



# The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 4

January 31, 2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake



## SNOW DAYS

Aimee Meadows and Billie Swan take advantage of a snow day off school Tuesday to get in some tobogganing at Simcoe Park. EUNICE TANG/THE LAKE REPORT

More pictures on Page 13

## Problems plague fire station

### FIRE CHIEF: Queenston fire station 'not in need of replacement' yet

Richard Harley  
Editor

The Queenston fire station has a long list of problems but the building is not yet in need of replacement, says NOTL Fire Chief Rob Grimwood.

Among the problems are a number of structural issues, including poor sub-terrain which will continue to cause damage unless costly repairs are done.

The purpose of a report by Grimwood on the station dating back to 1971 is to give town council all of the information necessary to make a decision regarding future plans for the building, he said.

As part of his orientation for the new council, Grimwood suggested he would seek direction on how to proceed during this term.

"There is not the suggestion that a replacement is necessary at this time, simply that it should be included in the 10-year forecast so that the capital reserve funding is accurately calculated to include this project," he said in an email in response to a resident's query.

The Queenston station is facing a number of structural problems because it was "poorly built" in 1977, Grimwood said.

*Continued on Page 3*



Firefighters in Queenston often need to rely on other stations for storage. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE PHOTO

## WINES, DINES CONTINUE

### Second weekend of Icewine Village draws more visitors



Laura Murray and Jacquelin Lancaster serve up icewine. EUNICE TANG  
STORY ON PAGE 12



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# NOTL seniors in need of Snow Buddies

Brittany Carter  
Staff

Snow Buddies is putting out a call for volunteers.

The volunteer-driven program works to help Niagara residents 65 and older maintain their quality of life by helping them clear snow in the winter months, in partnership with Community Support Services of Niagara.

Currently, there are about 60 seniors matched to 25 volunteers in the region. Not one of those volunteers is in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

With a wait-list of over 300 seniors regionally, CSSN executive director Carolyn Askeland said there is a need for volunteers. She would love to be able to match every client in need with a volunteer, she said. Two NOTL seniors are currently on the waitlist, she said, but are unable to receive assistance until a volunteer can be found.

Askeland said she's seen a slight decrease in volunteers over the last few years, and it has been increasingly difficult for the organization to reach students. Normally, enlisting students is easiest for them, she said, adding due to the vulnerability

of the clients those 18 and older need to undergo a criminal check before being matched.

"In an ideal world we would love to have zero clients on our wait-list," she said. "Right now, we have about 25 volunteers. It speaks to the fact that several of our helpers have more than one client that they're taking care of. It really depends on the individual volunteer and their capacity to help."

Due to the high number of people in need, Darlene Upper, leaf and snow buddy coordinator with CSSN, said the organization had to update its standard for accepting clients last year.

"We've had to change our criteria for our clients. If they are below 65, we do require a doctor's note, due to the fact that our waitlist is just so long."

The snow buddies program falls under Safety at Home, run by CSSN, which also provides free personalized home assessments and referrals to brokered workers for home maintenance and repairs.

"The goal of the program is to assist in the reduction of slips, trips and falls, making it safe for the



There are currently two seniors in Niagara-on-the-Lake on the waiting list for Snow Buddies. RICHARD HARLEY

seniors to go out and get into a vehicle, so they're not having to trudge through the snow."

She said there is added risk involved with shoveling snow for an elderly person. There can be significant risk to their health and safety.

"We are trying to make sure that they have the support to live independently in their own home," Askeland said, adding

that they try to accurately identify those in need.

"We really want to make sure that we are targeting the individuals that truly need the help and not the individual who says, 'well I could shovel, but it's not my favourite job.' We really want to make sure, through our screening process, that we are identifying a true need in our community."

Viera Todd, Niagara Falls resident and CSSN client, has been receiving help through the program for just over a year. She said she had applied for it several years ago, but it has taken this long for them to find her a volunteer. Now, two boys in grade 8 come to shovel the snow whenever needed.

"I don't know how many other families have volunteers. It was certainly a long

time for me to get one," Todd said, adding that she appreciates the assistance. "It has worked out very well, especially for me. I'm not able to go out and shovel any more like I used to."

CSSN handles the initial introduction between the client and the volunteer, after that, Askeland said they try to encourage volunteers and clients to communicate directly.

# Town approves committees and boards for term

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
Staff

Niagara-on-the-Lake council has appointed more than 90 people to sit on town committees for the next four years.

"We tried to get a good mix, a combination of people who had some experience previously on the committee, while bringing new people, the new pair of eyes to look at the issues those committees will be addressing," said Coun. Clare Cameron.

People who had previously served on a committee did not have any advantage over new applicants in the assessment process, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

Most committees received



Town hall.

a large number of applications, according to Cameron, though some (like the inclusivity committee or the joint accessibility advisory committee) didn't receive enough applications.

The town will be advertising and calling for more applications later in the year.

A number of additions were made during the special council meeting.

The town approved to add two members, David Bell and Walter Konik, to the transportation advisory

committee.

The council also advised the safety membership committee to add one member from the agricultural community to the committee.

"The Ontario Federation of Agriculture made a very strong recommendation to municipal-elected officials to involve members of the agricultural community in all matters of transportation," said Cameron.

She said the recommendation is because of the large sizes, weights, and lack of manoeuvrability of farm vehicles on municipal roads.

Coun. Stuart McCormack noticed Bob Stelmach was already a member of three committees, so he suggested replacing Stelmach from the Communities in Bloom with

Judith Patey instead.

Director of community and development Craig Larmour explained that the reason behind the odd number of people on committees is that there wouldn't be a tie when it comes to voting.

"When there's an absence, [a tie] is always possible. When there's a conflict of interest, that's always possible as well," said Larmour. "As far for the number of members, that's really up to each municipality."

Among those appointed to town committees are:

Agricultural committee: Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Coun. Erwin Wiens, Dennis Dick, John Fedorkow, Kathryn Hoshkiw, Austin Kirby, John Thwaites, Chris VandeLaar, Kai Wiens.

Committee of adjustment: Steve Bartolini, John Bice, Ken Douglas, Eric Lehtinen, Allen Snider, Bob Stelmach, Richard Ventresca.

Community Wellness committee: Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Allan Brockway, Cindy Grant, Paul Jurbala, Terry MacTaggart, Catharine Novick, Sean Simpson.

Glendale taskforce: Coun. Stuart McCormack, Coun. Norm Arsenault, Terry Flynn, Steve Hardaker, Al Hosein, Amarjog Johal, Niagara College Rep (TBD).

Heritage Trail committee: Coun. Al Bisback, Frances Boot, Tony Chisholm, Rick Coyne, Rick Meloen, Fred Sentineal, Ryan Tregunno.

Municipal heritage committee: Coun. Clare

Cameron, Coun. Al Bisback, Amanada Demers, Drew Chapman, Philip Hoad, Janice Johnston, David Parker, Rita Trudeau, Ron Dale (Museum Representative).

Transportation advisory committee: Coun. Norm Arsenault, David Bell, William Carson, Terry Davis, Greg Dell, Margaret Louter, Gerry McIlhone, Joe Pitushka, Walter Konik.

Tree advisors: Buddy Andres, Rene Schmitz.

Urban design committee: Coun. Clare Cameron, David Anthony, John Gartner, David Israelson, Peter Neame, Gordon Stratford, David Parker (MHC Representative).

For the full list, go to NOTL website.



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# Station was 'poorly built' in 1977

A sub-terrain problem caused a sink hole in the parking lot last summer, and will continue to cause structural problems

*Continued from Front Page*

"The builder went out of business shortly thereafter leaving no resolve for the town to pursue them for the structural issues."

The fire hall has since experienced significant structural cracking and shifting, he said, and has been "evaluated numerous times by structural engineers who indicate only extremely costly repairs will permanently correct the situation."

The problem is a serious sub-terrain issue, he said, which was discovered this summer when a "large sinkhole opened up within the parking lot."

He said the land the station is built on is contributing to its structural shifting and will continue to cause the same sinkholes due to the weight of parked vehicles.

The building is also experiencing structural degradation on the exterior wall adjacent to the parking lot. Grimwood's email was a response to a resident who wondered why the station would be nearing the end of its lifespan at such a young age, when many local residents live in houses that are much older.

"A public safety building is significantly different than a residential building," Grimwood explained.

"The building code requires all public safety buildings (which include fire stations) to be built to what is known as a 'post disaster building' standard. This building was not constructed to those standards in 1977 as it pre-dated that building code section coming into effect. As a result the current building has many operational limitations."

"The 50-year design is



The Queenston fire station. JER HOUGHTON

common amongst public safety buildings and then the condition and operational effectiveness of the building is evaluated as

*"The station was not designed with any operational consideration to the firefighters bunker gear."*

ROB GRIMWOOD  
NOTL FIRE CHIEF

much smaller, he said, and "modern trucks barely fit in the station."

"The station was not designed with any operational consideration to the firefighters' bunker gear. Whereas the stations in the Old Town, Virgil and Glendale have proper storage for the bunker gear that meets the requirements related to the decontamination of the gear post-fire, the gear in Queenston and St. Davids is stored on portable racks on the garage floors."

The decontamination of firefighters' equipment is heavily regulated, he said.

