Food packages at Newark Neighbours.

“We have everything from baby toys … to a telescope … and globes. Someone wanted a clock radio for their room … we even have an Eazy Bake Oven in there,” said Hicks.

The families will receive two weeks’ worth of food due to the food bank being closed over the holiday season.

“We are just blown away every year, and as our food clients come in and families come in and gather up our gifts, it’s a really emotional time,” says Hicks.

The local Sparks (Girl Guides of Canada, aged five to six) decorated over 40 bags for the families, each one filled with gifts and other items. The organizations primary source of income is from their thrift shop, which includes clothing for adults and children, homemakers and electronics. They have seen an increase of donations and sales as a result of their efforts to promote the charity.

“We have a thrift shop that 100 per cent of the proceeds support the food bank,” said Cindy Gratt, who is a board member with the organization.

Families in need are able to pick up necessities like shampoo, feminine hygiene products and food, every two weeks. The funding also allows families with dietary restrictions to purchase food at the grocery store for themselves. Families who belong to the food bank are eligible to the food bank are eligible to the food bank are eligible for the organization’s Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

Twelve dedicated penguins showed up to take a frigid plunge into Lake Ontario this Boxing Day.

Local resident Pat Quinn has been taking the penguin plunge for the last 39 years.

He and his father came down to join in after seeing the crowd gathering from a nearby window. It didn’t take Fin long to decide he wanted to join in.

It wasn’t even cold, he said. Others, like Sam Quinn, who has been dipping most of her life, seemed to agree it was still fairly cold.

“wasn’t much of a challenge,” with the temperature being so warm for December.

“penguins.”
The 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron is calling out to Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to take part in a bottle drive on Jan. 12, 2019. The annual drive raises money to support cadet training and programming.

“It’s a big operation – we have over 30 to 40 volunteers that day, sorting bottles, packaging them, getting them all packed into the truck, and then driving them over to the depot,” said Gary Zalepa, chair of the squadron sponsoring committee, which is made up of volunteer parents.

“Over Christmas, over the holidays, hopefully people are partaking. If they could store their bottles, we’ll be coming by to pick them up Saturday, Jan. 12.”

Twice a year, in January and September, the cadets and parent volunteers meet at Van Noort’s Greenhouses on Hunter Road. Parents will chauffeur the cadets door-to-door through Old Town collecting empty wine, beer and liquor bottles before sorting and redeeming them at the local beer store.

“They’re ringing doorbells and they’re saying, ‘Do you have empty bottles that you’d like to donate to the air cadets?’,” said Christine Lett, treasurer of the sponsoring committee.

“We’ll be going door to door, so even if they just put them in box on their front porch, we’ll pick it up and take it,” said Lett.

“It’s a great way to support the youth in our community,” said Sandra Gowans, board member of the sponsoring committee.

Last year, the squadron raised more than $11,000 to support this year’s programming and training, which helped train the air cadets in everything from outdoor survival skills training to compass training to glider training to aviation simulator training, along with the rental costs to support their weekly training at the Croatian National Centre on Line 3 Road in NOTL.

“A lot of the sponsoring funds go to the glider training,” said Gowans.

“Because they’re air cadets, we want to get them up in the air, and those are big expenses – with all the fundraising, we need to get those dollars to get them up in the air and run the other programming.”

“We also have a power flight. We take them up in a plane and a properly trained officer takes them through what they have to do for that – which is really cool,” added Zalepa.

Twelve dedicated penguins showed up to take a frigid plunge into Lake Ontario this Boxing Day.

The project isn’t new and the committee expressed that without the support of the community from bottle donations, it would make it “extremely hard for the staff to run the program.”

“So save your bottles, it’s a very easy to contribute to the squadron,” said Lett.

“We also have ongoing collections where locals can drop off their empties at any time,” added Neeti Mehrotra, secretary of the sponsoring committee.

Empty bottles can be dropped off to 901 East West Line in NOTL, located behind the McDonald’s. A trailer with signage that reads, “Air Cadets Bottle Drive Drop Off,” is available to the public for bottle donations.

The air cadets are always encouraging more youth to join the 809 Newark squadron.

“We welcome any youth from ages 12 to 18 to come out – girls and boys,” said Gowans. “It’s a phenomenal program, they learn so much and get such great opportunities.”

Queen’s Landing building outdoor wedding venue

The Queen’s Landing hotel is creating an outdoor venue beside its current property. It purchased the two lots beside the hotel two years ago, according to Lily Kszan, general manager of the hotel.

“Today, we’re seeing the changes while on a walk, but couldn’t find answers to what was going on,” said Kszan.

“Now that the trees are bare, the large white pergola at the hill’s edge is very visible from below on Ricardo Street,” she says. “We believe it is a new structure. We went up the hill to investigate, and saw the new stone steps linking the two vacant properties to the Queen’s Landing front parking area.”

The space will be used for wedding ceremonies, specifically for brides who are having their reception at the hotel, says Kszan. It will also be used for wedding receptions.

