

Heritage at risk | Page 5

Vol. 7, Issue 43

Canada's most-decorated community newspaper

October 24, 2024

Appointment of councillor was 'completely democratic'

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

With only two councillors voting against the decision, Andrew Niven has been appointed to Niagara-on-

the-Lake council, filling the vacancy left by former councillor Nick Ruller.

In a written statement, Niven, chair of NOTL's Chamber of Commerce and director of marketing for Konzelmann Estate Winery, said he is "incredibly honoured" to have been appointed to council.

"From preserving our town's heritage to addressing the needs of our growing community, I am committed to fostering open dialogue and thoughtful decision-making," Niven said.

In previous years, vacancies on NOTL's council were filled by the first runner-up from the last municipal election, with notable examples including

Coun. Sandra O'Connor in 2020 and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa (then a town councillor) in 2008.

For those with criticism for how the replacement was

Continued on Page 3



Andrew Niven.



THE TURNER REPORT

Why NOTL is weird, special and at risk

Garth Turner Columnist

Moments after this column appeared last Thursday, the mould house hit the market.

You remember. The abandoned Old Town centuryold cottage resplendent in so much gooey black stuff that the pre-listing cleaners demanded hazmat suits.

It was (like me) cute yet mildly toxic. But also priced to invoke property lust.

The next day, there was a slew of showings. By Friday night the listing agent reported five signed offers on an as-is, no-inspection, don't-even-ask, best-price basis.

Continued on Page 9

Fall colours take over NOTL



Marc Lavoie and Marua Roszczyk take in the golden autumn colours as they walk along the Niagara Parkway recreational trail on Oct. 23, during their visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake from London, Ont. The fall colours are in full swing along the path. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Success is 'when the bleeding stops,' says Wiens of Rand hearing

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A "complete success" — that's how Nancy Smith, a lawyer hired by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, summarizes the Ontario Land Tribunal's ruling on development plans for the

Rand Estate.

During Tuesday evening's committee of the whole meeting, NOTL councillors received an update on the tribunal's decision, delivered Oct. 11, to order the developer behind plans for a 172-unit subdivision on the estate property to reevaluate its proposal.

Solmar, the developer, has two months to decide if it intends to pursue the studies and revisions to its

If Solmar decides not to proceed as directed, the tribunal said it would dismiss the company's appeals completely.

If Solmar does

move forward with the subdivision, it must do so in consultation with the town, resident group Save Our Rand Estate and Blair and Brenda McArthur, neighbours to the development.

Smith, in a presentation to council and staff, said the town's position on the matter was fully endorsed by tribunal members.

The decision confirmed several principles advanced by the town, including that the Rand Estate contributes to NOTL's sense of place, physically and culturally, and that demolition is a last resort

The most significant

finding from a legal perspective is that trees on the property will be conserved, Smith said.

"That is huge," she said during her presentation.

Coun. Erwin Wiens was hesitant to agree that the hearing was a "complete

Continued on Page 2





Wood • Luxury Vinyl Carpet • Tile

> From Top Designer Names and Brands



In-store | Curbside pick-up or | FREE local delivery | * Orders over \$1



Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagaranow.com

Hearings have cost town over \$3 million

Continued from Front Page

victory."

"I'm always concerned when people say a complete victory. A complete victory would mean the bleeding would stop," he said.

When the bleeding stops is when council stops paying to take development proposals such as these to court, Wiens told The Lake Report.

SORE noted in an email Wednesday that, "Solmar triggered the hearing by taking his application to the Ontario Land Tribunal in the first place."

"Solmar could have settled with the Town (and SORE) by acquiescing to council's position last December. Solmar is the one who chose to fight. By endorsing the council position, the OLT has found that the town (and SORE) were correct, and (Solmar) did not have an approvable subdivision application."

The entire legal proceedings have cost the town over \$3 million, said interim CAO Bruce Zvaniga, though added he does not have "a solid number."



"We're \$3.5 million deep into this gift that keeps on giving," Wiens said in an interview.

The funding for the case came out of infrastructure spending, Wiens said.

"We save some trees, we save some heritage and we're back to the drawing board for the best," he said.

Smith, in her presentation, said achieved all the legal directions council gave her in December and January.