"There is no bunker

the 50 year mark approaches.

"A decision is made to either replace, put money into the current station or deferring the replacement altogether."

The current station was built when fire trucks were

## Problems facing the Queenston fire station

- \* Modern fire trucks barely fit inside the fire station because they are much larger than when the building was constructed more than 40 years ago.
- \* The station has no back-up power and a portable generator needs to be brought in when the power goes out.
- \* Terrain issues have and will continue to cause sinkholes in the parking lot under the weight of vehicles.
- \* There is no office space on site and officials work at a desk in a hallway.
- \* Space for cleaning and storing firefighters' gear is inadequate.

gear cleaning equipment in the Queenston or St. Davids fire stations due to lack of space and their gear must be transported to another station to be cleaned, which leaves those firefighters without protective equipment (and out of service to respond to subsequent calls) until the gear is cleaned and transported back.

With no space for an office, the officers "operate from a desk in a hallway."

"This makes managing call reports (guided under the protection of privacy legislation as some contain personal health information) challenging," he said.

With no back-up power, in the event of a power outage a portable generator needs to be transported to the station to ensure it can function.

"I can assure you that the tenants do not abuse the building and that it is not a question of fashion."



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### I live behind illegal B&Bs, and agree with the town's crackdown

As a resident living behind one of the Garrison Village short-term rentals (also called "airbnb") I would like local residents to know that both of these properties appear to be "illegal" according to the terms of the existing short-term rental bylaw.

Town staff issued licenses for both of the rentals calling them three bedroom "cottage rentals", when (according to the current bylaw) they should have been licensed as "villas." Had they been licensed as Villas, the owners would have had to apply for re-zoning and neighbours would have been notified. Both of these properties appear to contain four or more bedrooms and that is what the absentee landlords have been renting out; not three bedrooms.

The absentee landlords chose to surprise the neighbours with their plans for these properties. As a result

parties of up to 20 people have rented these properties and usually on beautiful summer weekends when they can drink and noisily play in the pools and hot tubs.

The guests' activities have caused parking issues, garbage issues, noise issues, and have affected the owners' quiet enjoyment of adjacent properties and affected children's studies. NOTL staff continue to maintain that these two properties are three bedroom "cottage rentals". Meanwhile the property management company, that represents both rentals, has an online video of one of the bedrooms available — at least five. The previous rental listing for the second property showed three bedrooms upstairs and the fourth bedroom staged as an office.

The 2017 sale listings of these properties detail the

correct number of bedrooms in each home. The house (according to the current bylaw) is defined as a "cottage" or "villa" by the number of bedrooms it contains not the number of bedrooms designated for rental.

The definition of a bedroom is a room with a window and a closet and this does not change if the bedroom is staged as something else. Also note, that since the complaint process began in the summer of 2018 the rental listings appear to have been revised.

Lastly, I would like all homeowners living in residentially-zoned areas of NOTL to know in 2010 the province gave a directive to municipalities to amend their bylaw to include short-term rentals in residentially zoned areas.

The bylaw was amended as instructed but consideration was never given to protecting the homeown-

ers' quiet enjoyment of their property and/or the long term affects of having these rentals in residentially zoned areas.

We have been promised that the bylaw is being amended but it is up to residents to ensure that the town listens to our concerns and provides an amendment which protects our quality of life. Research indicates that Collingwood/Blue Mountain is the only municipality that quickly took action to protect it's residentially zoned areas from short-term rentals, ensuring that they remained in tourist zoned and commercially zoned areas, where they belong. This is an important issue for homeowners across Ontario. The Airbnb platform is gaining momentum and becoming an investor's dream and a homeowner's nightmare.

*Deborah Symington*



More letters

### Support for the fine work The Lake Report is doing

I wrote this letter to the editor of the new The Local. But since I can't find their website, and since they'd never print it, I decided to send it to you. For your amusement:

Niagara does not need a newspaper that can't tell the difference between political narrative and politics. We don't want to have to believe in your author's intentions. Why you have excluded much of Niagara from your point of view is a real problem for you. It's no good pretending that your points of view are a kind of journalism. It isn't. It preys on the weakest among us.

I don't think your "community newspaper" is a community newspaper. I brought this up over breakfast and someone said, "I can make up my own mind." Well. People who read "Pravda" said, "we can make up our own minds." People who read "Die Stumer" thought they were making up their own minds. I think what you mean by community is a community that makes up a solidarity in Niagara. And most of us don't want to join you.

"There is still judgement here."

*Jesse Lepp*

### New paper in NOTL shows imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

If "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" the staff of The Lake Report should be walking on air with puffed up egos and pride.

To have your business model copied in its entirety by the staff of the failed publication which created the void which you have so capably filled speaks volumes. That these people would be among your first employees such that they could watch and poach your ideas up close and endeavour to copy with a second class product is a true compliment to your entrepreneurial initiative — the theft of intellectual property should not be rewarded.

I and many whom I know compliment and salute your endeavour. May The Lake Report succeed beyond your wildest expectations.

P.S. I have asked my post office to classify your competitor as junk mail and not to deliver it to my PO Box.

*William L. Cochrane Sr.*

### Correction from TLR

It was mistakenly reported last week that Robin Ridesic spoke in favour of a motion to take funds from Shaw Festival for Royal Oak School. In fact, she spoke in favour of additional funding for Royal Oak, but not to come from Shaw's allowance.

### A quick thanks

Dear editor of The Lake Report,

Just a quick note to thank you for printing the article about Kash Kashmiri and to commend Bill Hamilton for writing it. It was such a beautiful memorial that echoed our sentiments also.

Thank you for featuring such a moving and well-deserved tribute to Kash and his family.

Salute!

*Liberina (Betty) Colaneri*  
*Colaneri Estate Winery*

### Another quick thanks

To Lake Report and Staff,

I have been enjoying your coverage of people, places, things and events for the past few months and hope to do so for many years to come.

Congrats and continued success!

*Loretta Pietrobon*



### Agreed: Re: Enough horsing around

Dear Richard,

Thanks for your well-written editorial in support of the Sentineals and the horse carriages. Hopefully your message will be taken to heart by the powers that be.

Love the paper by the way — keep up the good work.

Regards,

*Mark Denece*

### Opposed: Demands to remove protesters 'too much'

Dear Richard,

While I agree the Sentineals deserve a break, I don't agree that the Lord Mayor and council can "get these protesters out of our town."

Whether you like it or not everyone is guaranteed freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Your demand sounds a little too much like those who would run people out of town because you don't like their race, colour or creed ... or demand as Mr. Trump and his supporters did that we "lock her up."

Democracy is messy — get used to it.

*Brad Nixon*



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# Town to host open house seeking resident opinions on official plan

Brittany Carter  
Staff

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake wants to hear residents' concerns at the official plan open house.

On Feb. 13, there will be two sessions in the auditorium of the community centre at 14 Anderson Lane, from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 6 to 8 p.m.

The open house will be an informal forum for NOTL residents to take part in the planning process and voice any concerns.

Rick Wilson, senior planner for NOTL, said it will mainly be an information session. The official plan covers themes for the municipality's growth and development. Residents may have certain areas of interest they will want to address, he said, adding that the town wants to encourage anyone to come out with questions or opin-

ions about the plan.

"We have been hearing from residents with specific questions about details of the plan. We will try to answer those and, if we can't, we will take any input and review it in the context of what they're asking and try to resolve it."

Updating the official plan is a public process. Municipalities are required to address certain provincial and regional policies. Wilson said interest groups may have certain things they would like to promote, such as residential development, agriculture or heritage preservation. Issues need to be balanced and addressed by provincial legislation and by the desire of the community.

Residents who want to send in requests for the open house need to address submissions to the town clerk, which will be reviewed by planning staff and consultants.

Wilson said he would like to see many residents take the time to stop by the open house.

"We're anticipating and hopeful. We want to encourage participation."

The current official plan is from 1994 and approving a new one is a priority of the new town council. Wilson said there has been a lot of interest in the process over the years. "We're hoping a good number of people come out so we can get better participation and a sense of what the public feels about the final draft."

After the open house, the next step will be a public meeting on Feb. 25, where the information presented will be heard by council. All the public comments will be presented and council can weigh what planning staff has recommended through policy, and what was heard through the public consultation process.

Planscape, a company

specializing in land use planning, was hired in 2015 and has been on board as a consultant throughout the drafting of the official plan.

"We want to try to get the public's input on this," Wilson said.

Residents wanting to be informed before attending the open house can read the official plan, which has been posted on the NOTL website for several weeks.

"That's the most important, that they're informed on the information being presented."

Residents are encouraged to contact Wilson if they have any questions.

"We will try and explain what some of the constraints are through a provincial perspective. Ultimately, (the official plan) is a community document that provides vision for the town. We want to take that local input and work with that under the provincial structure."

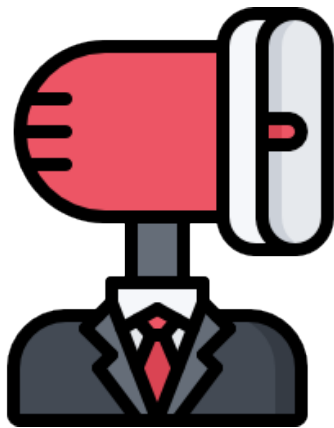
## OPINION

### A redundant letter (one we appreciate)

This letter is now so redundant to give the word redundant new redundancy! In the middle of all the celebration and hoopla over your paper's well-deserved success (yet you still manage to sound humble when you write about it,) I finally thought, this might give you a small moment of hindsight, and that I'd send it.