“Some concerns from local residents include late night noise, but if they follow the current noise bylaw, Queen’s Landing has their support. “As long as the dance music doesn’t go beyond 11 p.m., we are okay with it,” says Cornell. “We already get the wedding reception music from the events held at Navy Hall overlooking the south side of King’s Point.”

The project isn’t new and has been in the works for some time but is expected to be completed by spring of this year.

“We have been talking about the need for outdoor wedding space for years,” says Kszan. “The ability to do it overlooking the Niagara River is perfect.”

Queen’s Landing building outdoor wedding venue

Queen’s Landing hotel (Christian Coulombe)

Queen's Landing collecting bottles Jan. 12

Christian Coulombe Staff

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It will be a completely fenced in area with two sections, she says. The lower area will be for pre-ceremony cocktails and the main event will be held in the upper area.

“Hear Better Niagara

Niagara-on-the-Lake 1630 Niagara Stone Road 905-468-4999

Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test
### Sunday
- **Legion Fish Fry Every Thursday!**
- **Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Council Meeting - 6 p.m.** - Council Chambers
- **Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** - Niagara Regional Native Centre

### Monday
- **Power Off and Play - 11 a.m. to noon** - NOTL Public Library
- **Chair Yoga - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Dance Niagara - 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre

### Tuesday
- **NOTL Icewine Festival - Noon to 5 p.m.** - Queen Street Heritage District
- **Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** - Niagara Regional Native Centre
- **Beer & Books: Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** - The Old Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar

### Wednesday
- **Power Off and Play - 11 a.m. to noon** - NOTL Public Library
- **Chair Yoga - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **Dance Niagara - 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
- **NOTL Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting: Rose Bartel - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** - NOTL Community Centre
CALENDAR

Jan.10 - Jan.26

Tuesday
Bridge Seniors Casual Drop-in: Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Sensiors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Niagara Pumphouse Drop In: Artists’ Cafe - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

Wednesday
Day: 8:30 - 10 a.m.
Practical Genealogy - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Bridge Seniors Drop-in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
DNA Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Social - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre
Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library

Thursday
Bridge Seniors Casual Drop-in: Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Fish Fry at the Legion - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion
Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Icebreakers Comedy Festival - 7 p.m. - Oast House Brewery

Friday
Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library
Wayne Gates Office - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Icebreakers Comedy Festival - 7 p.m. - Oast House Brewery

Saturday
Royal Canadian Air Cadet’s Bottle Drive Fundraiser - Old Town Council Workshop: Leading the Way: Civil and Respectful Workplaces - 9:30 a.m. - Council Chambers
NOTL Icewine Festival - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Queen Street Heritage District
St. John’s Babysitting Course - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
Women’s March NOTL - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Simcoe Park
Icewine Cocktail Competition - 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Queen Street Heritage District
From the 1930s until the mid-1950s, Simcoe Park was flooded each winter by the Niagara fireman to make an outdoor skating rink. A solid board fence enclosed the ice rink and a small building heated with a wood burning stove was where we put our skates on.
NOTL has a thirst for live jazz

Brittany Carter

Bringing jazz to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Twilight Jazz Series recently expanded its showcase to offer an outlet for local jazz fans. On the third Sunday of every month until June 2019, Cork’s Playhouse Theatre will feature a steady flow of jazz musicians. Fans can also still expect shows at Malley Caff and Lounge in St. Catharines on the first Sunday of the month throughout the series.

Juliet Dunn, executive director, artistic producer and co-creator of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival, says she saw an opening for more jazz in NOTL. “A lot of residents of NOTL really liked jazz. The timing was just right.”

Dunn says there are a lot of great venues for live rock and alternative music in the area, but jazz was something she felt was lacking.

Each month boasts a new theme showcasing a variety of jazz styles. Part of its aim is to show music-goers that jazz isn’t as static as expected. She says some people hear the word jazz and they have certain expectations. “The word jazz has a stigma around it.”

She’s trying to show them that it can be so much more.

Dunn updated the marketing angle to attract a variety of people. With themed shows each month she says they can showcase a wider range of styles, drawing people out that otherwise might not have attended.

“Everything this season has sold out so far. Changing the marketing angle has helped a lot.”

Employing a variety of jazz musicians, the festival aims to keep things local. Dunn says that while she strives to hire local artists, she also brings some in from all over. “Part of our mandate is to employ local musicians. It’s nice to help and contribute to what they can offer.”

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

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The bricks behind the barley

Christina Manocchio

Bricks & Barley opens Jan. 25. (Christina Manocchio)

Virgil is about to get a new place to watch sports, listen to live music and grab a bite to eat. Bricks & Barley is an upscale sports bar, featuring 24 local beers and an award winning chef.

The idea to open a restaurant occurred when the property came up for sale. Eymann asked a friend and cousin to join his dream to open a restaurant.

Bricks & Barley will be the first upscale sports bar in Virgil.