The legal findings she was instructed to obtain generally deal with cultural heritage conservation, Smith said.

The full list is available on the town website.

"I call that a victory," Smith said.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor agrees with Smith's positive outlook.

"They were able to achieve everything that

council asked them to do
— from my perspective,
that's a wonderful thing,"
she told The Lake Report.

The original proposed subdivision was simply not suitable in that form, O'Connor said.

One thing she is not happy with is how long the entire process has taken, but O'Connor considers the case to be worth what council has invested in it, she said.

Wiens said that the town's position does not necessarily have to align with SORE's position.

"The town is a municipal entity under the Municipal Act and SORE is a resident group incorporated to put forward an interest," Smith said.

Therefore, the town does not have to communicate with the group as a team, Wiens said.

Wiens said his intention

has always been to communicate and not litigate.

"The town should have taken a position that they were going to communicate with the applicant (Solmar) from the start, rather than taking the position that they were going to litigate," he said.

The town's interests, as outlined in December and January, for the outcome of the tribunal hearing were not completely aligned with SORE's interests, Smith said.

"They were, coincidentally, completely aligned with the McArthurs," she said in the presentation.

Regardless of whether or not Solmar, SORE and the town come to an agreement on the future of the Rand Estate, the issue will have to go back to the tribunal, Smith said.

"The tribunal is seized, they need to make a final order. They will either make one in two months if they don't resubmit, or they'll make one after a resubmission and we will go back hand-in-hand," Smith said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com





15261 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY \$2,800,000



\$585,000

MLS 40666665 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk



2 MILLPOND ROAD \$1,998,000 MLS Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft



\$2,189,000MLS 40662858 - Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft



3 BLACKBIRD STREET \$999,000 MLS 40656471 - Patricia Atherton



6 TULIP TREE ROAD

\$1,549,900

2165-2167 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD \$4,995,000 MLS 40642492 - Thomas Elltoft



36 THE PROMENADE

\$2,289,000

129 VICTORIA STREET \$2,900,000 MLS 40639431 - Viviane Elltoft



3332 THUNDER BAY ROAD \$475,000 MLS 40629588 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk



1891 LAKESHORE ROAD \$1,195,000

MLS 40591827 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

58 JOHNSON STREET

\$2,799,500

MLS 40529584 - Linda Williams

 Cheryl Carmichael*
 905-941-0276

 Linda Williams*
 905-401-4240

 Weston Miller*
 289-213-8681

 Ricky Watson*
 905-246-3387

St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Subscribe to our free daily newsletter. Just visit www.niagaranow.com and you'll be prompted to sign up.

Page 3 October 24, 2024



Burroughs, O'Connor supported Bisback

Continued from Front Page

chosen, council adopting this procedure set a precedent, which they believed should be followed, for how to handle filling vacated council seats.

However, those who were in favour of selecting Niven say how the town made these decisions in the past isn't based on a single hard-and-fast rule, as there is more than one legal option for how to fill a vacancy, and that council was within its rights to go in another direction.

O'Connor and Coun. Gary Burroughs disagreed with the selection of Niven during council's closedsession meeting on Oct. 16, stating a preference for 2022 election runner-up Allan Bisback.

"I don't think your paper is big enough to handle all of the reasons why I think we made the wrong decision," Burroughs told The Lake Report.

He refused to comment further.

"I seconded the motion from Gary Burroughs to go with Allan Bisback because of the precedent that has been set by council in the past," O'Connor told The Lake Report.

NOTL has a standard for selecting the ninth runnerup from elections when there is a council vacancy, after doing so for so many years, O'Connor said.

Her entrance into council in 2020 was a result of her appointment after former councillor Stuart McCormack stepped down, as was Zalepa's position on council in 2008, she said.

As Coun. Erwin Wiens told The Lake Report, however, appointing Niven was fair and democratic, as



Coun. Gary Burroughs, left, says council made the wrong decision when selecting its newest councillor, Andrew Niven. Coun. Erwin Wiens says council simply followed the rules as laid out in the Municipal Act and procedural bylaws. JULIA SACCO

outlined in the Municipal Act and the town's procedural bylaws.

"The only two options are to hold a byelection or to appoint somebody — that's what the legislation says."

