



The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 5

February 7, 2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Search for missing senior ends in tragedy



Police cruisers secure the parking lot for investigation after the body of a missing local senior was discovered Monday afternoon. RICHARD HARLEY/THE LAKE REPORT

No truth to late rent payment rumours, say town officials



Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The town doesn't owe Parks Canada any outstanding rental fees, a municipal official confirmed Monday. Lord Mayor Betty Disero had asked if the town was up-to-date with paying rent to Parks Canada at the special committee of the whole budget meeting on Jan. 11. Sheldon Randall, the town's director of operations, said for the past couple of years the town has not been consistent with making a payment. Lord Mayor then proceeded to say how she had been told that the town has "paid sometimes and haven't paid other times."

ated rumour, said Victoria Steele, the town's community engagement coordinator. "The Lord Mayor had been told a rumour that the Town had been inconsistent on rent payments to Parks Canada. At the committee of the whole meeting on Friday she asked the director of operations to look into the situation," said Steele in an email to The Lake Report. "The treasurer has looked into the situation and contacted Parks Canada. There is no truth to the rumour and there is no outstanding money owed." When The Lake Report asked Disero about her remark, she confirmed it was a rumour and she didn't remember where she'd heard it.

But the talk about unpaid fees was just an unsubstanti-

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NOTL freezes over

Story on Page 2



Gardens project moving forward

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Vintage Hotels is moving ahead with the conference centre and garden project on 524 Regent St. Paul MacIntyre, vice president of operations of Vintage Hotels, said any confusion regarding whether the development is set to move forward needed to be clarified. "The plan is set, we haven't diverted from that, and we're moving forward. The sewage capacity has

confused a lot of people. We have written a letter to the town saying we don't need it right now. We will in the future when we get to that point, but we're not there yet," he said, adding that they don't intend to rush the process. "It has nothing to do with the fact that it's not available, as these things take time. We're not going to have an administrative building, or the conference centre built next year."

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Gardens project continuing along original timeline

Continued from front Page

The gardens project and conference centre will require a sewage capacity of 45,600 litres daily, which the town doesn't have right now. MacIntyre said the completion of the waste water treatment plant should align with their timeline.

The Vintage Hotels development will be completed in phases. The first and most important phase, MacIntyre said, is the garden.

The property once held a manufacturing plant for C&C Yachts. Vintage Hotels owns the land and were eager to tear down the old warehouses that, MacIntyre said, while structurally sound, "looked horrible in the middle of a residence."

Surface area contamination of the soil had to be managed before development could begin.

"Of course, with those boats and with the work that was done, there's a certain amount of contamination. Resin and stuff like that. Not a lot, but we've just spent the last three months doing the cleanup of it, which is now done." Environmental clean-up



Paul MacIntyre, vice president of operations of Vintage Hotels, and Ryan Murray, general manager of the Pillar and Post. BRITTANY CARTER

of the site was overseen by Pinchin Ltd., an environmental, engineering, building science, and health & safety consulting firm.

Turning the property into a garden, MacIntyre said he is excited about the impact the green space will have on the community.

"Originally the inspiration for this project was Monet's garden. We went to France to see Monet's garden. It's designed based on the inspiration of that. It's something we're very proud of. The vision for

this property since we embarked on it, from design right through approvals of the town, has not changed."

He said, from the beginning, it has been about the garden.

"This is a project I get to head up for the company I am incredibly proud of. It's different for me though, because I'm used to buildings and renovations – this is a garden. It's not something we've ever embarked on before. Literally, 65 per cent of this property will be greenspace."

The garden design allowed for 50 trees to remain. According to the plans, 350 new trees will be planted. Many of the new trees will be large caliber specimens, not just seedlings, he said. The design also includes 21,000 shrubs and foliage.

"Someone said that we were clear cutting. We haven't clear cut any trees. In the site plan process that was approved by the town, and arguably the community, there were trees that were removed, because they needed to be; there were trees that were on a contaminated site."

MacIntyre said they held three unofficial community meetings throughout the development and planning process. He said during the meetings, there was a lot of open dialogue.

"Talking is the most important part of the process. In the absence of knowing, people fear what's happening. They begin to create new stories – and it's not always real. I think we have the obligation to talk with people, to tell the story of what's happening."

He said transparency is key.

"That has worked for us throughout this development. I really do believe that we've had strong community support. I think that says a lot about the process, but it says a lot about the development too."

As a commercial space within a residential area, the company aims to remain a respectful neighbour. If issues arise, as they may with any neighbour, MacIntyre said he is quick to have them addressed.

"If there's a complaint we sit down and have a coffee and work it out. That's not any different than two people living beside each other. We think we deal with it really well, and we keep open conversation."

Aside from greenspace, the development also includes a conference centre which will be used for social functions, such as weddings, dinners and ceremonies. He said approved events will be appropriate for the space.

The conference centre won't be completed this year, MacIntyre said, the focus is finishing the garden space for now.

"We're endeavoring to make this award-winning"

Search for missing senior ends in tragedy

Richard Harley
Editor

A search for a local senior who went missing Monday morning ended in tragedy after his remains were discovered near Ricardo Street and Navy Hall.

Police has put out a public notice in the morning asking for the public's assistance locating 89-year-old Egon Epp, who had left his home at about 8:30 a.m. headed to the post office on Queen Street. Police determined he never made it to his intended destination.

Epp, who resided in the area of Charlotte and James streets, had last



Police on scene after the discovery of a local senior's body near Navy Hall. RICHARD HARLEY

been seen shortly after leaving his house near Charlotte Street and John Street East.

Police, who thanked the

public for help in the investigation, are not releasing any further details out of respect for the family of the deceased.

Weather gets wild

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake surfaces have been converted to ice, two days after temperatures were over 10 C.

Freezing rain warnings were in effect across Southern Ontario on Wednesday, leading to the closure of schools and public centres. The Town of NOTL published a warning to avoid non-essential travel, announcing town hall and city services, such as the library and community centre, were to be closed at noon.

Waste collection was cancelled and delayed a day across Niagara.

As the storm threatened



Grape vines frozen over. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

to continue into Thursday, picturesque frozen branches cause a potential hazard of snapping under the weight of excessive ice. Power lines also become dangerous as ice continues to build up.

The last significant ice storm to hit Ontario was in April 2018, with more than 1200 collisions reported and power loss to more than 40,000 people across Southern Ontario.




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Virgil LCBO to open in March

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The wait for a new LCBO store is almost over.

There is no exact date yet but the new location is set to open next month. The large front store is under construction on 1561 Niagara Stone Rd in Virgil, beside the Valu-Mart.

However, NOTL residents don't have to worry about the downtown store closing any time soon.

"Our Niagara-on-the-Lake LCBO is a popular location and will remain open. There will be no impact on this store with the opening of our Virgil location," said the press office.

Bruce Haslam who will be Virgil's store manager said he was "looking forward to serving the community."

Neither downtown NOTL downtown store manager Rick Porzuczek nor LCBO's district manager Terry Dubuque could answer questions about the new store and referred The Lake Report to the LCBO's head office in Toronto.

The LCBO's press office confirmed the Virgil store will open in March but couldn't provide any more details in regards to the opening.

"LCBO works to identify growing communities that would benefit from new, relocated and/or expanded LCBO stores,"



The new LCBO in Virgil is expected to open in March. BRITTANY CARTER



The LCBO on Queen Street will stay open despite a new Virgil location opening up. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

said the press office. "Such investments provide greater convenience and improved service to our customers and the addition of these new and upgraded stores

helps to generate additional revenue for the government to help fund important public programs."

Greg Chew of Greg Chew Commercial Real,

who has been in charge of the project's development, said the new store gets to service local people and provides room for variety for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

No truth to late rent payment rumours, say town officials

Continued from front page

Parks Canada also commented on the situation.

"Parks Canada owns seven national historic sites in the Niagara region, collectively known as the Niagara National Historic Sites," said Rae Kingdon, public relations and communications officer at Parks Canada. "These sites reflect the region's nationally significant military

heritage and include Fort George, Butler's Barracks, Fort Mississauga, Queenston Heights, Navy Island, Mississauga Point Lighthouse and the Battlefield of Fort George. We also own culturally significant lands adjacent to some of these sites."

"Parks Canada maintains a good relationship with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. They have agreements

in place with our Agency and have honoured them.