“There was a huge demand for a restaurant of this caliber, this style. People needed a change, so we thought we’d give them that change,” said John Eymann, owner and manager of Bricks & Barley.

The menu will feature typical sports bar food, like hamburgers and poutine, but also feature steaks and broasted chicken (deep fried in a pressure cooker).

Head chef Jeremy Clarke Gillian was a former member of Junior Culinary Team Canada, which ranked sixth in the world and won silver and gold in the Culinary Olympics. In 2016, he won the judge’s choice in the Community Care Downtown Chili Cook Off in St. Catharines.

The menu has a special take on typical bar food. They feature items like deep fried dill coins, instead of the entire pickle.

“We have some of your normal sports bar fare mixed with some elements of fine dining,” said Gillian.

Their pulled pork sandwiches aren’t just your run of the mill simmered meat, it’s competition style. Meaning, it’s smoked for at least 12 hours. Once the smoke house is built in the back, they plan on doing competition style ribs. They will also feature wood oven pizzas, with a dill pickle pizza on the menu.

“We’re not going to leave here hungry, you’re going to get a good portion of food,” said Gillian.

In the future, the restaurant will feature a 15-person, fine dining room with a five course tasting menu with one sitting a night.

“That way you create a buzz like ‘oh I want to get in there.’” said Gillian.

A soft opening is planned for Jan. 18 and 19. Local rock band Vinyl Flax is set to perform on the grand opening Jan. 25.

Bricks & Barley

Virgil

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

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

Have some fun

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James O’Connor* & Margie van Gelder*

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Creek Road
Paints
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Thank you Virgil for 60 years! We look forward to seeing you at the new location.
Nature’s lens with Owen Bjorgan: What do Niagara and this tiny area of Australia have in common?

Owen Bjorgan
Biophilic World
Featured

Greetings from Australia! I hope everyone has been soaking up their holidays and staying warm. Staying warm for me hasn’t been the issue whatsoever. Christmas in the Land Down Under might mean dust storms, cyclones, and 40 degree heat, but this isn’t the Australia you likely imagine. Perhaps you’re conjuring up images of red dirt, endless horizons, and stark rocky landscapes. That’s fair, as that is what the vast majority of this country looks like. I’m tucked into a luxuriant forest, which is a life zone covering less than one per cent of Canada’s landmass, but it is the species rich area in the nation. Likewise, Queensland’s tropical rainforests also cover less than one per cent of Australia, but they harbor the most unique and biodiverse ecosystems the country can offer. Another noteworthy parallel is that both regions have reefs of tourists and their own baggage of environmental issues. This is why I make Hidden Corners nature documentaries, to promote the undeniable importance of these areas to both the local and outside world. One major initiative that the Queensland government latched onto in the 1980s was to put the value of these rainforests on legislative paper, as if to say, “Hey, wait a minute, these forests are so precious that we have to explore it, breathing in the primal air that steams from it. We’re surrounded by a sea of 20th Century asphalt shingled roofs. Tinplate, a thin iron sheet coated with tin & a little lead to inhibit rust, was produced in the U.K. and used extensively in Canada as roofing. In fact, it was so popular in our market through the 18th & 19th Centuries that an 1892 Scientific American edition referred to it as “Canada Plate”. Easy to work with and relatively inexpensive, it could be installed in sheets joined by standing seams or as shingles (some with fanciful embossed designs) which were very often painted. Sadly, in Niagara, very few tinplate roofs have survived.

Surrounded by the Carolinian forest, wood shingles crafted from eastern white cedar, white pine or white oak was a ‘natural’ roofing for Niagara homes. Properly installed (three layered on lattice, etc.) and regularly maintained, these shingles had a lifespan of roughly 50 years. Interestingly, it was considered good practice to coat these roofs with a mixture of brick dust & fel oil or a paint made of linseed oil and iron oxide... but it does beg the question: How did the neighbourhood smell on a hot summer day? Over the holidays I discovered kicking one’s own butt is physically impossible. Despite my wife’s ‘kind’ offer to do it for me, I decided to settle for smacking my forehead and feeling like a Homer Simpson clone. You see, I’d forgotten one of my own cardinal rules; to-wit: Always ask for input because, unless you’re God, nothing worthwhile will be created in a vacuum. So folks, you can help me out. Is there something you’d like to see addressed in an Arch-I-Text column? Is there something about the architecture of your (or someone else’s) home which has you scratching at your head? Feel free to send me an email at homegudes.ca@gmail.com and we’ll get it addressed. Happy New Year and thanks for reading!

Brian

FEATURES

Niagara-on-the-Lake

BY BRITTANY CARTER

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc would like to thank all the residents and business of the area for another successful Food & Toy Drive. The drive collected well over 1,000 lbs of non-perishable donations, cash and toy donations to help Niagara residents in need.

A temporary exhibition is on display in the main gallery at the museum, located at 43 Cauterest St. in Old Town NOTL.