A byelection is the most "purely democratic" option, but council avoided it because it would be costly and time-consuming, Wiens said.

"What we did was completely democratic. It followed the system."

Just because a certain procedure was followed in the past, does not mean it has to be done again, Wiens said.

Zalepa's comments were similar, stating there is no precedent law in municipal law.

"Just like any decision, I consider what I think is the best for the community and then I make a decision."

Deciding during a closed session was the proper way to do it, he said.

"Any time you are in a public meeting and you're

going to begin to identify individuals and have conversations pertinent to individuals, that qualifies for what is called a closedsession meeting."

When it came to the selection of Niven specifically, O'Connor did not have much to say.

"I have no comment on him as an individual, I just have a comment on the precedence," she said.

O'Connor acknowledged council had options to choose from and what council decided to do was within its rights.

She was unable to comment on why council decided to go with someone other than Bisback, due to the confidentiality of the details discussed in the meeting's closed session, O'Connor said.

Given Niven's great contribution to NOTL before his appointment, Zalepa said, he is glad to see Niven joining council.

"I'm pleased for someone who is involved and has taken an interest from before being a council member — and somebody who has put their name on the ballot as well — I'm pretty pleased that it's the outcome," Zalepa said.

Bisback, who placed ninth in the 2022 municipal election, was disappointed with the outcome of the meeting, he said.

"I'm not upset over the fact that council chose a different option, they have the right to," he said. "I'm more concerned over the fact that there was no open discussion."

For Bisback, the process behind selecting the council member was not clear.

"Was it based on merit? Was it based on experience? I don't know what it was based on, so that leaves a lot of concern," he said.

Niven is a good citizen whom Bisback knows very well, he said. He had nothing negative to say about council's choice to appoint him.







111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202

For appointment call 289-868-9212.



Niven sworn in on Monday before council

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

It's official — Andrew Niven has now been made a part of Niagara-on-the-Lake's municipal council.

New Coun. Niven, filling a council seat left vacant in September, was formally introduced to the other councillors during Tuesday night's committee of the whole meeting, after already being sworn in earlier this week.

After a few introductory

words from Niven, Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if he and other councillors would be able to attend a swearingin document signing.

The signing, however, was done before the Tuesday meeting, Niven told The Lake Report in an email.

"I had the privilege of being sworn in at the town hall ... in the council chambers on Monday morning," he said. He signed the documents with Grant Bivol, the town clerk, and Shannon Mista, the town's legislative and committees co-ordinator.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

was not present for the actual signing, but was there for a photo op, he said during an interview, along

with Bivol and interim CAO Bruce Zvagnia.

"The clerk did the oath of office and we got a signature and got a photograph taken," Zalepa said.

"It's not a meeting per

se, it's really just a function of the clerk's office for the individual to go in and sign the document— there's no public meeting required for that."

Probably, the timing just

lined up for Niven to be able to sign the documents on Monday, Zalepa said.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor

said none of the councillors were notified of the swearing-in.

"The last swearing-in that was not part of a regular election was mine and it was done at a council meeting," she told The Lake Report.

O'Connor was happy with how it was done for her and assumes Niven is happy with how it was done for him, she said. Coun, Erwin Wiens did

not know about the ceremony either, but he heard it was on Monday, he said.
"I was glad it happened so

that he was able to partake yesterday," Wiens said on Wednesday.

"That got him on the ground running." juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Remembrance Day Wreaths

Now available to order for our November 11th

Cenotaph Ceremony.

We will remember them.

Please call 905-468-2353 or legion124@gmail.com.

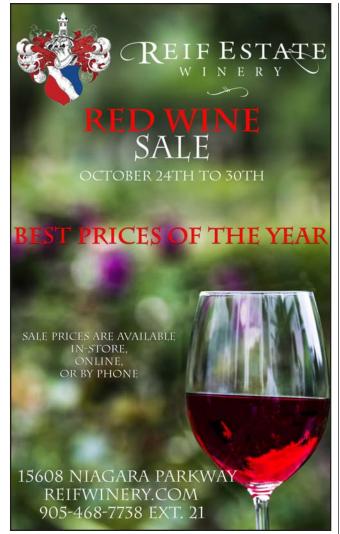
Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

FursbyLeonidas.com 416-566-9419













St. Davids-Queenston United Church Sunday Worship 1453 York Rd. St Davids 905-262-5242 10:30 a.m. www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca Also online Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek Visit our website

Mixed feelings from NOTLers about council's appointment of Niven

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

253 Taylor Road SS4

Niagará on the Lake, ON

The appointment of Andrew Niven to fill the vacant town council seat is raising questions about the electoral and democratic process in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Lake Report asked a group of community members for their opinions and found, from this group's perspective, it's not so much that it was done, nor who was chosen, but rather that the selection was made under the veil of secrecy.