"We are aware of the rumour circulating that the Town has been inconsistent on rent payments to Parks Canada and can confirm that there is no truth to this rumour and that there are no outstanding payments owed," said Kingdon.

The Lake Report also asked Randall to provide some comments.

"We're in the process of formalizing and changing terms with Parks Canada. It will be coming in a few months," he said.

Kyle Freeborn, the town's treasurer, said he hasn't looked into the situation yet but he wasn't aware of any late payments.

"If there were any outstanding fees owed, we would have to pay them. The town has obligations."

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Lack of events for Black History Month in NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Every February, Black History Month commemorates important people and events related to black history.

Niagara-on-the-Lake, which used to be the capital of Upper Canada, had black settlers starting in the 1780s.

It was here that the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire was introduced. Locals might also know the stories of Chloe Cooley and Solomon Moseby, who played a vital role in shaping black history in Canada.

Amy Klassen, co-ordinator of the NOTL Historical Society & Museum, said the museum has no public events

planned for Black History Month this year.

Neither does the community centre. The library has one event, Tales By Moonlight Feb. 16 at 11 a.m.

However, Klassen said the museum is working on a black history educational program for schools and is developing a walking app that will complement the Voices of Freedom Park.

The Voices of Freedom Park opened in November 2018 with the goal of recognizing the significance of the town's black history.

"We have just hired a co-ordinator for this project who is currently reaching out to schools, working on the program and developing resource materials," said Klassen.

"She's going to classrooms, doing interactive activities with children and teaching information sessions with teachers."

The app will be available on July 9, on the anniversary of the Act to Limit Slavery. It was initially supposed to launch this February but was delayed.

"One of the Voices of Freedom committee members went on maternity leave. We were also trying to choose what type of app to use," said Klassen.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has received \$51,200 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and \$5,000 from the Niagara Community Foundation to develop the programming and the app.



More letters

Well done re: The Lake Report ... fits the town perfectly! Very compelling and timely content. Despite the status of print media ... TLR is one of the only printed mags I read. There's room for one local in NOTL — not three. My choice is TLR.

Best,

Glenn Young

Landmark Sport Group

Re: Cannery park letters and snobby NOTLers

I couldn't agree more with the letter writer from Cannery Park, about the snobbishness of some residents from other parts of NOTL. Especially Old Town.

I don't think these people regard St. Davids as part of NOTL. So much for all the talk about community coming together.

I read about all the wonderful things going on at the library, the community centre, the festivals, etc.

The outlet mall, forget that.

If you live in St. Davids, don't own a car, or for some reason you can't drive, you will find it very hard to attend all these wonderful things.

How about a decrease in taxes for our lack of amenities, i.e., bus service. No one expects a library, community centre or food markets in every part of town, but a bus would surely help.

On a visit to Toronto a lady asked where I lived. I said NOTL. Her reply, and I quote, was "That's where they are always protesting and fighting about everything."

So, now I say I live in St. David's. A great number of people don't know where that is, including some that live in NOTL.

The town is lovely, like a lot of other towns. Stop trying too hard to be unique.

Myra Goodman



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just wanted to show our support for The Lake Report and all you are doing to make this publication so wonderful!

We were truly disappointed in the decline, and finally closure, of the Niagara Advance as our only true source of Niagara-on-the-Lake news. My family owned the Advance from 1933 to 1963 thereabouts, beginning with my great grandfather Joseph Young, on down to my grandfather Douglas Young (who penned the inscription on Parliament Oak's exterior wall) while my father Alan and uncle Glen Young also came on board. Some of my fondest memories as a young child were visiting the office. The smell of printer ink is forever etched in my psyche.

Best of luck with your publication going forward, and we are grateful to have a weekly edition now in place.

Regards,

Cindy (and Ken) Hernder





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Elaine Baitinger, Karen Second, Sharon Hunter, Jackie Gushur trek down Niagara Stone Road. The group of friends get together every two weeks. EUNICE TANG

Councillors vote against clear bags use and bi-weekly garbage collection

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Town councillors have spoken loud and clear — they want nothing to do with a Niagara Region proposal to institute every-other-week garbage collection or make clear plastic garbage bags mandatory.

On Monday night, the town's committee of the whole tossed the region's suggestions in the bin.

It was Coun. Clare Cameron who had concerns with the region's report and asked to make an addition to it.

"In this situation, we're going to go down the path where the public will pay the same amount of taxes and receive half as much service," she said.

As a mother with young children, Cameron said she has to experience "diapers and they don't stop."

"There are lots of families for whom end-of-week garbage collection would be a very difficult challenge. And for whom clear bags would also be a very unpleasant experience for their neighbours," she said.

"And we also know there are aging people in our community who sometimes also have their own continence issues and I don't want to get into particulars of people's personal situations but that is one of the reasons why I will put forward a proposed edition."

Coun. Erwin Wiens said bi-weekly garbage collection wouldn't work for farmers who might have bags full of garbage and he also had concerns about the privacy.

Coun. Allan Bisback said he didn't believe in using clear bags because there was no need for it from local residents.

If the town approved clear bags and EOW collection, there would be no cost savings, said Coun. Wendy Cheropita.

"Even with the reduced service levels, the increase in wages is going to neutralize that so there is going to be no change. I think the residents have spoken loudly

and I would not be in favour of supporting this," she said.

According to the survey results conducted by the region in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, 36.9 per cent of online respondents — or 101 people out of 274 — said they definitely wouldn't support using clear garbage bags.

During a telephone survey, 25.8 per cent (323

people out of 1,253) said they would definitely support a switch to clear garbage bags.

For Coun. Norm Arseneault, there

were no problems going with the every-other-week garbage collection.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she also had concerns using clear bags but, like Arseneault, she would vote against changing the recommendation.

Brad Whitelaw, Niagara region's program manager for policy and planning, then addressed the com-

mittee and said using clear garbage bags will be a motivator for residents to divert.

"It's keeping the residents accountable for what they're putting inside the bag," he said.


People shouldn't be putting organics or hazardous waste in the recycling, he said, adding collection contractors will not collect bins containing non-recycling waste.

Whitelaw provided an example of how the city of Markham saw a six per cent increase in diversion since the start of the program.

"We want Niagara to be at the forefront. [The city of Markham] is at 80 per cent of diversion right now and we're at 56 per cent."


When it came to voting, five councillors — J. Wiens, Cheropita, Cameron, E. Wiens and Burroughs — were in favour of the revised recommendation.

Municipalities will have until Feb. 20, 2019 to make final comments to the region before the contract is approved. The tender will be awarded in 2020 with the contract start time scheduled for 2021.

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When families need an angel

Precious Angels helps families in the toughest of times

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Precious Angels repurposes donated wedding dresses to create angel gowns for stillborn and miscarried babies across Ontario.

It's not something anyone wants to think about, but there is a need for the service the organization provides.

It was born out of curiosity, necessity and kindness. Robyn Moore, co-founder of Precious Angels was looking to donate her wedding dress in an effort to de-clutter. After hearing about a foundation in Texas that converts old wedding dresses into gowns for babies who have died, Moore tried to find something similar in Niagara. When one couldn't be found, she created Precious Angels.

With co-founder Lynn McIntyre-Enns, they started on Moore's dress. The plan was to create a few angel gowns to donate to the St. Catharines hospital. It has since grown rapidly through word of mouth – they now supply gowns to hospitals and funeral homes across Ontario.

Moore says after some friends heard about what they were trying to accomplish, they stepped forward to see what they could do to help.

The charity grew steadily, receiving more than 800 dresses to date. In October 2017 they held a dress drive, bringing in over 500 dresses. "The support and generosity was overwhelming."

Each donated dress can make about 10 angel gowns.

The charity is run by volunteers at no cost to families. She says she's been asked how much the dresses

cost. It's not something families should have to worry about during an already difficult time, she says, "It's all donated."

Moore organizes the fundraising and distribution of the dresses, and is always on the lookout for hospitals or funeral homes who could use the gowns. "It's sort of become a full-time job."

They send five or 10 dresses at a time, so they're on hand when the "sad need arises."

"We're preparing to dress about 5,000 baby losses, which is really sad. It's sad that there is a need. I guess it's a bitter sweet thing that we're doing. We wish there was never a need. But when the sad need arises for families, we're able to give some honour and some dignity to the baby. And it brings some comfort to parents, too, to see the baby dressed as a little angel. They'll always have that memory of them."

The wedding dresses and the time spent creating the gowns are all donated. She says it takes more than seamstresses to run something like this - the community has come together to help.