Back in mid-May, when I read your first issue, I thought, 'By George, he's got it!'

That perfect combination of concise fact combined with a certain tone of chattiness, and, wrote out a cheque for \$100. A pittance, agreed; still, I thought it might contribute to a new pair of sneakers for you, as you seemed to be the only photographer running around. Plus, writing and obviously drumming up advertisers. But, no ad-



dress – of course, no phone number either.

Understand here, I am totally unhooked to anything. Not even a cellphone. I shamelessly use my children when I need such services. Then, for a few reasons, I had to leave town for a bit.

My husband showed me the copies I missed, and there was an address. I changed the cheque to \$152.

What I'd like to relate to you is the conversation I heard the day after I read

your paper:

While I was sitting in the lab of the NOTL hospital, across from me sat two ladies. (60s, who can tell) and at the end an older farmer type man.

Lady A says, "What do you think of the new paper?"

Lady B, "I like it."

Farmer, "It'll never fly."

Lady B, ignoring him, "I always thought that Disero lady from Toronto council was here to support devel-

opers. Not so, I guess."

Lady A, "I agree, so did I. But of course, if you don't live in Old Town and know the right people, you just don't know what goes on."

Lady B, "Especially if you're a farmer."

Now, I'm a retired grape farmer, and this was getting good. I'm about to jump in when I hear, "OK Maureen, come on in."

So that (drat!) was that. And, Richard, after only one edition! So after all that followed, I thought you might enjoy the small exchange.

My husband has chaired the NOTL Christmas Parade for years, so I hope to meet. I know you have parties coming up.

Once again – Brava! On a great show.

P.S. You have it exactly – "hyper-local news."

**Maureen Pospiech**

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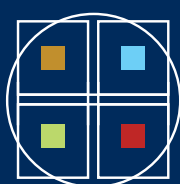
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Niagara-on-the-Lake



# NOTL business owner takes **goat yoga** to CBC's Dragons' Den



Melina Morsch will appear on Dragons' Den Feb. 28. SUPPLIED PHOTO



A shot from the episode. SUPPLIED PHOTO



Morsch brought along her goats and had dragons Lane Merrifield and Michele Romanow. SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jill Troyer  
Staff

This February, a local business owner is heading to CBC's Dragons' Den.

The hit TV show puts enterprising entrepreneurs face-to-face with wealthy business moguls for a chance to pitch their businesses.

Fox Den Yoga studio owner and instructor Melina Morsch will face the dragons in late February.

Morsch had never sought out the show, but when she got a call from a producer inviting her to be on it, she

says she "thought it was a great opportunity for some high profile national publicity to bring attention to my growing goat yoga practice."

So when Morsch entered the Den, she wasn't alone. Four baby goats were with her.

Fox Den's goat yoga sessions are heading into their third season. "It's funny, because it's just getting stronger and stronger," said Morsch.

"In three years we've perfected the experience, using poses that create the optimal interactions between people and the goats."

Morsch believes the popularity of goat yoga is all about animal and people interaction. "People feel disconnected to nature, and isolated ... but when they come to goat yoga they get a special experience with the baby goats."

She says the goats are super socialized, and react to the energy in the room, adding "when we get excited, they get excited, if we are calm, they are calm."

The goats cavort around, over, under, and on top of people in various gentle poses, often also cuddling and sometimes even falling

asleep.

"It's not a like a typical petting zoo experience, it's much more interactive."

According to Morsch, goat yoga is becoming a tourist attraction in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We've tripled our followers on Instagram, and people recognize me now — they say, you're the goat yoga lady."

Fox Den will bring goat yoga to Small Talk Winery in NOTL every weekend starting on Mother's Day.

Fox Den also does regular sessions at Triple C Farm in Ancaster, Black Creek

Pioneer Village in Toronto, and Hidden Valley Park in Burlington.

Morsch says when she started, she was doing two sessions a month, but that has grown to eight sessions each week during peak season.

That growth helps to save animals from auction or neglect. "For every ticket sold, a portion goes back to the animal sanctuary at Triple C Farm, which has allowed them to double their capacity for rescue animals, including horses, donkeys, and goats," she says.

Morsch says when she and

the goats arrived at the CBC studios in downtown Toronto to record the episode with Dragons' Den, "we attracted so much attention, everyone came down to visit the baby goats."

She adds "it was fun watching the dragons to see how each one reacted to the goats."

Morsch can't reveal what actually happened in the Den, but you can watch it unfold on February 28, at 8 p.m. on CBC TV.

For goat yoga dates and times, you can visit Fox Den Yoga online at [www.foxdenyoga.com](http://www.foxdenyoga.com).

# HAPPY DAY

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# Bricks and Barley opens with a bang

Brittany Carter  
Staff

Bricks and Barley hit the ground running in its first week of business.

The newest sports bar in town opened quietly Jan. 22 and has been packed ever since. Christie Devos, general manager, said the reception so far has been overwhelming. “We opened on Tuesday and got rocked. We were super busy all day and it just didn’t stop,” she said.

The official grand opening was Saturday and business hasn’t slowed.

Ensuring they weren’t over-capacity, staff were taking counts at the door. Devos said the restaurant looks big, but the capacity is 103 right now. She said their liquor license is getting updated so they can hopefully have a few more patrons in the building in the future.

“We could easily fill a lot more than that in here, but we did not want to go over. Some people were disappointed that they could not get in, but we couldn’t let them. Yes, we have the room for standing,



Bricks and Barley co-owner Marco Spione, general manager Christie Devos, executive chef Jeremy ‘Clark’ Gilligan. BRITTANY CARTER

for dancing but we didn’t want to risk it. We’re brand new. The fire department and the liquor control board can come in and ask you for your capacity numbers and take checks. We decided just to be on the safe side.”

Helen Arsenault, a NOTL resident who was in attendance during the grand opening on Friday, said the evening was loud, fun and exciting. A combination of the great food, the lively atmosphere and the ease at which strangers were striking up conversations with each other made for an unforgettable experience, she said. “We’re definitely going

back.” She said, adding that it’s a great place for locals to escape to. “For me, it was the vibe; it’s the definition of what a sports bar is all about. It was friendly and hopping.”

As with any new venture, there have been issues to work out. Devos said she’s asking people to bear with them.

“We really appreciate everyone’s support so far, and their patience. A lot of people came out over the week and we’re still working out some kinks. Maybe poor timing, and some servers were still learning the computer. Some mistakes were definitely made but just be patient, work with us, maybe try back later

in the week.”

Other than a private VIP room that seats between 10 and 14, they are not taking reservations now. “I think we’re going to keep it no reservations for a while. Maybe when the fad wears off a bit we’ll see what happens,” she said, adding “hopefully it won’t.”

Devos said the owners are from Virgil, and they dreamt the restaurant up because they recognized a demand for something like that in town.

For residents who haven’t been able to secure a table and still want to try the food, the restaurant does offer take-out. Delivery is an option after 5 p.m., but Devos said that it’s something else they’re working out the kinks with, as they only have one car for delivery. She said it’s something that will depend on demand.

The restaurant was closed for a day of rest on Monday. Devos said they had nothing left by the end of the weekend and needed a day to recoup, re-order and re-prepare for the next day. She said they’re looking forward to more busy days ahead.

# Shoreline protection continues

Brittany Carter  
Staff

Shoreline restoration is underway for the area between 25 Delater St. and 85 River Beach Dr.

As outlined in the Nov. 27, 2018 public information meeting, the shoreline is eroding, and the historic culvert is vulnerable to further damage. The project was scheduled to begin Jan. 23, 2019 but due to weather conditions was stalled and began Jan. 28.

After Shoreplan Engineering designed and presented several options, which were peer-reviewed by Coldwater Construction, the decision was made to install a headland/beach system. The plan includes a cobble beach at the east end of the park with stone walls surrounding the outfall. A boulder berm, a raised barrier created with

boulders, is to be placed along the west side.

Ron Simkus, retired engineer and NOTL resident, said he has been asking the town to get started on the project for a while. Time is of the essence, he said, adding that under regulations by the ministry of fisheries and oceans and the ministry of natural resources, work can’t be done on the shoreline after the middle of March. The work must be completed by then because the fish begin to spawn.

Simkus said the shoreline has been vulnerable for years, but it was prevalent after 2017. The storms developing from the east had an impact, eroding the shore quickly.

“In 2017 it was really exaggerated because the level of the lake was at a record high. The waves coming with the storms took mas-



Shoreline protection at Delater Street. BRITTANY CARTER

sive pieces of the shoreline away.” Sandbags and pumps were needed to control the situation, he said, which was costly. He said he has been campaigning since then to invest money to prevent an emergency in the future.

Armour stones are being placed along the shore between River Beach Drive and the old railway culvert.

Due to the March restriction, he said the work had to start now. Simkus said while they can’t be predicted, the events are likely to occur more frequently in upcoming years.