Niven, chair of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL, was appointed in a special, closed-door meeting of council on Oct. 16, filling the seat vacated by Nick Ruller in September.

"I was kind of wondering how they came to that decision," Blair Cowan told The Lake Report.

Cowan is a NOTL resident and an administrator of the Facebook group page NOTL 4 All, which has become a drop box of opinions on the matter.

His curiosity is wellplaced.

The agenda for the special meeting posted to the town's website, ahead of Oct. 16, read: "Options to fill vacant council seat" as an item of discussion.

When the meeting opened, council went immediately into a closed-door

When they emerged an hour later, the announcement that Niven had been appointed was made.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report, following the Oct. 16 meeting, deciding in a closed-session meeting was the proper way to handle the matter.

"Any time you are in a public meeting and you're going to begin to identify individuals and have conversations pertinent to individuals, that qualifies for what is called a closedsession meeting," he said.

The "options" referred to in the title of the meeting were neither made public nor were they discussed in an open forum.

However, despite Cowan's original question of how Niven was chosen, he said he has faith council made an educated decision.

"I wasn't questioning it in a nefarious way," he said.

"I seriously assume that it was done in the interests of



Niagara-on-the-Lake." Cowan is aware of the other options for filling the empty seat available to council, he said, which included holding a byelection or appointing a runner-up from the last election.

He's glad council chose the route they did.

"I don't think we need to go through the expense of an election," he said. "Not enough people vote municipally anyway, in my opinion."

Cowan went as far as to message Niven on Facebook to congratulate him.

"I hope that people are kind, is what I told him. I believe that he generally cares about the community."

Lifelong NOTL resident and local realtor Thomas Elltoft watched the council meeting from home via a livestream and was so riled up by what occurred, he took to Facebook to announce his displeasure.

He was not only upset about the secrecy of the closed-door session, but since he too knew the legal options council had to fill the role, he took exception to council going against the more electoral solution.

"Rather than going with the most democratic approach and going with the next highest votes (from the 2022 election) as previous councils have done for about 80 years, they went into a closed session and came out an hour later and chose someone who did not even run in the last election," he wrote on his Facebook wall.

"Wow," he continued in the same post. "I didn't think this crew would risk stooping so low."

Elltoft, in a subsequent interview with The Lake Report, said he especially expected more from the lord

"Even our present mayor became a councillor originally because he was the ninth seat after the election," he said, referring to Zalepa's appointment to council in 2008. "Why have they gone against precedent?"

Elltoft has many unanswered questions.

"Who is Andrew Niven?" he asked. "It doesn't matter what talents he has or how his character stands up."

"He could be the best councillor we have but we don't know anything about him (because) it was all done in a closed-door session."

Mike James, who retired to NOTL about 10 years ago, is a little less forgiving in his opinion of how the process was undertaken.

"I have just two concerns," he said.

"Number one: For democracy to be successful, we have to have confidence in the people we elect."

"Premise two," he added, "is that in order to gain that confidence, we have to have transparency in the decision-making process."

That confidence and transparency is easy to deliver, said James.

"If you make a decision, whether I'm in agreement or not — that's the normal part of democracy — I have to (know) the rationale from the person making the decision as to why they went that way."

James would still like to hear from the lord mayor and council as to why they chose to go with an appointment and not a past runner-up.

"I know it's legitimate, but it's concerning because it's gone against historic precedent."

When stay-at-home mom Mariah Reese heard the news she, at first, wasn't aware of who had been appointed and questioned council on its actions.

"The closed-door meeting did seem a bit odd," she

However, after later learning it was Niven who had been appointed, she said her fears were lifted.

"My first reaction was true excitement, and how I honestly could not think of anyone better for the spot."