The boxes they use to present the gowns and required sewing supplies are all purchased, but there are also many community businesses that have offered their services for the charity.

Their business cards and labels for the boxes were donated by Peninsula Press in St. Catharines. Manor Cleaners Ltd. offered to clean the 500 donated wedding dresses for free.

Some of the distribution is also donated. Messengers International courier service offered to deliver the gowns at no charge within their



Cindy Herder, volunteer seamstress of Precious Angels, with hand-sewn angel gowns. BRITTANY CARTER

territory.

"While the wedding dresses are donated to us, everything else is not. We fundraise and spend our own personal money to continue this service.

We need to purchase sewing supplies, a detachable angel charm that the mother can keep, a Precious Angel garment tag, and we put them in a tissue-lined clear top box. Those costs add up, but we don't charge."

Coyote's Run Winery donates money from returned bottles from their tasting bar. Moore said she thought it was going to be a one-time donation, but it's been an on-going fundraiser.

Two retirement homes also stepped up, offering to dismantle the dresses. Tabor Manor and Heidehof, both in St. Catharines, as part of their life enrichment program. She said the

ladies dismantle the donated dresses and put them into bundles, which the seamstresses take home to make into the gowns.

Moore said one of their most dedicated volunteer seamstresses is Cindy Herder, a NOTL resident.

"It's hard to believe that she's a volunteer and she doesn't do this professionally. They look like little wedding gowns, they're just gorgeous."

Herder said she enjoys the challenge of creating the gowns. Working with her hands by herself is something she says she loves. Before volunteering with the charity, she hadn't sewn in years. "The timing was perfect."

"The design challenge working with the dresses. You get a wedding gown and you look at it, and it just sort of speaks to you. It dictates what you're going to

do to it. I think about all the love surrounding those wedding gowns. Taking that and making them into these. The group had been together for about a year. I never knew such a service existed."

The charity is now close to her heart.

"My girlfriend had told me that they had donated her daughter-in-law's dress. It had set me on the path of looking into it myself." She says there was a bigger connection to the charity than she initially thought.

"She happened to be married to my godson. Her name was Becky Sticca. She died when she was 31, five years after she was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. She told the family, before she died, that she would take care of the babies. And then I found out about this, and I thought this was a perfect fit for that. I was able to work on

Becky's dress as well."

She says it was meaningful to be able to work on her dress.

"I feel like I've got an angel on my shoulder when I work on these dresses; that's Becky. That's what got me started."

The organization doesn't need any more volunteers or dresses now, but Moore says when they do, she will put out a post on their Facebook page. If anyone wants to help, they do accept monetary donations to cover the cost of supplies. Donations can be made through their gofundme account.

Herder says this charity is close to her heart, and she's proud to be a part of it. "There's an infinite number of volunteer options out there, and Precious Angels has been the perfect fit for me."

Moore added, "You're the perfect fit for us."



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Water rates in NOTL increase

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will see a hike in their water bills starting Feb. 1.

The monthly fixed rates for water and wastewater usage each will rise by three per cent. The base charge depends on the meter size.

The variable water rate charge for residential customers will increase by 6.9 per cent, while the wastewater rate will go up by 17 per cent, said town treasurer Kyle Freeborn.

The fee for variable water increases to \$1.4969 per cubic metre in 2019 from \$1.3997. The wastewater usage rate jumped to \$1.2663 per cubic metre from \$1.0823.

Many factors are behind the increases, said Darrin Wills, the town's drinking water quality management representative.

"The rates are determined by our financial plan, water plan, the requirements for the Safe



Variable water rates increased by approximately ten cents per cubic metre. RICHARD HARLEY

Drinking Water Act," said Wills. "The increase comes from the cost of the water from the region, the increase in the cost of fuel, labour, material and equipment."

"The town purchases water from Niagara Region. Their increase this year was more than five per cent."

The region's budget re-

view committee approved a 5.15 per cent water and sewer budget increase.

Wills said the town has not received any complaints from residents about the new water rates.

"When we receive complaints, we explain why the rates need to increase."

"The common misconception is that the

property taxes go towards the water. If you look at the property tax breakdown, they include other infrastructure as well as policing, hospital, education, that type of thing," said Wills.

"But they don't include water or wastewater at all. So the water and wastewater rates solely cover all of those expenses."

Stay off storm water ponds, town warns

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is warning residents frozen storm-water ponds around town are not for recreational use, and has put out an advisory to keep off the ice, or risk facing charges.

The town issued the advisory after staff received reports of people playing hockey on the frozen ponds behind Tim Hortons on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil. According to the town, the ponds are not safe for skating due to changing water levels and conditions.

"Storm water ponds are never safe to walk or skate on, regardless of the perceived thickness of the ice. The ponds experience fluctuations in their water level that can create thin layers of ice over wa-



A locked gate secures the town property where a storm water pond is located behind Tim Hortons on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil. BRITTANY CARTER

ter," Shaunna Arenburg, executive assistant to lord mayor and CAO, said in an email response about the issue.

If residents see anyone on the ice they are asked to report it immediately to

town staff.

The Virgil pond is fenced-off with a locked gate.

Residents gained access to the ice after the gate was vandalized, Arenburg said.

The town has since

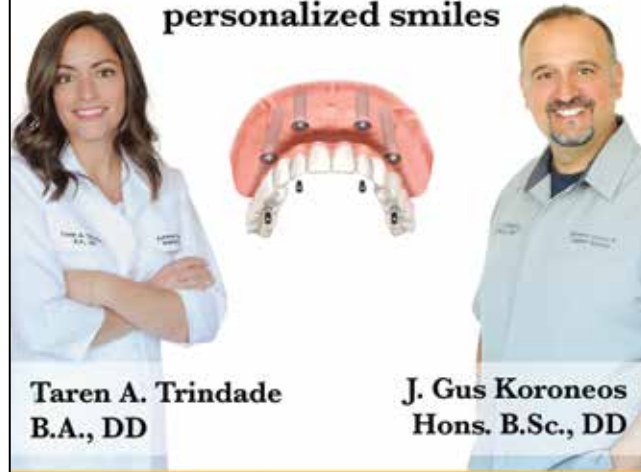
repaired the gate and, to prevent injury, police will be notified of anyone found on the town storm water ponds.

A list of town ponds was not provided "in the interest of public safety."

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Local heroes: Frank Pearson

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Thirty years as a volunteer firefighter in St. David's meant a lot of late nights and missed family moments for Frank Pearson.

But he has no regrets.

"I've missed a number of family functions that you get called away from. Christmas dinners, family outings, it disrupts a lot of that," says Pearson, 67, who has now retired from Station 3.

Those late-night emergencies? "That's one thing I don't miss, the calls in the middle of the night. I know my wife doesn't miss that one bit."

He says he couldn't have done any of it without the support of his wife, Barb Pearson. "My wife has supported me for 30 years doing that."

He signed up to be a volunteer firefighter to help his community, so all the hard work never felt like a burden. It was about commitment.

"It's giving back to your community, I've lived here most of my life, I enjoy this community. You only get out of it what you put into it. It's not a job, it's a way of life," he says.

"That's why you do it, that's why you're here -- to help people."

As a volunteer, he still needed to pay the bills. He worked as a construction superintendent for a local general contractor, quickly advancing to a supervisory role.

As with his career in construction, Pearson worked his way through the ranks at the fire department over the years. After securing positions as captain and then assistant district chief, he spent the last seven years as district chief.

"My mother always said when I was a young guy, there were three things I wanted to do: I wanted to be a farmer, I wanted to be a carpenter and I wanted to be a fireman. By trade I'm a carpenter. I worked in the construction industry, got my ticket early on, and then



Frank Pearson, retired volunteer district chief of St. Davids Firestation No. 3. BRITTANY CARTER

moved into the supervisory end of things.

I tried farming for three years, found out that wasn't really what I wanted to do."

"One of my first accidents on the highway was a fatality. You remember that, you remember that vividly. Even 30 years later, you remember that night. I won't say that we become immune to it, it affects everyone differently. But the good times definitely outweigh the not-so-good."

FRANK PEARSON
RETIRED VOLUNTEER DISTRICT CHIEF

He was asked to come on board as a volunteer firefighter once before, but he wasn't yet ready to make the commitment. It wasn't until he was coming home from his son's hockey tournament in 1986 with Bill Harber, now co-owner of Ravine Winery, that he decided he could put in the time. It's been a part of who he is ever since.