We’re surrounded by a sea of 20th Century asphalt shingled houses and one roof looks much like the next. But, if you lived in Niagara during the 1800’s, what kept the rain out of your house? For most folks, the answer would have been either tinplate or wood shingles.

Tinplate, a thin iron sheet coated with tin & a little lead to inhibit rust, was produced in the U.K. and used extensively across Canada as roofing. In fact, it was so popular in our market through the 18th & 19th Centuries that an 1892 Scientific American edition referred to it as “Canada Plate”. Easy to work with and relatively inexpensive, it could be installed in sheets joined by standing seams or as shingles (some with fanciful embossed designs) which were very often painted. Sadly, in Niagara, very few tinplate roofs have survived.

Surrounded by the Carolinian forest, wood shingles crafted from eastern white cedar, white pine or white oak was a ‘natural’ roofing for Niagara homes. Properly installed (three layered on lattice, etc.) and regularly maintained, these shingles had a lifespan of roughly 50 years. Interestingly, it was considered good practice to coat these roofs with a mixture of brick dust & fel oil or a paint made of linseed oil and iron oxide... but it does beg the question: How did the neighbourhood smell on a hot summer day? Over the holidays I discovered kicking one’s own butt is physically impossible. Despite my wife’s ‘kind’ offer to do it for me, I decided to settle for smacking my forehead and feeling like a Homer Simpson clone. You see, I’d forgotten one of my own cardinal rules; to-wit: Always ask for input because, unless you’re God, nothing worthwhile will be created in a vacuum. So folks, you can help me out. Is there something you’d like to see addressed in an Arch-I-Text column? Is there something about the architecture of your (or someone else’s) home which has you scratching at your head? Feel free to send me an email at homegudes.ca@gmail.com and we’ll get it addressed. Happy New Year and thanks for reading!

Brian

Keeping the rain out

With Brian Marshall

Keeping the rain out

With Brian Marshall

Historical Society showcasing history through art

Brittany Carter
Staff

This winter the Niagara Historical Society & Museum is offering a chance to discover Niagara-on-the-Lake’s history through local art. A temporary exhibition called Paintings of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be on display until May 4, featuring works by local artists, including Lane. Shavna Butts, acting curator of the Niagara Historical Society Museum, says the museum acquired 16 paintings from Lane’s family in 2014 — many of which have never previously been shown at the museum. Butts says the museum is lucky to have so many pieces by Lane.

A “lot of her paintings from that period really highlight a unique time in NOTL history. They offer a kind of insight into a time in NOTL that was maybe a little more quiet.”

Many other residents who tried to capture NOTL in art will be featured as well. RJR Pottery, a trio working with local clay sourced from Queenston and NOTL ponds will also have pieces on display. Francis Granger, another artist who will be featured, was not an artist by trade, according to Butts. Granger was commissioned by the first curator of the museum to paint unique aspects of NOTL history.

“He certainly had a passion for it,” Butts says.

She thinks residents should check out the exhibit to see what the museum carries in its collection.

“I think a lot of people are shocked by how much artwork the museum does have in its collection. Some people think we’re mostly archives and three-dimensional objects. We do in fact have quite an extensive art collection.”

The temporary exhibition is on display in the main gallery at the museum, located at 43 Cauterest St. in Old Town NOTL.
Consecutive Wallbangers games end in disappointing ties, rule changes considered

Ross Robinson
(#9 Blue Team)
Special to TLR

Submitted by Ross Robinson. The weekly Sunday morning Wallbangers Old Timers Hockey Game ended in a fairly exciting 7-7 tie earlier this week. Red Team, captained by Carl Glauser, held a 6-1 lead half way through the third period, but tenacious checking and great work along the half walls allowed Blue Team to tie the game with only 34 seconds left. Ken “Svenny Greer” lazard had a buzzy pass to Greg Wight who one timed it home past Neil Roberts. Seconds earlier, Evan McCaughey and J. R. Lewis have had hat tricks. Evan McCaughey and J. R. Lewis have had hat tricks.

The age gap on the Wallbangers roster has caused some problems in the past few years. To that end, an Ad Hoc Rules Committee has been formed, comprised of three aging veterans. League Commissioner Bill Dickson is working with smooth skating native Phil Torell and rugged defenceman Marcel Lounsbury. Marcel played his hockey on the very chilly outdoor rinks and ponds of Rouyn-Noranda in northern Quebec. He brings a keen sense of fair play to Wallbanger hockey, with skaters of various abilities enjoying the game without being hamstrung by referees. Let the cam-pers run the camp, and all that. Having a Rules Committee sounds rather formal, but is a necessary step. Should the mandate of the Rules Committee be to intelligently guide the evolution of the game, or to protect the status quo? Players get bigger, players get stronger, and lucky players get older. The rules must be modified to reflect new realities. For example, this season we have limited players to a maximum of three goals per game. After a third goal, the superstar must pass off to a teammate, sharing the thrill of the puck bulging the twine.