“The federal government and the international joint

commission who manage the lakes, recommend all municipalities prepare for more high-level activity seasonally and preparing the shore accordingly. There’s not much they can do to stop climate change. Live with it and adjust accordingly.”

Living next to the shoreline, Simkus has a direct view of the work being completed. While a bit loud and disruptive, he said it doesn’t bother him too much. Aside from shaking the foundation a bit, it is important that the work be completed.

It is expected to take two weeks to complete.



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# Terry Boulton and Teenie H

## Sailing into the history of Niagara's waterfront

One man's mission to preserve and display an 80-year-old fishing boat

Brittany Carter  
Staff

Fighting for more than 10 years, long-time Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Terry Boulton has been championing the preservation of the Teenie H.

The 35 ft. fishing boat, built in 1939, is thought to be one of the oldest wooden fishing boats in existence in the Great Lakes basin, and was once regarded as the queen of the fleet, Boulton says — and while the Teenie H has been around for 80 years, vessels of that caliber usually only last 20.

Boulton speaks in a calm, resolute manner about his passion for the boat and history, specifically local history. His family has lived in NOTL for as long as he can remember, and watching the town change and grow over the years helped spark a fire for historical preservation.

Saving the Teenie H is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate an appreciation for that history, he says.

Though he's been retired for 20 years, he will always be a teacher; eager to pass on some of his extensive knowledge. Since acquiring the boat with Chris Allen in 2008 Boulton has been speaking with councillors and the town about its importance, and has submitted a proposal to permanently house the boat on town property.

"I recognized its historical value. I felt particularly



The interior of the Teenie H. SUPPLIED PHOTO

that you could tell a story of the waterfront using the boat," Boulton says, adding it's one of few examples of the town's heritage that isn't a building.

Since then he's had to store the boat at the local sailing club until the town can reach a decision about whether to move forward with his proposal. However the project could not move forward because the master plan for the dock had not been finalized.

Town Coun. Allan Bisback has been a supporter of the preservation of the Teenie H since Boulton first brought it to his attention. He said a secondary dockland plan was approved, in principle, to

redevelop the dock area, and included was the proposal to put the Teenie H on display. He said the plan had been approved, but not yet the specifics.

"The intention would be, if we can get some folks behind the Teenie H, then I would see it as a catalyst to move forward on the Dockland's plan," Bisback said.

The NOTL Sailing Club has been exceptionally helpful, Boulton said, allowing him to store the boat over the last decade. He said he's felt some pressure over the years to relocate it, fuelling his desire to get the project approved by council in a timely manner.

In Boulton's vision, the Teenie H would be housed

permanently on the property next to the town dock, possibly in association with the historical Foghorn House on River Beach Drive, he said.

He's had designs of a structure drawn up, which demonstrate how he intends to house the boat and display its history and importance to Niagara.

The proposed site, designed by Julian Smith, executive director of Wil- lowbank School of Restoration Arts, boasts a small structure representing the inside of a boathouse. Studs and planks would be used in the design to mimic the rough features of a typical boathouse.

In the proposal docu-



Terry Boulton stands beside Teenie H. BRITTANY CARTER

ment, Boulton said the idea of the structure is to provide easy access for people to see the Teenie H while not making it appear to be in a glass box. He said the structure would be relatively inexpensive.

The plan isn't to restore the old fishing boat, but to preserve it, Boulton says.

The boat would sit inside the structure, not to be accessed by the public. It would be viewable through two elevated areas, however, one of which would be wheel-chair-accessible. Boulton said he wants to include panels outlining the historical significance of the waterfront.

"I felt that the story should be told, but it hasn't been. Other than myself and a couple other people, most have no idea what has gone on around here. This little area here was the social, cultural, industrial hub of the town. That's the story that I wanted to tell. Now the way it goes, that's going to be dependent on what council wants to do."

Whether the town will use his designs is yet to be determined. Boulton said he doesn't think they will, but he's hopeful.

He says he wants to relocate the ship to the property on River Beach Drive because it would allow for a focal point along the waterfront, adding he think

the previously installed path leads to a "confusing dead end."

The structure also wouldn't obstruct the view of the waterfront, he said, a factor that's important to him. His Delater Street home on the shoreline overlooks the water.

With floor-to-ceiling windows lining the entire back side of his house, he understands the value of an unobstructed view.

Boulton said he is unsure what the timeline will look like for completion, he would just be happy to see the historical significance of the Teenie H showcased and preserved, and the story of Niagara's waterfront told.

"I support and I encourage the town to move forward with it. I think it's a great activity that can bring the town together," Bisback said, adding that he doesn't think many people understand the history of the waterfront and dock area.

He said he was excited because the boat is a piece of history representative of the docklands, demonstrating the importance of the area.



"I got excited because it represents a piece of history. And, of course whenever you talk to Terry you get infected with his positive attitude toward it."

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# Holocaust survivor speaks at library

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
Staff

Last Sunday, Jan. 27, marked the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and to honour of occasion, Niagara-on-the-Lake's Bahá'í Community invited writer Jack Veffler to talk about the Holocaust as he experienced it as a child.

The event took place Tuesday night at the NOTL Community Centre. The room was packed with people who came to listen to Veffler's talk.

"We learned that Holocaust Remembrance Day occurs in January, and we thought it would be appropriate to participate by devoting our January event to this remembrance," said Larry Clarke, the secretary of NOTL Bahá'í Community.

Veffler was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 1940. He was three years old when his parents left to Switzerland seeking safety, hoping to come back for their children, only to be later on killed in Auschwitz.

Jack and his brother Maurice were then left in the care of their neighbours. Veffler said he is still waiting for his parents to come back.

"It's an ongoing expectation all my life."

Veffler came to Canada



Holocaust survivor Jack Veffler spoke at NOTL Community Centre in honour of The Holocaust Remembrance Day on Tuesday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

in 1958. He lives in St. Catharines and is a member of St. Catharines Bahá'í Community. Talking about past events doesn't become easier for him, he said, but because he's one of the last child survivors, he has to keep going.

Veffler wrote *Through the Eyes of the Child: Survival of the Holocaust* in 2007 and said writing the book was "cathartic" and "put things into perspective" for him.

As a person who had experienced prejudice and hatred first-hand, Veffler said people have to "learn from one another and love one another."

"I'm Bahá'í, we're apolitical, we're not involved in politics. But if I had an

opportunity to voice my opinion on what's happening in the United States, I have a firm conviction that there's another Hitler there," Veffler told the crowd Monday night.

"We have different problems in Canada. The one blotch we have is that one that we treat Native Canadians terribly. We've taken away their land, we've taken away and put them on reservations. And I think we need to fix that. And then the same thing happened when French came here."

One of the solutions, according to Veffler, would be teaching more history about Indigenous people and French Canadians.

"We need to make it a part of the curriculum in

the education system. When you go through high school here, nothing is taught about French-speaking or Quebec. Everything we learn is about English. And the same thing is in Quebec. They need to learn about the English and English-speaking Canadians, and become familiar with one another. And then we can change the attitude towards each other by loving them," he said.

Charlotte Letkemann, a member of NOTL's Bahá'í Community, said people are going through "turbulent times" nowadays.

"We hope that these events, like remembering the Holocaust, will not only educate people but we will do all in our power to never let this happen again," she said.

Veffler shared the same sentiment.

"We're more concerned with our selfish interests. This is a very difficult life that we live. We struggle with each other. But I think we're becoming better."

At the end of the evening, Veffler said he was pleased with how the event went.

"I was rather surprised that so many people came out here, even because of the weather. The weather is not that good. And people are very receptive here."

# School bus ends up in ditch, no students on board

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
Staff

A school bus with no students on board ended up in the ditch near King and Paffard streets early Thursday morning.

The accident happened before school hours, according to Lori Powell, an executive director of



The bus driver wasn't hurt, according to Niagara Student Transportation Services. SUPPLIED PHOTO.

Niagara Student Transportation Services.

NSTS checked the road conditions between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. and found road conditions to be safe for buses.

Powell said the organization gathers information from staff, who drive around in their personal vehicles, as well as from the bus com-

panies. They also monitor weather forecasts and check various sources for current weather conditions.

They typically try to make the call as to whether road conditions are safe before 6 a.m.

Powell didn't say where the bus driver was heading at the time of the accident but that it happened be-

fore bus run time.

The driver didn't suffer any injuries, Powell said.

"The bus company doesn't have to report any details to us," said Powell. "If there are no students on board, I don't require any information."

Brian Jobson of DanNel Coach Lines Company Ltd. declined to comment on the incident.