Harber says Pearson's knowledge base and

department.

"It struck a chord with him, it'll never leave him. He's a person you want to follow. He had all the discipline for organizing and getting jobs done; he's just been a great person through the years."

Pearson says he finally made the decision to join because he wanted to give back.

It was a role that challenged and changed him,

he says. There were some not-so-good moments, but he wouldn't go so far as to call them bad. And the good moments always outweighed the no-so-good.

"Children, rescues with children. Death. We see a lot of stuff that most people don't see in their lifetime. Car accidents are devastating, some of them. And being in a small community it can be people that you know, which makes it a little more difficult sometimes.

"One of my first accidents on the highway was a fatality. You remember that, you remember that vividly. Even 30 years later, you remember that night. I won't say that we become immune to it, it affects everyone differently. But the good times definitely outweigh the not-so-good."

When asked about the good moments, he lit up, "Oh yes, there's lots of those."

Recalling moments bringing people back from near death and emerging himself

into helping the community, he says the positive times kept him going.

Even after retirement, Pearson carries a pager, always listening.

"As I say, it's a way of life. You never lose that. You're always interested in what's going on."

He is a part of a new support unit that assists firefighters during major calls. An older firetruck has been converted into a mobile rehabilitation station. Pearson says they set up on the scene in case they're needed in extreme cases. Along with a fellow retired firefighter, he maintains the station, providing aid to those who need to recover from dehydration, heat exhaustion and to bring down their temperatures.

He's happy to be a part of the unit. "It keeps me involved a bit."

Inspired by other firefighters, he says it's inevitable that good camaraderie is built with the guys, working so close together. Stressing

the importance of the commitment again, Pearson says he values the dedication of everyone in the department.

"Seeing the commitment from the guys is inspiring and rewarding. It's inspiring to see how much everyone is willing to give to do this. It's the commitment."

Inspiration comes from everywhere.

"Outside of the firehall, my grandchildren inspire me. They're a big part of my life right now."

Having fully retired, from his career in construction and as a volunteer firefighter, he finally has time to rest, travel with his wife and spend more time for family — and their five grandchildren.

"My wife and I like to travel. My oldest son is a marathon runner, so we like to follow him around the world running marathons."

Even after retirement, Pearson remains committed to community involvement and putting aside time for others.

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Lions Club visits local schools for senior kindergarten vision clinics

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The St. Davids Lions club made its way to Crossroads Elementary School on Tuesday, as part of the club's initiative to test student vision and advocate for the visually impaired.

As mandated by the Ministry of Health, senior kindergarten students across Ontario will undergo vision screening over the course of the year, coinciding with the dental clinic program that is already in place.

The Lions Club became involved when the Niagara Health Unit, based out of Thorold, heard about the initiative.

Bradd Anderson of the St. Davids Lions Club said it was a perfect fit for the organization.

"We have a volunteer within our Lions district who wanted to get us involved. With the Ministry of Health's mandate, and our wish to volunteer - the marriage was made."

A pilot run of the clinic began in September. The



Lions Club members and volunteers at Crossroads Elementary School for vision clinic; David Hooker, volunteer, Allen Snider, Bradd Anderson, Elizabeth Hooker, volunteer, Debbie Chegnon, Janet Guy, Keith Brown, Susan Snider. BRITTANY CARTER

club visited 20 schools, equipped with devices to test student's vision and make recommendations regarding eye-sight, according to standards set by the Ministry of Health.

Anderson said there are three components used during the clinic. An auto refractor camera takes a photo of the eye and translates it into data, which conveys whether an issue needs to be addressed further. There's an HOTV flip-chart with progressive-

ly smaller letters for testing eyesight, and a Randot Stereotest is used for depth perception.

"In each of the three steps there's a grade that's been standardized by the Ministry of Health. If they don't meet the criteria, then a letter goes home to the parents recommending a visit with an optometrist."

Anderson said running the clinic aligns with one of the global causes of the Lions Club.

"It dates back 100 years.

Helen Keller came to a Lion's convention in 1925 and challenged us to be knights of the blind. Since that day we've had a compassion for people who have sight issues. That leads us to today where we are able to help children to make sure they can see properly."

He said the volunteers and members enjoy coming out and doing the clinics. From what he can tell, he said the students enjoy it too. "It's fun. It's a really positive experience."

Whisky tasting coming to Navy Hall

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
Staff

The Friends of Fort George, in collaboration with Forty Creek Distillery, is hosting the second annual Whisky Tasting event at Historic Navy Hall.

Forty Creek North American brand ambassador, Chris Thompson, will host the Feb. 22 show and there will be seven different whisky samples provided with a selection of hors-d'oeuvres from Sweets & Swirls cafe. The event starts at 7 p.m.

"It is a great event for the town to get together, in the middle of winter, in a nice warm place, with the fire roaring at Navy Hall," said Tony Chisholm, president of The Friends of Fort George.

Admission is \$45, down from last year's price of \$72 per person, which is much more "reasonable" and al-



Tony Chisholm, president of Friends of Fort George. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

lowed them to attract more public interest, Chisholm said.

The money raised helps support historic events at the fort and hiring students for the summer. Last year, the Friends hired 16 students.

Most of them worked in the squad, dressed as soldiers and carrying rifles.

"They were taught the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake so they can speak to the visitors when they came to the fort," said Chisholm. "So

when somebody would come to the fort, it would enhance their visitor experience because there were so many more soldiers around. And they put on displays of firing powder."

Two or three people were also working as guides at Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights, while others helped at the store at the fort. Chisholm joked he knows too much about whisky now.

"Whisky has a long Canadian history. Many of the soldiers were given rations of alcohol—whisky and rum—at the fort 200 years ago," said Chisholm, who also served up a fun fact. "Canadian rye whisky is spelled 'w-h-i-s-k-y.' The 'ey' is an American thing for bourbon whisky. And everybody spells it wrong. This is the right way to spell it, with no 'ey.'

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<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday!</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1</p>			
<p>10</p> <p>Niagara College: Artisanal Breads - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p>Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Card Making - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Town Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Power Off and Play - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>Pumphouse Instrumental Exhibition - 11 a.m. - Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Simply STEAM Story - a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Beyond The Myth: Leonardo da Vinci in 1 p.m. - Riverbrink Art Centre</p> <p>Open House: Official - to 4 p.m. / 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Winter League Week) - p.m. - The Exchange</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival - 1 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards</p> <p>Niagara Pumphouse: Family Friendly Drop in Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Writers' Circle: Open Mic (Theme: Love) - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival: Awards Gala and Dinner - 6:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Family Day -</p> <p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>French Conversation Group - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p>Beer & Books: The Virgin in the Ice by Ellis - 7 p.m. - The Old Winery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Golden Age Club - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>The Great Canadian Historical Songbook - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Simpson's Senior's - a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson's</p> <p>St. Andrew's Lutheran 225 Years - 10 a.m. - Presbyterian Church</p> <p>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Painting Drop In - 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Winter League Week) - p.m. - The Exchange</p>

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LOCAL CALENDAR

Feb. 7 - Feb. 23



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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7 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 Niagara College: Cider with Gavin Robertson - 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus	8 Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	9 Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL George Krissa in Concert - 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Corks' Playhouse Theatre Niagara College: Bake with Expert - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus
13 Actors' - Niagara Centre Open House - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seeing in 2019 - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Museum Wine Tasting - 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. - NOTL Orange Brewery (Week 5) - 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Brewery	14 Valentine's Day 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 Niagara Pumphouse: Drop in Artists' Cafe - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre (CANCELLED)	15 P.A. Day Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Afternoon Movie: Up - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival - 8 p.m. - St. Mark's Church Comedy Night with host David Green - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	16 Black History Month: Tales by Moonlight with Babarinde Williams - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery
20 Open House - 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Open House Series: - St. Andrew's Open House Group - 1 p.m. - NOTL Open House - 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Orange Brewery (Week 6) - 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Brewery	21 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 1 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Bridge Seniors Casual Drop-in: - 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 Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Social - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	22 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 2 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Spanish Conversation Group - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Seated Laughter Fitness: Laugh Yourself Healthier - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Whisky Tasting at Navy Hall - 7 p.m. - Navy Hall	23 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 3 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Tech Talk: Engine Performance Workshop - 10 a.m. to noon - Clare's Harley Davidson Artist Workshop: Exploring Colour with Robin Nisbet - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery

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Bags of food and goodies greet migrant workers arriving in NOTL

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Jane Andres' living room is filled with bright green bags packed with such essentials as hot chocolate, oatmeal, toothbrushes and toilet paper. Almost every surface is piled high with the bags.