Reese, who has been a NOTL resident for 10 years, said she's known Niven for three years thanks to a relationship that began when he reached out to her on Joyous NOTL, the Facebook page she administrates.

Joyous NOTL is a group "with a focus on how wonderful life in NOTL is for its citizens and visitors," said Reese.

Once a month, Reese sends out a thank you basket for the post that stands out as the most joyous.

Not long after the page was created Niven reached out to her, she said, and offered to help with the baskets.

"However, his contributions are not only material and he has demonstrated a degree of compassion, empathy, and selflessness that is above what I would expect in general from within the Joyous NOTL group," she said.

As for how she feels about Niven as a councillor? "Only time will tell," said Reese.

"I do fully believe that he will do everything in his power to make this town a better place and do what he can for the people of this town."

wright@niagaranow.com

Heritage home at risk of crumbling to the ground

Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A historic home in the community of St. Davids is at risk of being lost due to its decrepit status, says a Niagara-on-the-Lake advocate.

Brian Marshall, a member of the NOTL municipal heritage committee, brought the state of the 225-year-old David Secord home on Paxton Lane to the attention of fellow committee members at its Oct. 2 regular meeting.

"This is a textbook case of demolition by neglect and unfortunately the town is contributing to the textbook case of demolition by neglect," Marshall told the committee.

Marshall outlined a host of issues with the home. which he said was built in 1799 by Secord — issues he believes should not be occurring, since the structure is protected under the town's heritage bylaws.

"The roof is completely shot," he said.

"There are holes in the roof so rain is getting in



The historic David Secord House in St. Davids is falling apart. Local heritage advocate Brian Marshall is pressing The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to save it. RICHARD WRIGHT

and it is going to affect the structure."

"The front door ... is standing open, so whatever goes in can go in," he added.

Further issues include dirt and rubble pushed up against one side of the house — a result of an attempt to grade the surface surrounding the home which will also eventually affect the building's

"In doing the grading, incidentally, they have undercut the concrete of the front steps so they are hanging in the air," he added.

Additionally, continued Marshall, parts of the stucco facade are peeling and exposing a lime mortar that will surely disintegrate if left to the weather.

Other areas of the home are open to the elements as well, thanks to collapsing or removed window frames.

The Lake Report visited the location and can corroborate the list of needs and damages visible from the exterior.

"We simply haven't enforced the laws that we have to protect this building," said Marshall, who feels one of the community's founding fathers, David Secord, deserves more respect.

"St. Davids is named after the guy that built this,"

Marshall went on to share an anecdote of a time he used to commute past an octagonal home while living in the Greater Toronto Area.

Octagonal homes were a novel architectural style in North America in the early 19th century.

There are reportedly only 200 left in North America.

"It was boarded up and allowed to be vandalized," remembered Marshall.

"And one day when I was driving home it had just fallen down. And that's what is going to happen (to the Secord home) — it's just gonna fall down."

Marshall is prepared to use his energy and networks to assist in saving the home, telling the committee he is going to attempt to contact the owner and that he has identified a person willing to put \$1 million into its restoration.

"But we need to know if a million dollars will save this place before (the investor) commits," he said.

"We need to act on this and I am sort of looking to (town) staff as well, in terms of let's get it done."

Senior heritage planner for the town of Niagara-onthe-Lake, Candice Bogdanski, who was also at the committee meeting responded to Marshall's concerns.

"We appreciate receiving your comments," she told

"I assure you that I am working on it internally with staff at this moment so I appreciate you bringing it to the attention of the committee but there is a response underway," she

"We are just following due process."

David Secord was an American who settled in Niagara following the American Revolution.

He was elected to the fifth Parliament of Upper Canada and helped establish St. Davids as a businessman in the community.

He was the brother-in-law of Laura Secord, who famously made a trip on foot from Queenston to Beaver Dams to warn British Soldiers during the War of 1812 that the Americans were planning a surprise attack on their location.

wright@niagaranow.com









in the Edward Boldt Memorial Hall (No elevator available)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 6PM

Cocktails at 5:30pm

For all Veterans (members and non-members) and their spouse/caregiver.

Tickets also available for non-veterans and Legion members for only \$20.

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Please register for tickets and pick up from the bar by Monday, November 4.