If a player scores a fourth goal, the opposing team is credited with goal. This rule was borrowed from Ball Hockey International in St. Catharines. Already this year, relative youngsters Ben Glassner, Evan McCaughey and J. R. Lewis have had hat tricks. Terry Nord, a really good hockey player, had two goals and a cross bar just before Christmas. Amazingly, J. R. Lewis, who can play well as both a forward and a goaltender, had forgotten his regular skates, and had his third goal game wearing his heavy goalie skates. Instead of the squeak, squeak sound of hollow ground skates, we heard a weird clunk, clunk sound as J. R. moved up and down the ice. Nobody enjoys the game of hockey more than J. R. And, he is a true raconteur on the bench, while most of us struggle to get our wind for our next shift.

Another rule change being considered is how to end a game. Should a time limit buzzer halt proceedings, even if the game is tied? Surely, not a wimpy coin toss? Should a quick and tidy shoot out declare a winner? We could shorten our warm-up, and if the game is tied at 8:10 a.m., the rink attendant could sound the buzzer. Simultaneously, one player from each team would skate in on a breakaway. In the unlikely even both players score, another quick round. We would be very cognizant of our 8:20 finish time, so as not to grab any of Frank McIntyre’s time to follow. We’ll see where this goes. Another possible step forward for Wallbangers hockey will be a Coaching Certification course. Most Sunday mornings, a few players are missing. Life does get in the way. Business trips, vacations, sickness, malfunctioning alarm clocks, late, late Saturday nights, so many things. This often causes a discussion during the warmup between Captains Glauser and Captain Shantz, moderated by Commissioner Dickson.

A few players may be traded, in the attempt to even things up. The causes the traded players to be a bit out of sync. Both teams should use the same break out patterns, foreaching strategies, etc. This would allow seamless movements of players between teams.

Or am I overthinking this?

There is no worry about PK and PP systems, because Wallbanger hockey has no referees to create PK and PP situations.

Slow motion hockey is fun to watch, and plenty of seats are always available at the Meridian Arena in Virgil Sundat mornings at 7 a.m.

Wallbangers veterans Marcel Lounsbury (above) and Phil Torell (below) have agreed to sit on a committee to review and perhaps modify the Official Rules of Wallbanger Hockey. Commissioner Bill Dickson will be chair of this Ad HOC committee.

NOTL Hydro food gives back big during the holidays

Christina Manocchio
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro and the community came together during the holiday season, in an effort to make the holidays brighter for a number of local families.

As part of its eight-year food drive, NOTL Hydro collected donations from the public during the Christmas parade and community members dropped off donations at the hydro office in Virgil.

“Most people go out of their way to have fun and to watch … This is one way people can be giving back," said Tim Curtis, president of NOTL Hydro.

The company estimates it received more than 100 toys and more than 1,000 pounds of food in donations this holiday season. Brooke Mosher, manager, conservation and administration at NOTL Hydro, said more of the community is starting to remember the food and toy drive. "A lot of people bring stuff to the parade to give us." said NOTL Hydro has been supporting Newark Neighbours with donations for the last eight years. Newark Neighbours has a limit of 10 families that receive toys, so NOTL Hydro allocated toys and food to Gillian’s Place and Project SHARE.

In the new year, NOTL Hydro is starting a tree fund campaign. When hydro customers sign up for e-billing, the funds saved will be dedicated to planting trees within the community.

Donations were made during the annual Santa Clause Parade. (Courtesy of NOTL Hydro)
OBITUARIES & MEMORIALS

Luci Vaandering
October 3, 1948 - December 28, 2017

A year has passed and with it my first Christmas without you. Where have you gone Sweetie? Your ‘Celebration of Life’ last May proved your importance to others. The overwhelming show of love, respect and support cannot be denied. The void in many hearts shall never be filled. Your laughter, your never ending sense of humour, your warmth and dedication to me and Jimmy and Joe and countless others are so deeply missed. You were my best friend, my first mate, my loyal supporter, my lover.... my everything. Ben looks for you often but has finally accepted his love.....so sad! I miss you, I love you, I think of you daily. Rob

Terence “Terry” William Hardy
May 12, 1943 - December 13, 2018

HARDY, Terence “Terry” William - Born May 12, 1943 in Roxford, England died peacefully at his home in NOTL surrounded by immediate family and friends on Dec 13, 2018. He leaves behind his loving wife & soulmate Sandra (Kesselman), sons Russell (Sophia) and Matthew (Jennifer), grandchildren Adam (Erin), Owen and Tessa and many friends. A lifelong civil engineer; past president of Ainamey & Associates; past Chair of The Consulting Engineers of Ontario and past President of Ontario Public Works Association. He was also the founder of the Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis support group of Niagara. Terry had a passion for language, diction and music and shared this with all those who would listen! He will always be with us, his spirit will be wearing a wizard’s hat. He has indeed moved mountains and was valiant until the very end. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, Cpfic (donations@terry-hardy-fund) or to NOTL community Palliative Care Service (905) 468-4433. A celebration of life will take place at a time during the spring months. Memories and condolences may be shared at: www.morganfuneral.com.