They are welcome bags for migrant farmworkers, who arrive in Niagara-on-the-Lake from January through June. Andres, who was born and raised in NOTL, says the bags are intended to show appreciation to the farmworkers, adding, "without the workers, we would have no wineries or orchards, we need to protect our farms."

Andres designed the bags in 2017, after she spoke at the Newcomers Club at the NOTL Community Centre about supporting farmworkers and local farms. Since then, Andres says, "I have a constant stream of people coming to the door."

Andres provides the bags and a list of what to put in them, and NOTL residents fill them up. She emphasizes "it's a community owning all of this, it belongs to the whole community. If

we affirm and welcome, we all benefit."

Last year, more than 500 bags were distributed, and this year that number may grow. According to Andres, the growth has been "totally organic."

She cites the example of the contribution of NOTL local Heather Doyle, who asked "members of her book club, the Dune Girls Book Club, to get involved. Each member filled a bag and their enthusiasm spilled over. Two friends told two friends and so on, and soon there were over 100 bags filled through their connections!"

Andres' close friend Jodi Godwin is also a constant supporter and companion on this mission.

Jodi Godwin and Heather Doyle help out with welcome bags.

Andres says the workers often travel for up to two days to get here, and may not have eaten during their journey. The welcome bags provide them with some much-needed food and toiletries to bridge the gap between when they arrive and when they can get their own groceries and supplies. The welcome bags are



Jane Andres has spearheaded the creation of welcome bags for NOTL's migrant farmworkers. The bags are stuffed with such essentials as hot chocolate, oatmeal, toothbrushes and toilet paper.

DON REYNOLDS/SPECIAL TO THE LAKE REPORT

just Andres' most recent way of expressing gratitude to the farmworkers. She became friends with many workers starting back in 2005, when she helped with music at the Caribbean Workers church services.

Since then Andres has visited her friends in Jamaica seven times. From 2007 to 2016, she organized the annual Niagara Workers Welcome Concerts and in 2017 began the Peach Pickers Picnic, which was also

a great success in 2018. It is planned for Aug. 11 this summer.

Andres says "we are here to journey together," and muses, "NOTL is already known as the prettiest town in Canada. What if we were

also known as the kindest?"

Anyone wishing to contribute to the welcome bags can arrange to get the bags and a list of supplies from Andres at jandres@bbniagaraonthelake.com.

Wallbangers mimic N.H.L. by achieving parity

Ross Robinson
(#9, Blue Team)
Special to The Lake Report

Wallbangers Old Timer Hockey Commissioner Bill Dickson has achieved what the high priced help at the NHL office in New York City has been working on for years. At the mid-point in this season, both the Blue Team and the Red Team have won eight games, with two games tied. This gives each team 18 points.

At first blush, this sounds great, but further research shows that several of the games have been one-sided blow outs. Games that end

with the score 8-2 or 7-1 are no fun for the losing team. The reality is that who shows up, and who doesn't show up, on a particular Sunday morning for the 7 a.m. game can make a huge difference.

For example, if one or two fast and slick usually younger players show up to play for Red Team, while Blue Team's best players have slept in, are ill, or on vacation, lopsided scores result. Yes, Team Captains Mark Shantz and Carl Glauser negotiate at centre ice in the attempt to equalize the talent on both teams. Team Commissioner Bill Dickson

hovers nearby, occasionally exercising his power of veto.

Also, the Captains must be sensitive and discreet, making every effort not to hurt player's feeling. It is no fun to be traded, to be told to take off the sweater of your team, and pull on the opposite colour sweater. Not just because of the odour, but just the principle hurts.

Last week, Toronto Maple Leaf coach Mike Babcock analysed his team's objective. "We have to be a heavy team that can play on the cycle and we are going to have to be a team that can really defend if we want to

have success." Sounds good to me... Good luck with that, Babler...

Last Sunday morning saw the return of Chris "Boomer" Manuel. He had been off for far too long with an upper body or lower body injury. It is necessary to hide the location of injuries, so the other team cannot try to aggravate the problem. The Lake Report tried to get specific information, but was rebuffed several times. Frustrating, eh?

The 28th Wallbangers season goes on, with no penalties called and almost always great sportsmanship.



Chris "Boomer" Manuel is welcomed back by Wallbangers blue team captain Mark Shantz after recovering from an upper body injury. ROSS ROBINSON

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Jazz festival in tribute to Oscar Peterson to return for its second year on Feb. 15

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The second annual Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival returns Feb. 15.

Honouring the past and shining a light on the future of younger performers, the festival stays true to the legacy Oscar Peterson established.

Kelly Peterson, artistic director, said the festival is named for her husband, famous jazz pianist who died in 2007. The idea isn't to pay tribute to him, she said, it's to honour the music he loved.

"It's representing the fact that we're paying tribute to the music that he dedicated his life to. The whole legacy that comes up from the very beginning, from the roots of jazz and into the future of younger artists performing."

Peterson said she is excited and proud to be able to put on the festival. It began when she was discussing the fact that there are other festivals named for great musicians in the United States with Renee Rosnes, artistic director of the festival.

"We liked that idea and pursued it a bit more."

Kicking off on Friday Feb. 15 at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra featuring Ingrid Jensen will perform a piece composed in Peterson's memory.

"She has created a special piece for us, in tribute to Oscar, called *Something in his Smile*. The title got me very excited when she told me what she was going to call it, because if you ever watch videos of Oscar performing, you just see this magical smile on his face. It was so much about who he was."

The song will premier on Friday night, along with performances from highly respected international jazz artists and acclaimed musicians from Toronto.

Peterson said each performance over the three nights will be in an intimate setting, allowing audiences the opportunity to experience the music up close.

A free event will be held Saturday Feb. 16 afternoon at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre. In the Cairns Recital Halls, Bill Charlap, Grammy award



Christine and Ingrid Jensen headlining the Oscar Peterson International Jazz Festival Friday Feb. 15. SUBMITTED PHOTO

winning pianist, will present a lecture and performance based on George Gershwin's music.

Peterson said he has incredible gifts and talent. The performance, called *The Blues and the American Soul*, is one she said she's very excited about.

"Apart from being one of the greatest Jazz pianists alive, he is also an enchanting story-teller. He knows

so much about the great-American songbook, and Gershwin. He's extremely well-versed in Gershwin. It'll be a lot of fun."

The event is free but will need to be registered in advance as there is limited seating.

Saturday night's event, *Singin' and Swingin': A Jazz Summit*, will feature seven modern jazz masters performing together. Pe-

terson said these musicians have not played together and will not again; it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see them together.

"One of the things that makes our Jazz festival unique is we put together groupings of musicians who don't usually play together. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear these great artists playing on the same stage. It'll be intimate and

incredible."

At the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre in the Partridge Hall, the artists will come together.

"They don't normally play together. They will, and it'll be beautifully performed."

Music with no Borders will take place the afternoon of Sunday Feb. 17 at Stratus Vineyards. Peterson it is the most intimate of the performances during the festival.

"It's a very intimate setting and pretty cool also, to be in the room surrounded by huge vats of wine and hearing great jazz."

To close out the festival, a gala dinner will be held at Stratus Vineyards on Sunday evening for the Canadian Jazz Master Awards. Honouring Canadian jazz artists, Phil Nimmons will be presented with a lifetime achievement award, along with the family of influential trumpeter and composer Kenny Wheeler.

"We sold out last year, we're hoping to sell out this year."

Tickets can be purchased online through opjazzfest.org.



LAKE FOG

Arctic temperatures fell on Lake Ontario last Thursday, causing a lake fog effect in the early morning hours as the sun was rising. This view is normally where Toronto can be seen clearly from Chautauqua. Instead, the fog looks like lines of thick smoke. RICHARD HARLEY/THE LAKE REPORT

Obituary



Egon Epp

Suddenly on Monday, February 4, 2019 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, at the age of 89.