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<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL</p> <p><b>Author of the Month: Karen Gansel</b> - 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Niagara College: Chocolate Making</b> - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Council Workshop</b> - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p><b>Committee of the Whole</b> - 6:30 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>The Antisocial: Teen Taste Test Challenge</b> - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Chair Yoga</b> - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Power Off and Play</b> - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Nobel Prize Series: Nobel Prize in Chemistry</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Simply STEAM Story</b> - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Movie: Mamma Mia! Go Again</b> - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Trivia Night: Exchange</b> (Winter League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Niagara College: Artisanal Breads</b> - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p><b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Line Dancing</b> - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Card Making</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Town Council Meeting</b> - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p><b>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Power Off and Play</b> - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>NOTL Rotary Club</b> - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Pumphouse Instrumental Exhibition</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p><b>Simply STEAM Story</b> - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Beyond The Myth: Leonardo da Vinci</b> - 11 p.m. - Riverbrink Art Centre</p> <p><b>Open House: Official</b> - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Trivia Night: Exchange</b> (Winter League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>31</b> <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Council: Open House</b> - 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Minecraft Club</b> - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Fish Fry at the Legion</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion <b>Tinker Thinker Thursdays</b> - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>1</b> <b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Wayne Gates Office</b> - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Pumphouse Instructors' Exhibition</b> - 11 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre <b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL <b>St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club	<b>2</b> <b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL
<b>6</b> <b>Yoga Time</b> - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>! Here We Are</b> - 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Orange Brewery</b> (Week 4) - 6:30 p.m. - Orange Brewery	<b>7</b> <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Minecraft Club</b> - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Fish Fry at the Legion</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion <b>Tinker Thinker Thursdays</b> - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Niagara College: Cider with Gavin Robertson</b> - 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus	<b>8</b> <b>Wayne Gates Office</b> - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL <b>Knit a Bit</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	<b>9</b> <b>Days of Wine &amp; Chocolate</b> - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL <b>George Krissa in Concert</b> - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Corks' Playhouse Theatre <b>Niagara College: Bake with Expert</b> - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus
<b>13</b> <b>Artists' Cafe</b> - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre <b>Yoga Time</b> - 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Seeing in 2019 - 2</b> - NOTL Museum <b>al Plan</b> - 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Orange Brewery</b> (Week 5) - 6:30 p.m. - Orange Brewery	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> <b>Minecraft Club</b> - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Fish Fry at the Legion</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Royal Canadian Legion <b>Tinker Thinker Thursdays</b> - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Niagara Pumphouse: Drop in Artists' Cafe</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	<b>15</b> <b>P.A. Day</b> <b>Yoga with Jenny</b> - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Afternoon Movie: Up</b> - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry</b> - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club <b>Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival</b> - 8 p.m. - St. Mark's Church <b>Comedy Night with host David Green</b> - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	<b>16</b> <b>Black History Month: Tales by Moonlight with Babarinde Williams</b> - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library <b>Skating and a DJ</b> - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery

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## Second weekend of Icewine Village sees a lot more traffic

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
Staff

The second week of Niagara-on-the-Lake saw a significant increase in the number of visitors compared to last year.

The event is put together by the chamber of commerce and a committee of representatives from wineries, restaurants and accommodations.

"This year's Icewine Festival was one of the most challenging in the 24 years the event has been presented, simply due to the extreme weather conditions," said Janice Thomson, the execu-

tive director of the chamber of commerce. However, it didn't stop people from coming to the event.

Attendance for the first weekend was lower, at about a third of usual numbers. Almost 5,000 Icewine samples were served along with 2,300 food samples from Signature Kitchen chefs.

According to Thomson, the event's attendance for the second weekend exceeded last year, with double the number of Icewine servings and 25 per cent more food samples. Warmer weather played a role in the increased numbers, Thomson said.



Coun. Stuart McCormack volunteers at the Icewine Village festival. SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Usually, the first weekend would have 15,000 visitors. On the second weekend, it would be 5,000," said Thomson. "This year was exactly the opposite. 5,000 came on the first weekend and 15,000 on the second weekend. These numbers are calculated based on the sale of glassware and, obviously,

could not be an exact count." This year was also the first time the chamber organized two weekends focused solely on Icewine.

"Previously, the second weekend included craft beer, cider and VQA red and white wines in addition to Icewine. As the original Icewine Festival and the only Festival

that retains the focus on Icewine only, it was felt that offering two weekends with the same format would be beneficial. Craft beer and cider will be featured in separate events later this year," said Thomson.

The event mainly attracts couples and small groups travelling together.

"The two signature events

that were held on the Friday nights during the Festival (Sparkle and Ice gala on Jan. 18 and White on Ice dinner on Jan. 25) were both sold-out events, with 40 per cent of guests travelling from the US."

The costs of producing the event exceed \$200,000, according to Thomson, and visitors spend over six million dollars during the festival.



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# SNOW DAY



Sheryl Johnson takes up skis during her lunch break while working from home.



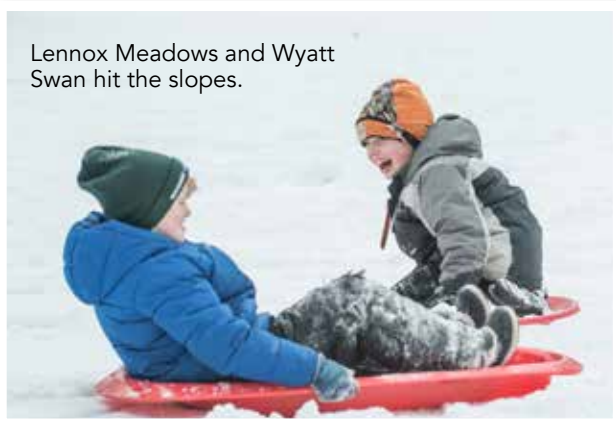
Paul and Irene Chumak take a stroll down Queen Street.



Aimee Meadows and Billie Swan toboggan down the slopes at Simcoe Park.



Billie Swan lugs her toboggan back up the hill.



Lennox Meadows and Wyatt Swan hit the slopes.



Cassidy Swan hit the slopes.

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# GAMES



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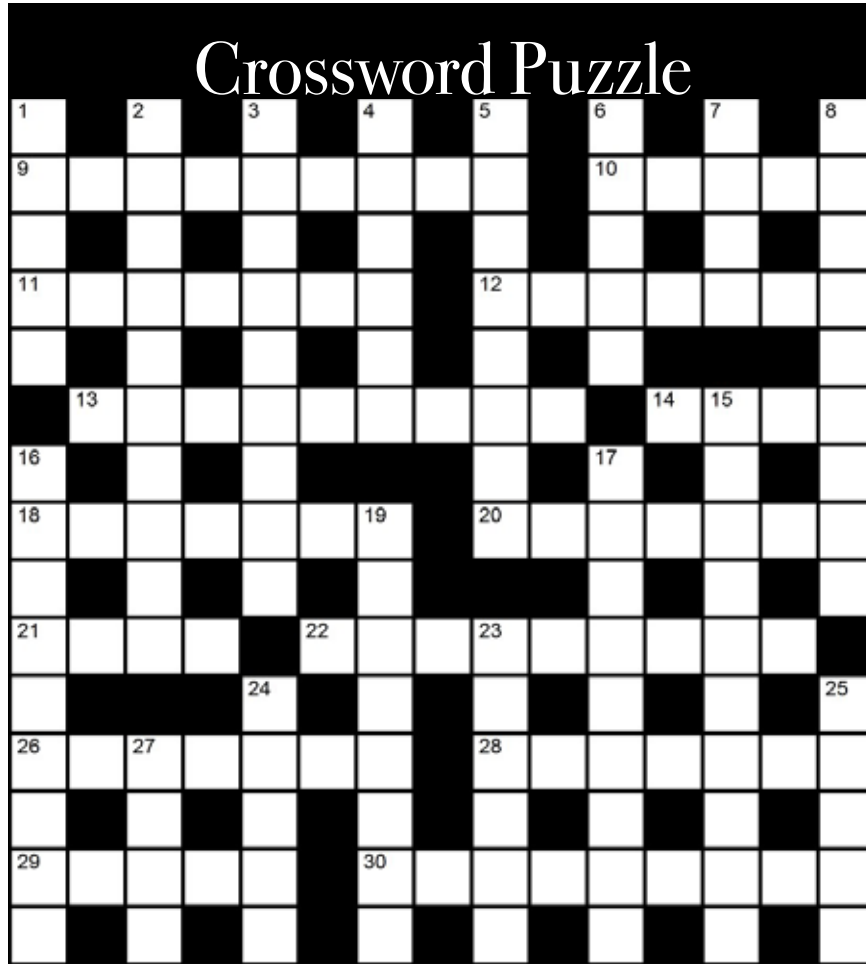
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

**Across**

- 9. Playwright (9)
- 10. Moor (3,2)
- 11. Space surrounding an altar (7)
- 12. Quickly (7)
- 13. Runner (9)
- 14. Cougar (4)
- 18. Distinct sort or kind (7)
- 20. Surgical knife (7)
- 21. A great deal (4)
- 22. Herald (9)
- 26. Hedge (7)
- 28. Books of maps (7)
- 29. Young hooter (5)
- 30. Abbreviated (9)

**Down**

- 1. Decree (5)
- 2. Executives (10)
- 3. Biting (9)
- 4. Fiddle (6)
- 5. Old liners (8)
- 6. The Roman Empire's home country (5)
- 7. Large mass of floating ice (4)
- 8. As thumbs are (9)
- 15. Disagreeable (10)
- 16. Psalter (5,4)
- 17. Moon (9)
- 19. Astonishment (8)
- 23. Lea (6)
- 24. Threescore (5)
- 25. Stage whisper (5)
- 27. Depend (4)



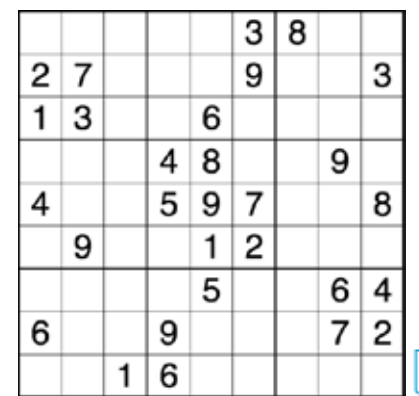
Want the answers early? Scan the puzzles using HP Reveal. (Must be following Niagara Now's channel.)