Renate Hamm
October 3, 1938 - December 28, 2017

HAMM, Renate - September 23rd, January 7, 2019
Peacefully slipped into Glory from Pleasant Manor (Heronage Place), Virgil on Monday, January 7, 2019 as her Lord and Saviour called her home. Beloved wife of the late Kurt Hamm Sr. (2008). Loving and caring mother of Bernt (Linda), AB, Gudrun (Nick) Guardina, Wieland (Dorothy), Dirk (Dorien), MI and Kurt Jr. Dearly loved and admired by her grandchildren Adrianna (Brian), Dale, Alicia (Nicks), Anita, Peter, Nicolaos, Craig (Lindsey), Lisa (Marty), Melanie (Jason), Clayton and great grandchildren, Dylan, Adrie, Lexi, Kaitlyn, Becca, Manley, Burke and Anna. Renate enjoyed her career as a nurse at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital, retiring in 1988. She loved her time serving the patients and befriending the staff. However, her greatest love was her husband and to spend time with her entire family especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family will receive friends at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Reg St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Monday January 14, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. Private family burial service to take place in Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. Everyone is invited for a service to celebrate the life of Renate and it will be held at Cornerstone Community Church, 434 Hunter Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 11 a.m. If desired memorial donations to Radiation Care at Pleasant Manor would be appreciated by the family. Memories, photos and condolences

Did you know?

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

Trius Winery Restaurant and Masaki Sushi among OpenTable’s Top 100 restaurants

Jer Houghton
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Trius Winery Restaurant was named to OpenTable’s 100 Best Restaurants in Canada list for the second year in a row.

OpenTable, the world’s leading online restaurant-reservation service, selected this year’s list from over 500,000 verified diner reviews and 2,500 restaurants from within Ontario and Quebec, with the remaining top 57 best restaurants consisted of 57 establishments.

In speaking to the Canadian-inspired menu, Ingrao attributes much of the restaurant’s success to Executive Chef Frank Dodd, who has been with the restaurant for 13 years, alongside the “extensive portfolio” of Senior Winemaker Craig McDonald.

“We have an amazing wine list and winemakers,” said Ingrao. “We have a really extensive portfolio of wines to choose from and a very hospitable, professional staff to suggest wine pairings and help guests with their overall experience.”

Ingrao said OpenTable as a reservation platform has been a really important tool and crucial to their success – and Caroline Potter, OpenTable’s chief dining officer, touted Gray’s commitment international flavours.”

“We were struck by some of the regional highlights in our diner-generated list of Canada’s best restaurants. As an example, the Niagara region continues to have a remarkably significant number of restaurants that rank among the country’s culinary leaders,” she said.

Also named to the list was NOTL’s Masaki Sushi. “We’re seeing a wide range of cuisines reflected in this list – Peruvian, Japanese, Syrian, Indian. These restaurants were identified based on diner reviews over the course of the year and the diners have spoken by celebrating the culinary diversity that reflects Canada’s population and different countries of origin,” said Potter.

The restaurants resonate with diners because of their shared commitment to dining and hospitality excellence and allow locals and visitors to experience international flavours.”

The annual list of Canada’s best restaurants consisted of 57 Canadian restaurants from within January 10, 2019 to January 14, 2019 to January 15, 2019 at 11 a.m. If desired memorial donations to Radiation Care at Pleasant Manor would be appreciated by the family. Memories, photos and condolences
The first robbery attempt was in 1907. In the early morning hours the robbers entered the bank and blew off the door of the safe with nitroglycerin. The teller who was returning home (one might say from a late night of partying) heard the explosion. Having nothing but stones at his disposal, he threw them through the back windows of the bank to scare the robbers away.

With guns blazing, the robbers ran from the bank to their getaway vehicle, a horse drawn carriage, fleeing the scene leaving behind $5,000 sitting in the open safe. By 1923, the Imperial Bank was now in its own building at 253 Four Mile Creek Rd. It was built to house the bank on the street level with an apartment being provided for the bank manager and family on the second floor.

A single robber attempted this next heist, when during the night he entered the apartment of the manager, Mr. Rogers. The robber’s plan was to force the manager to open the safe.

Unfortunately, the manager woke up before the robber was fully in the bedroom, a struggle ensued and the robber’s gun went off wounding Rogers. However, Rogers kept up his fight and moved the struggle out onto the back stairs of the building. With the gun going off, many neighbours awoke and decided they must assist.

One such person, in the home behind the bank, was a Mrs. Archie Woodruff who threatened to fire her shotgun from her bedroom window. Poor Mr. Rogers pleaded for her not to do such a thing for he had already been shot once and did not want to take his chances on being shot again.

At that very moment another shot rang out. It was Mrs. Rogers, who upon finding her husband’s revolver, fired through the screen door at the bank robber, wounding him. Another bank robbery had been foiled.