Beloved husband of Marianne for 60 years. Loving father of Nelly Hicks (Peter), Karin Gorham (Bill), Nancy Robertson (Mike)

and Kevin (Barbara). Cherished Opa of Robert (Marieke) Carol, Amanda, Heather, Ezekiel, Noah, and Abbey and dear brother of Hannelore and the late Else. The family will receive friends at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Sunday from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. A service to celebrate the life of Egon, will be held at Niagara United Mennonite Church, 1775 Niagara Stone Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 11 a.m. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to either the Radiant Care Pleasant Manor or to Mennonite Central Committee. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

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Have some fun

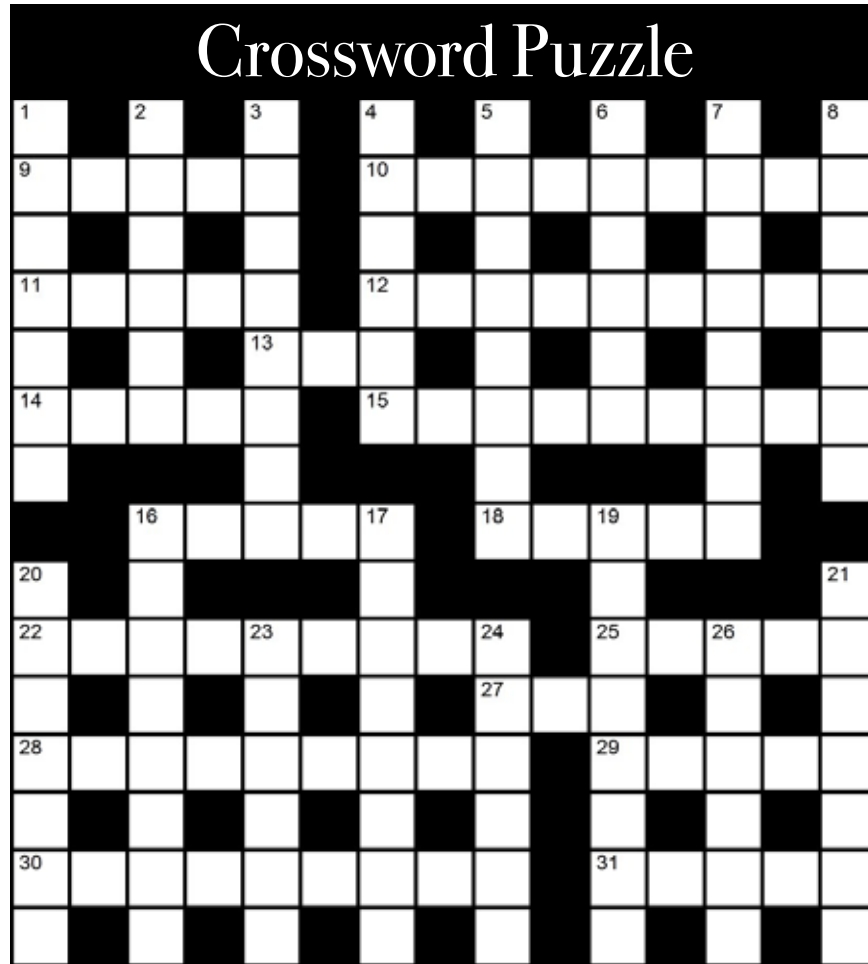
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

- 9. Corpulent (5)
- 10. Extreme surprise (9)
- 11. Souvenir (5)
- 12. Inherent (9)
- 13. Possess (3)
- 14. Hebrew minor prophet (5)
- 15. E.g. wine goblets (9)
- 16. Bush (5)
- 18. Double birdie (5)
- 22. Large mass of sliding snow (9)
- 25. Renounce (5)
- 27. Open mesh fabric (3)
- 28. Staff (9)
- 29. Mistaken (5)
- 30. Weaken insidiously (9)
- 31. Passageway (5)

Down

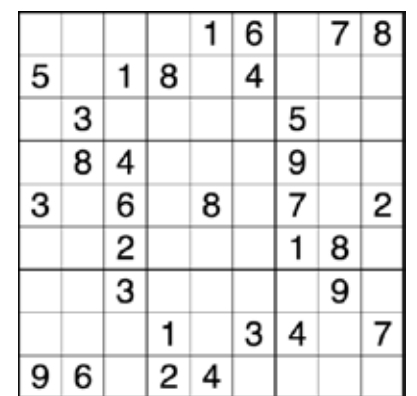
- 1. Highest singing voice in women (7)
- 2. Affluence (6)
- 3. Recent arrival (8)
- 4. Saw (6)
- 5. Book end, perhaps (4,4)
- 6. Exceptional intellect (6)
- 7. Convince (8)
- 8. Adhesive label (7)
- 16. Frenzied rush (8)
- 17. Single-celled organisms (8)
- 19. Conceal with decorative paper (4,4)
- 20. Neither solid nor liquid (7)
- 21. Abrade (7)
- 23. Part of a group (6)
- 24. Followed (6)
- 26. Cardiff International Airport (6)



Last issue's answers



Sudoku





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FEATURED

Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith **ON TOP OF THE FORT**



What kid in town has not had the thrill of exploring old Fort Mississauga. Up to the 1980's the fort was open to the public at all times. In the photograph from the 1920s a young lady has braved going out on the original roof. In the late 1940s this roof was accidentally burnt off by boys forgetting to properly put out a fire they had made in the fort.

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

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!



An intuitive rationale

Brian Marshall
Featured

Love or hate his work, Picasso was a creative genius. Grounded in classical realism, he completely understood the 'rules' of his art and from that anchor he pushed the boundaries of expression. Still, no matter how 'out-there' his finished work, the basic principles embodied by those 'rules' could be traced. Similarly, 'good' residential architecture whether conservative or avant-garde must embody fundamental design principles.

First, it must be inherently responsive; in other words, the interior and exterior must intuitively reflect and complement the lifestyle and activi-



Desertification by development. SUPPLIED

ties of those who live in (and those who visit) the property. Walls, openings, and spaces need to be organized in a fashion that can be 'read' naturally as an individual approaches, enters, and subsequently moves through the home. Broadly speaking this can be called the 'order' or underlying rationale of the design. While we must keep in mind that

'lifestyle' is a reflection of prevailing socio-political-economic conditions (e.g. in a 'proper' 19th Century house the kitchen was typically hidden from 'polite society' in a basement, rear extension or segregated corner), 'good' architectural order bridges changing societal contexts by creating a framework couched in fundamental human predispositions.

In my opinion, the Order of classic Georgian design is the primary reason for its popularity spanning nearly three centuries. For most folks, it's a very easy 'read' that flows so naturally we intuitively know the location and purpose of everything in the design. In contrast, a design which lacks order very quickly becomes an exercise in frustration!

Story ideas? Get in touch with us.

You can:

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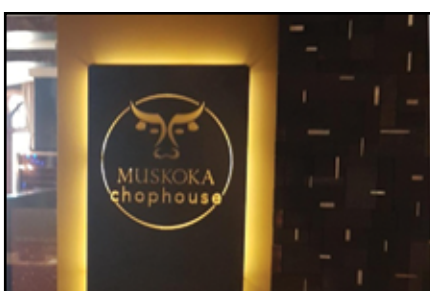
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The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

The ink is also vegetable based.

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Georgian on my mind

Bill Hamilton
Writer's Circle

A far-reaching bay churning waters of its discontent.
A rugged coastline and islands soothe this liquid torrent.
The Canadian Shield stretched, like skin with scattered pools,
Keeping each independent, following Nature's rules.
A tree grows through that solid granite embedded can this be?
No soil appears amidst the rock yet it's full of greenery.
Rolling rock with sporadic puddles, evidence of a recent storm.
Sunburst sparkles at my feet ignite another morn.
Ah, island life, can there be anything that gives release?
From city life, the tension and worries that never cease?
To simplicity, a cabin, no power at our beck and call,
Somehow we make it work, with what surrounds us all.
Solar power helps us we've brought food and water to feed.
A privy down the sheltered path answers our other need.
A bit unnerving, watch for snakes they share this land as well,
It somehow insists we get along in our captive island cell.
I toss my line into shallow depths as the weeds flow to and fro,
Eventually I feel a tug, was that a bite from the world below?
I quickly reel what I hope's a catch but alas I lift my line,
There at the end is a twisted mass of slimy weeds and vines.
Morning suns are brighter as evening stars saturate the sky,
Air breathes clean and skin tans, as I swat a pestering fly.
I lay there watching the blue on high, as a vulture soars above,
As my hand drops to the cooling flow, this is the land I love.
My wish is that these islands and shores unchanged will remain intact,
Preserving that which we long for, to enjoy in our silent pact.
Hoping that what was, is and will always be,
The utopia, I hope eventually, everyone will see.
Author's note: Recently we visited a friend's cottage on one of the thirty thousand islands of Georgian Bay. I tried to capture some of the experiences we had there.