**Last issue's answers**



**Sudoku**



# Fruit Shack won't see spring blossoms

Jer Houghton  
Staff



The Fruit Shack is closing in February

Fruit Shack Farm & Market Bakery will close its doors Sunday, Feb. 24.

In a mass email sent out to customers on Jan. 29, Steve Pohorly on behalf of the Fruit Shack, announced the closure of the market. Thanking everyone for their loyalty, the email said, "from a family perspective it makes sense."

"We've kind of been at this for 16 years, and it's been on the back of our minds for the past little while, thinking at some point we've got to figure out what to do here," said Steve Pohorly of the Pohorly family, owners of the Fruit Shack Farm Market & Bakery.

He said retail is a lot of work and they have provided a level of service and attention to detail that's

not as common anymore – "it's a lot of work and a lot of effort, and it's always on your mind."

The Pohorlys operate approximately 50 acres of farmland, where they grow and supply wine grapes to Jackson Triggs and Arterra Wines Canada, which owns Jackson Triggs. This alongside the table grapes, fruits and vegetables grown for the market, Pohorly said it

simply became too much.

His parents, Frank and Susan, are approaching their mid 70s and are still very involved in the farm and in the market. He said it would be nice if they could slow down a little bit, or at least not have to be there every day throughout the summer.

"So, we do a lot of things and we wanted to take something off our plate."

Pohorly is heavily in-

involved on the grape side of the farm as well and has been serving as a director of Grape Growers of Ontario for the past nine years, which takes up a lot of his time.

"Just being a small family business with a few great employees, it's definitely a lot of hands on for myself and my parents," added Pohorly.

"Selling a substandard product wasn't really an option for us, so closing this down became the logical choice as far as how we ease things up a little bit."

Pohorly said he believes the Fruit Shack is a prime location for a lot of opportunity, hoping the establishment stays agricultural. He admits the family hasn't determined what to do with it next.

"I'd like to see it stay in the 'agricultural thing' and stuff like that as far as the fruit and vegetables and

bakery go – but I mean, yes, I'm open to ideas and possibilities."

He said he hasn't thought a whole lot about that. "There's people who have contacted me expressing interest in something at our location, so you know, we're going to take our time and talk to people and see what people might be interested in for the market here," he said.

One thing's for certain, Pohorly said their famous, Canada's Best butter tarts will remain "closely guarded," "on hold," and "in the vault."

"The butter tarts were one of those things that, when we set out to start baking them, every little while we just kept tweaking the recipe and making them better and worked on the process. (We) worked on all that stuff that allowed us to create these masterpieces," he said.

"The nice thing with the butter tarts is that who knows, one day 10 years down the road, we make a bakery in the middle of nowhere and I'm sure I could stir up some name recognition real quick."

Looking back, Pohorly said he is grateful for the loyalty of their customers over the years.

"We've made a lot of friends through here. Every time I go to town and you see people you know that we've met at the fruit market ... We have a huge debt of gratitude just because customers here and the people here that have shopped at the fruit market, they're just fantastic people, hands down," he said.

"Hands down the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the customers we have from here all the way to Toronto and beyond are just wonderful people."



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# Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

## AFTER THE FIRE



Our town re-built very quickly after being burnt to the ground in the War of 1812. This sketch shows the east corner of Queen and Gate Streets as it looked in 1830.

SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH

## Calling all chefs!

### Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd like to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: [recipes@niagaranow.com](mailto:recipes@niagaranow.com)

The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!



## From the Ground Up

Brian Marshall  
Featured

The rise and current day dominance of the tract developer has had a profound and largely negative impact on architecture. Fact is, the best ROI on a development results from maximum coverage with a few 'cookie-cutter' designs which can be built on a mass production model employing largely 'function-focused' semi-skilled labour.

This said, it is understandable that the developer's criteria for what makes a 'good' design are much more akin to those of Industrial Design rather than the precepts followed by Architectural Design.

So, if you are building or renovating, just what makes



Desertification by development. SUPPLIED

for 'good' Architectural Design?

It begins with the site. A new home, once completed, should integrate seamlessly with its surroundings. For a stand-alone estate residence the principal consideration is landscape and topography, while for the in-fill (either one or a cluster) house(s)

both the landscape and surrounding architecture must be encompassed. Good architecture is always harmonious with its setting. It complements and adds to the whole. This is not, for example, to suggest a new design set between two Georgian houses must be Georgian but rather the form, lines and elements of

the new build should flow with the existing homes to produce a pleasing overall composition. Simply put, if the design dominates (or is incongruous) with the site rather than integrating with it, the architect has failed.

Over the next few columns, we'll continue exploring principles of 'good' architectural design.

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# Stories by Selina Appleby

Selina Appleby had a long and successful career as a researcher and story editor at CBC TV. She recently wrote a series of reflections which were compiled and published in her book entitled 'Field of Empties' which is available on Amazon. The material for this album of stories began in the thirties when she was a child living in downtown Toronto, just off Queen Street. She often climbed her garden fence to see the action at the corner saloon and on the surrounding streets, observing the daily struggles of the people in her community. Fifty years later Selina moved to another house just off of Queen Street, where she now looked out from her window at the tourist-drenched streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Forward by Hermine Steinberg, Writer's Circle



Selina Appleby

## B&B&B&B

This original quaint historical town had become a trendy tourist town. People came for the allure of the shops and the theatre. Usually they came only for the day so an advertising campaign was launched to entice visitors to stay overnight or longer. The flow from the ads packed the town to capacity and therein lies the tale of the enormous proliferation of houses that offered Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

There were B&Bs for the swanky and B&Bs for the others. Some of the places were even offering accommodations for their dogs - Bed and Bone. Breakfast ranged from coffee and muffins to crepes, quiche, and layered French toast supreme. The plates were garnished with Monet-like scenes to match their designer gardens. It was said that at one home the lady of the house broke down in tears after learning that the couple never ate breakfast.

The flood gates were now open and it seemed that everyone wanted to visit this town. The B&B business flourished. Competition was keen as the proprietors designed more luxurious and innovative accommodations.

A couple arrived from the United States and renovated an old farm house at the edge of town and put a new spin on B&B. The house was furnished with exquisite

Victorian furniture and oil paintings of American "aristocracy." White lacy bedspreads and cushions adorned the four poster beds. Some of the guests left their cars in the town parking lot preferring to arrive by horse and buggy.

The atmosphere was complete when the lady and her husband bedecked in Victorian finery greeted the guests at the front door. He introduced himself as the butler and she as the lady of the manor.

It wasn't until breakfast the next day that the true splendour of the setting became apparent. The table was set with gleaming silver, lace table cloth and glistening antique china. The flowers perched on top of a tiered plate of fancy bread, cheese and fruit. It was dazzling and dizzying. There were three couples who were strangers to each other but by the time breakfast was over they were bosom pals.

When they left, they all agreed a gorgeous time was had by all.

When the front door slammed shut and the last guest was gone, the Victorian-gowned lady and her tuxedoed butler pulled off their clothes laughing uproariously as they counted: two hundred, three hundred, four, five, six hundred dollars... money paid out for one night in a Barnum and Bailey B&B.

## ROSE'S GARDEN

She was a divine gardener. Every day she appeared in her garden as soon as the sun settled in the sky.

Slight and trim with her wispy white hair catching the wind, she resembled the ornamental grass at the back of the garden.

She always dressed properly and sometimes even elegantly. One day she made her entrance in an emerald green opera coat, apologizing for wearing "my hubby's shoes."

Like an avid theatre-goer, she greeted each and every plant, applauding their performance. They never let her down. They bloomed, they blossomed, they flourished.

One seedling reached a height of five feet! Although no one knew its name, everyone stopped to admire it and speculate. Nothing was too expensive for her offspring.

After she had her afternoon tea she peeled open the tea bag and delicately placed the leaves around the roots for nourishment. Her garden was the pride of the neighbourhood.

When the summer ended

and before the flowers died, Rose, the gardener, offered bouquets of small mauve mums to all her friends.

If a neighbour did not answer her fragile knock at the door, she made her way around the back of the house and placed her floral arrangement in the carrier of a bicycle or on top of a garbage can.

When you thanked her she hugged you and said that sharing her garden made her ever so happy.

It seemed that Rose was seldom indoors. Her meals were taken on the back porch and whenever you passed by, she was crouched in her garden examining her pets. She, along with the sun, said their goodnights together.

So when the first snow fell she snipped off the drooping flowers, closed her door and faded into the house. No one saw her during the cold wintry months.

But when spring reappeared, she emerged, along with her flowers, radiant and blooming once again.

## THE SILVER THIMBLE

The heat of the summer had made playing baseball in the playground impossible.

The field was so dry that the three baseball bags stood like clumps in a desert of blowing sand. Since there was no one to play with at the playground the only choice was the streets.