On Aug. 17, 1951, two men boldly entered the bank they demanded from the teller, Ann Neufeld, the money in her till. Unfortunately, the teller, while trying to sound the alarm, Neufeld was able to sound the alarm. With the alarm going off, another teller grabbed the manager’s revolver and fired off three shots at the robbers. The robbers fled the bank and jumped into their getaway vehicle, this time a car, which they had stolen.

The Evening Review (Niagara Falls) reported this on their front page “Brave Woman Teller Saves Bank $27,000, St. Davids Holdup”. The robbers were both apprehended within a few weeks of the robbery.

The last bank robbery was on Sept. 10, 1951. Three men tried to rob the Imperial Bank in St. Davids and once again the teller sounded the alarm (no idea if it was Neufeld).

The manager grabbed his revolver and shot two of the bandits. With all this noise of the gun shots from the bank, many people decided to become involved.

Carl Slingerland, who owned a grocery store, ran out onto the street with his gun and fired shots into the tires of the getaway car. Another customer in the bank grabbed the manager’s revolver and took off after the robbers firing the gun at them as they ran. Three young, wounded bandits were captured later in the day. It was discovered that their getaway car had been stolen from a lawyer, Judy LaMarsh, who later became a Federal Cabinet Minister for Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

The last bank robbery was one very unusual tradition, Devil’s Night or Cabbage Night, which was held on the night before Halloween, created great amuse-ment for many, but not all. Pranks by local young men have stayed in the memory of residents over the years with many of these stories being spun into local folklore.

Mrs. Paxton and her cow, Daisy, were always a challenge to the lads. Pranksters would sneak into the barn to steal Daisy and tie her up in the centre of the village. One year it is said the Paxton went to extreme measures to secure Daisy by locking all her gates and barricading the barn door. Not to be thwarted, the young prank-sters removed barn boards and poor Daisy was on a new adventure.

Another prank saw the lads stealing farm equipment, such as wagons or buggies from surrounding farms and placing them on the veranda of the local grocery store owned by the Woodruff-Lowrey family. It was a grand endeavour, but the fun they said was watching all the farmers sorting through the pile of equipment the next day figuring out who owned what.

In 1960-63 Hwy 405 was being constructed just south of the village of St. Davids. One Cabbage Night (or Devil’s Night) some local lads took all the blinking warning lights and set them up as a detour route around the construction. The next morning many unsuspecting drivers were lead southward, up Henley’s Hill (top of Tanbark Road) to a dead end. But that was not the worst of it, once stuck in the dead end the vehicles were pelted with tomatoes.

St. Davids has a very colourful past, one that even new residents will enjoy learning that their village was not always a quiet peaceful place.
Dreaming of spring?

Photos: Tim Horton’s Free Skate

Wishing you a happy and exciting 2019

Richard Harley
Editor

As the year begins, we at The Lake Report would like to wish you all an exciting and successful 2019.

From all of us on the team, we thank you for your support this year. Without you, the paper would not have gotten far off the ground and reach the amount of dedicated readership we have today.

We invite you to join us at our official ribbon-cutting on Thursday, Jan. 17, at our newly renovated office space located at 496 Mississauga St. in Historic Old Town, Niagara-on-the-Lake. The afternoon will celebrate the paper’s jump to a much-anticipated weekly edition for our Volume 2.

Members of local council, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, will be in attendance to cut the ribbon, after which people are encouraged to enjoy light refreshments with everyone and the team.

On behalf of The Lake Report staff and contributors, thank you very much for your business and support as we look forward to delivering you and the community another fantastic year.

Wishing you the very best for 2019.

Happy New Year!

- The Lake Report Team

RIDDLE ME THIS:
I travel all over the world, but always stay in my corner. What am I?

Last Week’s answer: A river.

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

RITUALS

Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL’s bathrooms:

Public Washrooms (Old Town)
After an afternoon of touring in NOTL, you may be in need of a comfort stop. Never fear the Public Washrooms on Market Street is your answer. We were very surprised to find this well marked spot with lots of room, bright lights, easy access, and very clean facility. If you have a toddler in tow there are baby friendly change tables and a large sink area lets you wash-up with ease. These restrooms are cleaned and inspected at least three times each day as posted and signed on the schedule.

4/5 Golden Plungers

RESIDENT PHOTO

We opened on Wednesday December 5th. This family waited outside for the big moment! Zuzanna Bator, 6, (in blue), Klaudia Bator, 5, and Felix Bator, 3, and Magdalena Bator is the mom. Submitted by Ashleigh Friesen.

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Christopher Newton gets Order of Canada

Brittany Carter

Christopher Newton spent most of his career in a creative role; that didn’t end after retirement.

Born in Deal, England on June 11, 1936, Newton has since found a home here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. After studying at the University of Leeds, Purdue University and the University of Illinois, he taught briefly before focusing on modifying his goals. “I decided I didn’t like doing that, I wanted to be an actor. I thought that might be a more interesting job.”