A reflection on visiting Vancouver Island

Pamela Nowina
Writer's Circle

I stood in an ancient forest and placed my hand on an 800-year-old tree. I felt its life. A force of peace and healing flowed into me. I felt my soul reciprocate and my love entered the tree, as though it needed me as much as I needed it.

I've known this relationship with trees before. They are more... what... sentient? Is that too strange? Present... aware? More than we dream.

A young photographer in Tofino, someone who came from our own Niagara farm

country, said he was called to 'bear witness' to the land there. 'Bear witness', an ancient and powerful religious expression. Perhaps from his Mennonite background. Its meaning - to show that something exists or is true.

What was he bearing witness to in his photographs? The existence of a beauty that most of us have not seen. The truth of its being and its vulnerability. I suppose he thought if we simply knew the truth of these old forests, these mountains, the life in these seas, that we would naturally protect them. That we would see

that our continued existence is only worthwhile, perhaps only possible, if these places continue to exist.

I was ill on the trip — a frightening reaction to a prescription drug, that took me in and out of emergency rooms and pharmacies.

I would rather have experienced this beautiful place healthy, but I wonder if my sense of vulnerability allowed me to understand better humanity's smallness and powerlessness to do good. To acknowledge the poison that flows in the veins of our society. To seek healing.

To a fallen oak

Pamela Nowina
Writer's Circle

I am sorry, old tree, that you died in my care.
I wanted to love you more.
I meant to put a hammock in your deep shade,
And rest from the sun there.
I am sorry, old tree, that I did not stop to feel your life
While you stood strong.
I could have placed my palms against your bark
And known you.



Join the Writer's Circle Sunday, Feb. 17 for an open mic to celebrate love.
Anyone is welcome to participate by either reading their own work or attending to hear and support members of the local writing community.
Refreshments will be served.
The celebration will be held at the NOTL Public Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a free hearing test!



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Nationals lose 8-5 to Whalers Friday night

Eunice Tang
Special

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Nationals played a tough game against the Niagara Whalers Friday night, pulling their goalie and scoring two last-minute goals during the third period, but still ended losing the home game 8-5.

Assistant coach Matt Shumante said the first period was sloppy for the Whalers, but the team overcame the Nationals in the second period, from which they couldn't recover.

Nationals head coach Spencer DeWolfe said the team was positive going into the game.

With only two weeks left to go before the playoff season begins, they were "battling for fourth place ... and home ice advantage," which would be a big win for a first-year team. It was DeWolfe's goal from the start of the season to be in the league's top three, so the new goal was not far off target.

"It's been a learning curve for everybody, coaching

staff included ... We have been playing better hockey. We adjusted our defensive zone coverage. We are hoping to become more defensive-minded," DeWolfe said.

In trading, the Nationals just said good-bye to three players and welcomed four more to the team.

DeWolfe says new addition Colt Jamie (former Niagara Whalers) has been "penciled into (the team's) top line."

"His play speaks for itself," DeWolfe said.

Other acquisitions coming to NOTL are forwards Nicholas Brake (Niagara Riverhawks), Hart Cargo (Fort Erie Meteors) and Evan Ridley (Thorold Blackhawks).

Leaving the Nationals are forward Mikhail Frolov (loaned to the Bradford Rattlers) and Trentin Dixon (South Muskoka Shield). Cole Beneveto was released by the team, according to the Nationals' website, notl-nationals.com.

- With files from Jeff Shneberk



The Nationals lost 8-5 to the Whalers Friday. EUNICE TANG

Chautauqua neighbours enjoy mini-icewine festival

Ross Robinson
Special

As Robert Service limned in his famous poem "The Spell of the Yukon:"

*"The winter! The brightness that blinds you,
The white land locked tight as a drum,*

The cold fear that follows and finds you,

The silence that bludgeons you dumb.

NOTL had been under the polar vortex for six days last week. It was not nearly as cold as the Yukon, but it gave most NOTLers something else to whine and moan about. "Man, it's cold out there." "This weather is brutal." "When will it warm up? This is crazy."

For the first time since 1998, school buses had been cancelled for three days in a row. Buncha' wimps!

Last Friday evening, returning to my warm and



SUBMITTED PHOTO.

cozy Chautauqua cottage on an icy cold and windless night, I saw a campfire burning in the backyard of my neighbour's cottage. Lively chatter and laughter drew me to the fence. My watch read 10:30, so the night was young.

The sky was black, the stars were out, and a moon was way up in the clear sky. How could I resist their invitation for a glass of hot mulled Palatine Vidal Ice Wine? Simply put, I couldn't.

What followed was one of those magical, impromptu experiences that we stumble

upon occasionally. Those times with special friends in a special place. Instead of being normal, hiding from the cold, these folks were embracing winter. Carpe Diem, Seize the Day, Grab the Moment!

Iconic Saskatchewan hockey player Gordie Howe often said, "There is no such thing as cold weather. (Pause) Just cold clothing."

Let me read from "The Cremation of Sam McGee," by Robert Service:

"And that very night, as we lay packed tight in our clothes beneath the snow,

*And the dogs were fed,
and the stars o'erhead were dancing heel and toe."*

Dressed in layers, with warm coats, winter boots, toques, scarves and mittens, we were as happy as we were on the Ryerson Park beach last summer.

Party organizer Annette Ronczka, her children Jade and Avery Swanson, and friends Owen, Alvin, Hugo, Fabienne and Jonathan Aliou along with the lovely and rosy cheeked Caroline Murphy had been toasting marshmallows over the crackling campfire earlier in the evening.

As the evening wore on we were speaking in both English and French (Fabienne is a French teacher, Jonathan is from Cameroon, Africa via France) we chatted and laughed and told stories.

Laughter has no foreign accent, we proved once more. Raconteurs we were, and our

voices seemed to get louder.

Neighbour Ronda Lincoln happened by walking her three pugs Rock, Roll and Elvis. She wanted to stay for a sip and a chat. The dogs wanted to lift their legs on a nearby oak tree. Off they went.

At about midnight, neighbour Ricky Watson arrived home from an Old Timers hockey game, and joined us for a moment. He had to be at work at The Irish Design early the next morning, so he showed great self-discipline and walked home.

The three young lads, Avery, Alvin and Hugo wanted to walk down to Tim Horton's for a snack. How Canadian. Three teenagers, walking through the snowy evening to Tim's.

The yard was decorated with candles in homemade ice sculpture candle holders. Annette the creative one had made them using kitchen

stuff, like large salad bowls and mugs. And, ice bowling balls, made in balloons, reflecting the flames.

We then recited "The Cremation of Sam McGee," reading alternate verses until the Northern Lights lit up the marge of Lake Lebarge. Our evening ending wine toast was a pleasant Cabernet Sauvignon from Scott Robinson Vineyards. Vieux Chateau de Roi 2019. Aged in glass, a Make Yer Own wine shop in a strip mall in Hamilton. Very subtle, with a hint of raspberry and vanilla, and a smoothhand lingering finish.

As a nightcap, we decided to finish off a last bottle of wine. I tried to pour it, but it was frozen after being in a snowbank for two or three hours.

A magic, totally Canadian evening, came to a sudden and unwanted halt.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019.



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Mural Project



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

In 2012, Niagara-on-the-Lake was busy commemorating the War of 1812 and how it shaped the future of Upper Canada. Projects were abounding with special walking tours provided by the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, re-enactments at Fort George were staged for all to enjoy and a huge mural was installed in the Community Centre depicting 200 years of history in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The development of this mural had many historians of the town digging through hundreds of photos in the museum archives, making decisions of what was interesting and important. As well many images were provided by private citizens and other sources which also had to be considered.

Once the selection of images was made, a brief explanation of each had to be written. Some well known historians/writers in NOTL were asked to provide a small description. A daunting task when one considers that each author was requested to keep the story under 250 words.

With approximately 100 pictures and descriptions ready, the mural was completed. It now hangs in the Community Centre in NOTL, where one can enjoy the interesting pictures while sipping a coffee.

The mural itself is 32' long and 6' high. At one end is a touch screen monitor where people can access a picture and read its story.

In 2015 the Niagara Historical Society printed a book version of the mural, "Niagara-on-the-Lake A History in Images". This book is available at the museum.