My mother, trying to find something for me to do, presented me with a tiny blue gift box containing a delicate, dimpled, silver thimble.

Her explanation was that I should learn to sew and this was a beginning.

Now all that I needed was a needle and thread and the promise that I would be able to make wonderful things.

Well - I didn't. I hated sewing. I hated sitting still and so I learned to hate that little silver thimble.

That thimble symbolized domesticity. It dictated passivity.

So I studied that thimble. I noted its every contour and curve and texture.

And when I had completed this examination, I opened the box, shrouded it with tissue paper and buried it.

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# Wallbangers remember the horror of Humboldt Broncos bus crash

Ross Robinson  
(#9, Blue Team)  
Special

A sudden bus crash in northeastern Saskatchewan last April reminded us all of carefree road trips, school trips, church trips, sport trips, vacation trips.

Laughter, napping, chatting, enjoying old and new friends. No worries. No seat belts. Life was good.

Every one of us has been on that bus. It's part of life in Canada, our huge and diverse country.

The crash, at a rural highway intersection in the late afternoon, killed 16 people and injured 13. Just like that. A trillion to one thing. Impossible to explain. Impossible to understand.

Where is Humboldt, population 5,819? About 240km north of Regina. About 150km southeast of Prince Albert. About 270km west of Swan River, Manitoba. Got that?

A small town with a Junior A hockey team, stocked largely with a bunch of teenagers imported from other prairie towns. From Slave Lake, Alberta to Whittier, California. Billed to go to school, living the life, dreaming of the NHL or the NCAA. Rabid fans, teenage stardom, big shots in town. Riding the bus. Occasionally, defying road conditions to get to the next game in time.

The Broncos bus was almost to Nipawin, population 4,401, a further 180 km. further north. There was a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playoff game to be played. Some parents and fans were following in their cars. A big deal, eh?

These hometown heroes were between 16 and 19 years old. Yes, between 16 and 19! Plus, a few "over-age juniors." Think about that. Boys, young men. Livin' the dream, eh?

Consider the importance of hockey in these small towns. Junior A hockey games are just so exciting,

the biggest shows in town, not to be missed. Not much has changed since 1946, when the skating rink was the heart of town. Iconic French Canadian author Roch Carrier wrote *The Hockey Sweater* (not *The Hockey Jersey*) about winters in Ste. Justine, Quebec (population 1,200.) Way back then, in the days of natural ice, boys in Quebec all prayed to God to help them play as well as Maurice Richard.

Back now to small town Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada. Almost unbelievably, there are some 132 Junior A hockey teams in Canada today.

In that icy cold instant on a snowy day in Saskatchewan, the fragility of life smacked us once more. We have all experienced different emotions since the news broke. Now, the sentencing hearing of the truck driver who blew through the stop sign, leaving no skid marks, is dominating the news in Canada. He was heading west, into the setting sun, in the cab of a tractor-trailer loaded with peat moss.

Earlier this month, a remorseful Jaskirat Singh Sidhu pleaded guilty to all 16 charges of dangerous driving causing death, and all 13 counts of dangerous driving causing harm. He has been truly remorseful, and wanted to spare the families and all Canadians the anguish and expense a long trial would bring.

I think Mr. Sidhu is a good man, and a good Canadian. We are fortunate he is one of us.

The majority of the seventy nine heart wrenching Victim Impact Statements have offered forgiveness. Most know he had no evil in his heart. Investigators proved there was no alcohol, drugs or distracted driving involved.

Of course people will still ask, "Why didn't he stop?"

We will never know.

Please permit me to present my theory. Repeat, it's only my theory. Like many



Gregory McCaughey and his son Evan McCaughey beside the two hockey sticks leaning on their garage door in NOTL. They continue to remember the horrible Humboldt Broncos bus crash last April. Riding a bus is part of being Canadian, which made this tragedy so real and personal to all of us. SUPPLIED PHOTO

recent immigrants, Jaskirat Sidhu may have been working two jobs, perhaps long days, to support himself in his new country. This has been the story of immigration in Canada, as immigrants from so many countries have come here to make our country the country of the future for their families.

Many of us, including your humble scribe, have nodded off at the wheel, perhaps for several seconds. "But for the grace of God," these incidents could have ended tragically.

Remember, this horrible crash happened at the intersection of two quiet country roads. Perhaps two, three or four kilometres since the last stop sign. Our Canadian prairies, they are big. The land of endless skies. Driving long hours, into the sun, many of us have awakened with a start, still on the asphalt, or touching the shoulder.

As we follow this story from Humboldt, out West, we may ask what can we possibly learn? Already,



Niagara residents came together in support of the Humboldt Broncos last year. A golf ball hunt fundraiser was held by Joe Pillitteri at the former driving range on Lakeshore Road to clear the property in preparation to build a house and grape farm. RICHARD HARLEY

several good things have happened.

Bernadine and Toby Boulet, heartbroken, are proud that their 21 year old son Logan, a big, strapping defenceman from Lethbridge, was a pre-registered organ donor. Six Canadians are alive today because of his donation. Since this news became public, over 100,000 of us have registered. Have you? Just call 1-800-263-2833.

Should Canada have an "Opt Out" policy, instead of "Opt In?" Many countries use Opt Out, and thousands and thousands of lives have been saved.

Seatbelt legislation has been expedited for both school buses, highway coaches, and trains. Duh, how about it, Go Transit?

Truck Driver training and commercial regulations have been modified, providing safer roads for all of us.

The reaction of most Canadians, and the love and respect generally shown to a new Canadian, have been gratifying. This has been an example of what makes Canada Canada, and what makes Canadians Canadians.

Let us all make an effort to perform regular random acts of kindness, with family, friends and strangers.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada. In 2019.

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## Grace United Church



Denise Ascenzo  
Featured

A church built through controversy, Grace United Church has one of the more interesting histories in this town.

In 1786, Major George Neal, Canada's first Itinerant Preacher crossed Niagara River to start preaching Methodism in Queenston. It is said his sermons were so lively that the garrison commander of Newark ordered Neal to stop preaching.

Luck (or bad luck) would have it, the commander died before his order was acted upon and Neal continued his work. His "meetings" continued to gain popularity and Neal formed a second congregation in St. Davids with meetings being held in Christian Warner's home.

By 1821, the Methodist congregation in Niagara-on-the-Lake was ready to build their own meeting house. Property was purchased, from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, at Gage and Gate Streets in Old Town. A frame building was completed by 1823 and the first Methodist minister was John Ryerson. The following two ministers were John's brothers, William Ryerson and then Edgerton Ryerson (founder of Ryerson University)

The meeting house on Gate and Gage was used for 52 years. The building was later sold and moved to Gate and Prideaux Street where it can still be seen today.

The cemetery on Gate Street was situated beside the first meeting house and used by the early Methodist congregation. One can still take a stroll through the trees there. Details of the cemetery can be found at the Niagara Historical Society and Museum.

The congregation moved into a red brick church on Victoria Street, which they rented from a small Presby-



Grace United Church. BRITTANY CARTER

terian congregation that had broken away from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The Methodists made the decision in 1874 to purchase the building. At a staggering sum of \$1,500.00 and with another \$500.00 in repairs, the small congregation had found a new home.

The church structure, built in 1852, was designed by the architect William Thomas of Toronto. This was one of Thomas' smaller works having designed the Court House in NOTL, St. Michaels Cathedral in Toronto, St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto as well as Brock's Monument.

The design of the church is mostly Romanesque with squared off corbel tables (stone or wood jutting from a wall to help support of the wall) and pilaster strips (to look like columns) on the exterior.

The interior had renovations done when the Methodist congregation purchased the church. The

aisles were reconstructed, carpeting was put on the floor, cushions on the seats and new chandeliers were hung.

The alter railing and chairs remained and are the original form the Presbyterian Church period. The Baptismal Font was donated by the MacLellam family who owned a grocery store at Victoria and Queen for over 100 years. The communion set is from the original Methodist congregation.

In 1896 an extension to accommodate a school room was constructed to the rear of the church. At this time the pipe-organ was moved to an alcove.

The pulpit was donated by Mr. Trance in 1924. In 1957, Mrs. Trance donated \$500 for the new pipe organ.

One of the stain glass windows is in memory of Lewis Peake who was one of the founders of Chautauqua (traveling tent shows) in Niagara-on-the-Lake 1929. However, the Chau-

tauqua here in NOTL had a more permanence to it with tents be replaced by a three story hotel, cottages and an amphitheatre that could seat 4,000 people.

Above the front door of Grace United Church, is another beautiful stain glass window. It is in memory of Ephraim Meadows 1865-1917, who was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in Upper Canada.

In 1925 there was another great divide in the Protestant Churches. Methodist, Presbyterians and Congregational Churches were in a flux. Many people left these established congregations and formed the new United Church of Canada.

No church was left unscathed; seventeen members from St. Andrews alone joined the newly formed congregation at Grace United Church. Amongst the new members were Mr. and Mrs. Harrison who owned a hardware store (where the post office is now) and Mrs.

Owens who was the organist at St. Andrews.

The newly formed congregation was huge and additions were made to the building once again. In 1926, a shelter was built with three double stalls and a coal storage space.