He moved to Canada in 1965 to audition for the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario. “I thought that was the type of company I’d like to be a part of.” Although he was turned down, his resolve never wavered. “I decided that I was an actor, I had to tell people I was. I had to find a job.”

Moving to Toronto and securing a room at the YMCA, he proceeded to apply anywhere that was going to hire him. He landed a position with the Canadian Players, who later toured the country performing classical productions. “I was playing at the strangest places. Often, the people had never seen a theatrical production of any kind before. You had to make it real, had to make it true. That was six months of learning for me.”

With a desire to grow and take control, he says he resolved that he wanted to be a director. “I wanted the control. You know, as an actor, you don’t have a great deal of control. It seemed to me that the best place to be, if you wanted control, was as a director.”

He says he didn’t think it all through, though, and was surprised no one would hire him. “It just happened, as it does in life. Nobody was going to hire me as a director anyway because I had no experience - so I had to find a company, it was starting Theatre Calgary in 1960, that’s how I became a director. I had to do it.”

In 1973 he went on to become artistic director for the Vancouver Playhouse. “In his time, Corrine Koslo, long-time friend and professional actress on CBC and Netflix series Anne, says she attributes him with launching many careers, including her own.

“No one had an acting ensemble in Canada in the mid ’70s in the regionals; Christopher Newton did. The Vancouver Playhouse had a company of professional actors. A school, which I attended 1979 to 1981, that fed into that company. It was kind of a golden age of theatre in Vancouver in the mid ’70s and early ’80s; very exciting times. Newton was responsible for that. He was a great architect, a builder of companies.”

Koslo says he was always interested in collaborative ideas and regarding what artists can bring to the table. “He truly loves actors. He is an actor himself. I think that is why he was so successful in creating ensembles that thrived. We were alive with ideas, imagination and a real desire to grow into great actors under his guidance. He set a very high bar, just not for the actors, for the entire company.”

That desire to propel an entire company forward is one reason he was sought after by other theatre companies. The Shaw Festival approached Newton to come work for them on several occasions, he rejection them every time until finally accepting the position.

“They must really want me, I thought. I ultimately said yes.”

He was reluctant to take the position because he says, at the time, the festival was a bit of a mess. “If it had lost its sense of direction, it didn’t quite know who it was. We were very successful in Vancouver. I knew this was going to be a very difficult job. I didn’t think that I wanted it.”

Looking back, he says he is very happy to have taken the position. “We had a hand in making Shaw what it is today. Nicholas MacMartin, married partner, says the festival isn’t as big now as it was while Newton was the director. “The company was never larger. It’s never been bigger than it was in his time. He hired more actors than they can afford to now.”

MacMartin says Newton was skilled at putting all the money for the festival on the stage. He used resources on hand instead of sourcing out. “He is so knowledgeable about music. He used that knowledge in his productions all the time. He didn’t hire many companies in those days in order to save money. His knowledge of classical music was such that he could just pick the most amazing stuff for his shows that no one knew. Things that were out of copyright, so it didn’t cost anything.”

Working as artistic director for Shaw has taught Newton a few things over the years. “I think it has taught me not to be selfish. It has also revealed Niagara-on-the-Lake to me, which is an interesting thing in itself.”

Newton was in the town one summer in the early 1960s, at the beginning of the festival. “Quite frankly, I never thought it would last. It didn’t seem very serious. The director and the whole atmosphere, it didn’t seem like a serious company, so I didn’t treat the town seriously.”

Returning in the 1970s, he says he was inspired by the area. While he didn’t see NOTL supporting it at the time, they were aiming to create an international company.

“We were not only creating classical productions which allowed for them to look good for us. We were developing structures which allowed for them to be happy in and die - you must take that into account. Plants grow bigger or smaller. It is not to be selfish. It has also a bit of a mess. It was a discovery, but they were discoveries from the past. People liked that in the 80s and 90s.”

Newton is at home in NOTL and says he is happy to stay, although he didn’t think this is where he would end up. “I always thought that I’d go back to Vancouver, but I received the promotion to officer here. As a member I think I was bumped up a bit because of the 50th anniversary of Theatre Calgary. There aren’t too many people who have founded an institution and then go on to appear at the 50th anniversary. I think that’s why I received the promotion to officer – as a compliment to Theatre Calgary.”

Koslo says she is happy to see Newton being recognized as an innovator and as one of the great theatre creators of all time. “Christopher Newton is a visionary.”

Four more current theological trends that are challenging the mainline

The four trends that are challenging the mainline are: 1) a focus on social justice and activism, 2) a shift towards a more inclusive and welcoming approach to ministry, 3) a greater emphasis on spiritual formation and personal growth, and 4) a growing interest in non-traditional worship and expressions of faith. These trends reflect the changing needs and values of contemporary society, and are also shaped by the broader cultural context in which the church operates. As a result, many mainline churches are adapting and responding to these trends in order to remain relevant and effective in their communities.