Along with the pictures and stories also included in this book is a short list of



SUPPLIED PHOTO/NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

firsts for NOTL. According to the book, here are a few; first Provincial Parliament – 1792; first Agricultural Society – 1792; the first newspaper – Upper Canada Gazette – 1793; Law Society of Upper Canada founded – 1797; first circulating library – 1800;

Another first not listed, but equally important, is the first purpose-built museum in Ontario. The Memorial Hall on Castlereagh was built in 1906, ten years ahead of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

The Niagara Historical Society was founded in 1895 (not the first in Ontario) with Janet Carnochan being declared its first president in 1896. The Society recognized the need to preserve the history of the town and worked to support the museum.

Note: The Niagara His-

torical Society is a separate organization from the museum. Its prime purpose is to advance appreciation of the history of the NOTL area through publications, research, collections, to provide programs for the public and to assist in supporting the museum.

The Museum's prime purpose is to maintain one of Ontario's most important historical collections. "It houses artifacts from native settlements to the present day. The museum is home to over 8,000 artifacts, 40,000 documents, 2,500 photographs and 600 books." (Direct quote from the museum's website)

The mural in the Community Centre is just a small snippet of this community's history. Here are some images from the mural that are also "firsts" for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Mississauga Point Lighthouse

The lighthouse is the first one to have been built on the Great Lakes. Retired Sergeant Dominic Henry was the first lighthouse keeper. He and his wife, Mary Madden Henry, with their children, lived in a home built beside the lighthouse. When the American forces invaded, from Lake Ontario, in the spring of 1813, it was reported that Mary Madden Henry, ran out onto the battle field around the lighthouse, tending to the wounded and comforting the dying.

In 1814, when the War of 1812 had moved away from NOTL, the British forces decided that a fort should be built at Mississauga Point where the Niagara River flows into Lake Ontario. The lighthouse was torn down. Using stone and

brick from the lighthouse and homes that had been destroyed by American forces on their retreat from NOTL, Fort Mississauga was built.

8th World Boy Scout Jamboree

The first Boy Scout Jamboree held in North America and the first held outside of Europe was in August of 1955.

Over 11,000 scouts from 71 countries converged on Niagara-on-the-Lake, camping on the commons that town volunteers had spent weeks preparing. Three scouts traveled from Brazil by jeep, while one scout rode his bike from Columbia, South America to NOTL. That bike is on display in the museum.

During the jamboree a bus trip was organized to take all the scouts to Toronto so that they could

participate in the opening day parade into the Canadian National Exhibition.

During the time that the Boy Scout Jamboree was in NOTL, more than 130,000 visitors came to visit.

"Old Town"

Fire Department

In 1816, the volunteer firefighters built the first firehouse, located in the market square, which is now the parking lot behind the Court House.

Through an Act of Parliament in 1826, the Fire Department became incorporated, a first for Upper Canada. This ensured that all buildings would be protected by the Fire Department.

A second firehouse was located in the Court House and a hose drying tower was built onto the courthouse. A small piece of irony, this tower was destroyed by a fire in 1953.

The fire department moved three more times, until in 2000 it was located in a very modern firehouse beside the Community Centre.

There are many more wonderful stories behind the pictures in the mural. So break up a gloomy winter day and go view the sites and history of Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Community Centre.

Information provided by: "Niagara-on-the-Lake A History in Images" Niagara Historical Society.

Thecanadianencyclopedia.ca.

More of Denise's articles about the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at 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.

To get in touch or story idea, please contact editor@niagaranow.com.



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COMMUNITY

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.



An exterior picture of the Teenie H, a fishing boat which local Terry Boulton is trying to preserve. SUBMITTED



The Pillar & Post came first place in the "Flash and Panache" cocktail competition at the Icewine Festival. Special mentions go out to our sommelier Colleen and mixologist Peter, who kept their hands just unfrozen enough to mix 250 smoky cherry bourbon icewine cocktails. Six sommeliers from around the world judge the competitors that make it to the final four. We feel honoured to win the 2019 competition. SUBMITTED



People often leave messes at our local post offices. The Lake Report encourages residents to be respectful. SUBMITTED



Julie Clark and Donna Young take Gemma and McKinley for a walk. Gemma is helping train McKinley. SUBMITTED



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms: Zee's Grill

Zee's Grill is a modern bistro whose bathrooms were recommended to us. We checked out their great bathrooms. It had been awarded the "Best bathroom in all of Canada in 2014!" Excited to see this "bathroom besty," we were greeted by a beautiful transparent glass counter sink which made quite a "splash" with us. Each bathroom stall had it's own transparent glass door. "Privacy be gone," you say, but on further investigation the glass doors became "opaque" when you closed and locked the door. Be sure to ask the friendly hosts about the magical science that gives this bathroom a modern, almost "futuristic" vibe! You won't want to miss Zee's bathroom a 4.5 /5 Gold Plunger experience.

4.5/5 Golden Plungers



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I get wet while drying. What am I?

Last Week's answer: A reflection.
 Answered first by Jake Bartsch.

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FEATURED LOCAL STORY

Local diver documents important underwater archeological discoveries

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

David Gilchrist combines two passions: diving and photography

For more than 20 years, in all seasons and all kinds of weather, David Gilchrist has donned his diving gear, loaded his underwater camera, and waded into the chilly, drifting currents of the Niagara River at Navy Hall.

His is a never-ending quest to discover and record the secrets these waters offer about the maritime history of Niagara.

Gilchrist, a 66-year-old former high school teacher and diving instructor, volunteers his specialized skills with the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee, a group of professional archeologists, licensed to dive on historically significant sites and report their findings. Many such reports are highlighted by Gilchrist's photographs.

With his wife, Claudia, and young family, Gilchrist came to live in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1979.

Gilchrist had taken up scuba diving as a teenager in Hamilton. Photography came later after people kept asking: "What do you see down there?" "It's hard to explain, so I decided I needed to show them with pictures," says Gilchrist. "Now underwater photography is really my main pursuit."

"Locating and recording these sites can be very significant," says Gilchrist. "Whether it is a wharf or shipwreck or a prehistoric site, we've helped discover what the sites can tell us."

Around Niagara, the Navy Hall site is one of Gilchrist's most memorable dives. "I've helped to study the old wharf foundation and what looks like a section of a sunken bateau."

Another highlight was the "old tiller wreck" off Port Dalhousie. "It is a very early 90 foot, two masted schooner, lying intact, gently on its side on the bottom."

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"I was always interested in biology" he adds. "And that was the era of Seahunt on television and Jacques Cousteau specials. The idea of diving really intrigued me."

Gilchrist doesn't limit his dives to local sites. His vacations are chosen to find new and different scuba/photography opportunities, including Honduras, Egypt, the Caribbean, the High Arctic and the South Pacific. And his bucket list includes the Philippines and Australia.

Gilchrist chuckles as he tells that story of an Arctic dive. When he surfaced, a group of local children shouted: "Ivak, Ivak!" (Gilchrist admits it's the phonetic spelling). When he asked what it meant, an elder smiled and said: "Walrus."

It's a nickname he immediately adopted.

If he's not diving and shooting his discoveries, Gilchrist is wandering the town and riverside in the hunt for memorable above-water shots. He posts his best shots on a variety of Facebook sites, including his own.

"I started out with the Classic Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page," he says. "It's a site largely for people who grew up here and moved away. I guess they want to connect with old friends and remember the past. Or maybe lament the changes." His pictures also frequent the NOTL Today Facebook site.

Gilchrist has several

A thousand words with David Gilchrist



If you are looking for David Gilchrist, you will almost always find him with camera at the ready. Here he is, camera ready, looking for ducks near Navy Hall. SUBMITTED

Finding Gilchrist's pictures

David Gilchrist's photos can be found in these Facebook groups:

NOTL Today

Classic Niagara-on-the-Lake

Niagara Bird Watchers

Ontario Bird Photographers

Niagara Photography Group

Ontario Photography

Canadian Divers

Global Diving Community

Wetpixel Underwater Photography

Search 'David Gilchrist' in any of these groups.

favorite above-water photographic themes. He loves the heritage of Fort George and everything the Niagara River has to offer.

"I started to post duck

pictures on a couple of sites and people began telling me the names of the birds I was photographing. I'm becoming quite a birdwatcher, too," he smiles.



David Gilchrist at work underwater in the Old Welland Canal. SUBMITTED

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