Also in 1926 a stain glass window was installed commemorating the young men who did not return from World War One. And in 1929 another window was added to honour the founding families of the Methodist Church. Amongst these names are some very familiar ones, Chrysler, Ball and Peake.

By 1965, Virgil United Church closed its doors and the congregation joined Grace United Church in NOTL.

By 1984, the church had grown significantly and another addition was built. This was the office and Minister's Study. The congregation was now able to hire a full time minister.

The wonderful people of Grace United Church are still very active hosting many special events; the next popular event is their Ham Supper on February 8th. All are welcome.

Please go to their web site for further information: [www.graceunitedchurch.com](http://www.graceunitedchurch.com)

Many thanks to John Sayers and David Greaves for taking the time to show me their wonderful church.

*More of Denise's articles about the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com).*

*Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor and a respected voice in the community on historical matters.*

*She has dedicated countless hours to promoting and advocating for the preservation of local history. If information is disputed, please send us a message.*

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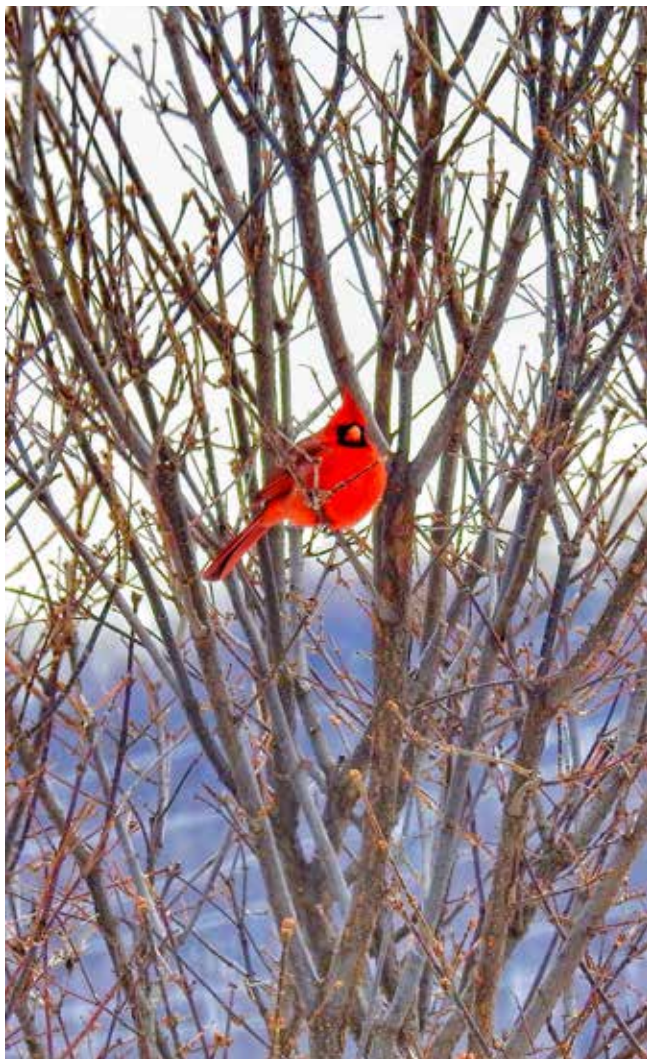
All Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and visitors are welcome to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Please send submissions to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com).



*When the sun starts staying out past 5 p.m.*

## Resident photos

### The eagle has landed



With the Niagara Escarpment as a backdrop, this lone male Northern cardinal perched on a lilac tree during this week's cold spell.  
PHOTO BY STEVEN HARDAKER, SUBMITTED BY NIAGARA REGION



A bald eagle was spotted along the Niagara Parkway in January.  
PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY PETER CROWHURST



Mika takes a plunge into the snow at Queen's Royal Park during an afternoon of photos around Old Town.  
EUNICE TANG/THE LAKE REPORT



### Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms: The Olde Angel Inn

The Olde Angel Inn was established in 1789 and rebuilt in 1815 after the War of 1812. Sometime after that they installed the bathrooms in the basement. Also lurking about the basement is the ghost of Corporal Colin Swayze, who was absent during our visit. Also missing was the iconic leaf that once covered the bathroom angel statuery's privates and (supposedly) rang a bell upstairs when someone peeked. No bells rang during our visit, but of course the bell was disconnected. The lively English-style pub is decorated in old-world decor and its bathrooms are no exception. The pub boasts hearty food and endless hospitality to lead you to the washroom, which now also boasts three Gold Plungers.

**3/5 Golden Plungers**



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You can see me in water, but I never get wet. What am I?

Last Week's answer: A promise. (Unanswered)

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## FEATURED LOCAL STORY

# CARSON & STELLA

Brittany Carter  
Staff

Carson Tucker and Stella are local celebrities. Or, as Tucker corrected, Stella is a celebrity.

A man and his dog, they are two of a kind — rarely will one be seen without the other. Having been side-by-side for seven years, Tucker said he often plans activities in his life around whether Stella can come along.

“A lot of the things I do are pretty much geared around if I can bring her with me. There’s a lot of things I haven’t done in my life, but I don’t feel like I’ve missed out. I’ve had opportunities to do things with her instead. I wouldn’t trade that for anything.”

At ease around horses, Tucker has been around them his whole life. His family was always involved with them, he said, remembering that his dad was interested in horse racing.

“We’ve got pictures of me being held on (the race horses) as a young baby.”

That comfort eventually led Tucker to become a driver for the local horse carriages. Accepting the position was a natural step, he said, and it turned into a full-time, six years of being a carriage driver.

Stella was along for the ride daily for five of them, when he worked for Sentineal Carriages in town.

Over those years driving the carriages, they became local celebrities. Tucker said it was because of Stella.

“I’m pretty friendly and I’m from right downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake, I knew a lot of people. It was kind of iconic having her with me, she just brings it all together. I definitely get a lot of joy from making others happy and doing things for other people. Being on the carriages, the best feeling is when people would tell me that I made their entire trip or made their day. That was kind of the



Carson Tucker holds Stella in his arms. The two have been thick as thieves for seven years now. BRITTANY CARTER/THE LAKE REPORT

most exciting part of it.”

Three years ago, he made a career switch. He is now working in construction as a subcontractor.

“It’s been a bit of a transition not having her with me. It’s so different from what I was doing. Especially not having Stella all day.”

He said working with his hands, construction is a little more pertinent to firefighting, which is something he’s hoping to do full time. He has always been focused on volunteering and being involved in the community, the career path to firefighter opened up for him and he said it just felt right.

“I just kind of walked into it, and then I fell in love with it. Now I’m pursuing it as a full-time career.”

For now, he’s a volunteer at Station 3 in Virgil, taking courses in the meantime. Stella comes with him every Monday. It’s one of the most rewarding things he’s experienced, he said.

“With firefighting you’re showing up for people who are probably having the worst day of their life. No one really calls 911 casually. It’s going to be one of the worst calls you’re going to have to make.

I try to be able to live with myself and be able to go to sleep every day knowing that I did my best in helping someone out, as opposed to doing things for more selfish reasons.

“I have been lucky enough where I haven’t seen anything too traumatic, but that’s part of the job. Taking care of yourself as well as being dedicated to your career is challenging. You could say that for any job but especially something like firefighting, it’s something you have to be aware of.”

Aside from the various volunteer programs through the fire station, he is also a Big Brother and a coach for a house-league soccer team in St. Catharines.

Above all else, he’s an avid animal lover who wants to help people.

He grew up in St. Catharines but moved to NOTL about eight years ago. He said he doesn’t plan on leaving for the foreseeable future, although he has been applying for firefighting positions across Ontario.

Stella keeps him active. He said he would have a harder time getting out in the winter and running early in the morning if he didn’t have to take care of her. He said he’s awake at 4:30 a.m. every morning.

As much as helping other people, he said it’s important to stay focused and try to be a good friend to himself. Helping others while also trying to move forward with his life can be challenging.

The biggest compliment he said he receives is about his animals and how well behaved they are.

Proud of his relationships with friends and family as

well, he said it’s all about making lifestyle choices you can live with.

“I’m more proud of the circle I’ve built and the lifestyle that I’m living. I’m taking care of myself and my friends and family. Also helping out the community and making healthy lifestyle choices.”

As someone who is always trying to become the best version of himself, he said he strives to do better every day.

“My biggest challenge is trying not to compare myself to where other people are in their life. I’m trying to compare myself with who I was yesterday - as opposed to who I want to be or where other people are. Constantly trying to work on yourself bit by bit and helping other people when you can. It’s the one thing in my life that has been able to make me feel full and confident; remembering that every day.

Being able to live with yourself at the end of the day is the biggest thing.”

The relationships he has cultivated with the people in his life have helped to make him the man he is, his relationship with Stella though is something he said can’t accurately be put into words.

“It’s the best relationship you could ever have. Basically, what I’ve put into the relationship with Stella, I’ve gotten back tenfold. She’s your buddy. It’s a pretty special relationship to have. Anyone with a dog, especially if it’s your dog only, you can’t even put that relationship into words. It’s a special bond you have. You two are right on the same wavelength.”

It’s no secret that Tucker and Stella are best friends, that friendship spills over into all other aspects of his life.

“I find anyone I know, where it’s just them and their dog, they always seem to have the most well-behaved dog too. The communication, the non-verbal communication is just incredible.”

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