410 King Street 905-468-2353 legion124@gmail.com



Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to editor@niagaranow.com







From left, Benito Velazco, Jesus Ivan Ruiz and Juan Antonio Estrada are workers at Chateau des Charmes. DON REYNOLDS

Leaves in the vineyards are turning from green to red and yellow and the canes are brown and getting brittle, ready to go dormant for the winter. Grapes for sparkling, white, and light red wines are all in. Only the Cabernets still hang, ripening a little longer in the Autumn sun. Harvest season is not over, but the end is in sight. For the migrant workers who tend the vineyards and work in the wineries, this moment in time is the culmination of months of work, literally seeing the fruits of their labour, and signalling a countdown to going home. The Lake Report returned to two of the wineries we featured at the beginning of the series Heartbeat of the Harvest to sit down with some of the workers for their perspectives. Today we meet three of the workers at Chateau des Charmes

HEARTBEAT of the HARVEST

Last words go to the workers

Jill Troyer The Lake Report

Three of the workers at Chateau des Charmes sit down in the warm October sunshine to talk about the season, with winemaker Amelie Boury translating.

Now that only the Cabernet grapes are left in the field, they know it's getting close to the day they'll be reunited with their families in Mexico.

They have been in NOTL since March 15, so by the time they leave around mid-November, they will have been away from home for eight months.

Their smiles are wide and easy, and their camaraderie with each other and with Amelie is evident in their banter.

They say harvest time is very exciting because they see how the work they've done together as a team has produced a good crop, and that's very rewarding. They say when they see how beautiful the grapes are, it gives them a sense of pride.

But the biggest grins come when they talk of going home. The closer it is, the more it's on their minds. Their speech is peppered with words like familia, ninos and amigos.

Benito Velazco is the foreman: He's Amelie's right hand in the vineyard and he runs the press as the grapes come in.

He's been working at Chateau des Charmes for 12 years, since 2012, about the same time that Amelie started there.

Velazco says learning about all of the different aspects of the vineyards and winery has been very interesting and it gives them all more of a feeling of not just being a worker, but a feeling of contributing in a range of meaningful ways.

Juan Antonio Estrada has worked at the winery for seven years. He specializes in bottling and labelling. He has three kids at home: His sons are 20 and 21, his daughter 11.

Jesus Ivan Ruiz is just finishing his second year working in Niagara. His kids are younger, a fouryear-old daughter and a two-year-old son. Amelie says he's good at everything, but especially driving the

All the men talk to their families daily, usually via video, but Ruiz says that doesn't mean he won't still be surprised at the changes he sees in his children when he gets home.

Velazco says the hardest part of being away is missing big life moments, some joyful, some not. Missing occasions like birthdays, celebrations, and other milestones. His daughter is 14.

Ruiz adds it's difficult if someone at home has health problems or other issues while he's away, because he's just not there to help.

But they agree their big sacrifice is worth it for the gains they achieve for their families.

Estrada is proud that he has been able to pay for his sons' educations, and he beams when he explains that his eldest son will graduate from university in December, with a degree in business and administration.

He says he's lucky to be able to afford a house for all of them and enough clothes to dress properly.

Velazco has been able to build an addition to his home, so that his mother can run a small convenience shop there, and he can pay for the medical support that she needs.

Ruiz talks about being able to pay for education and buy clothes for his family and fix up his house. He says if he was in Mexico year-round, he could not afford anything. If he stayed in Mexico and worked, basically it would just provide enough to eat and live from one day to the next.

Even with their focus on going home, they share some of the things they've enjoyed over the past months, things like barbecues with the whole team of 20 or so people three or four times over the summer, going into Toronto to see a Blue Jays game, spending a day at the beach in Port Dalhousie, bowling, visiting Niagara Falls, eating out at Silks and shopping at the Penn Centre.

A lot of that shopping is for things to bring home. Lots of clothing, which is better quality than they can get at home, and shoes, sometimes specific brands for the kids, like Converse or Nike.

Sometimes they buy electronics like iPads or cell phones because they're less expensive here. They all laugh, saying they arrive with one suitcase, but leave with three.

Their plans for when they get home vary.

When Ruiz goes home, he takes one month of vacation, and then he works in the corn fields for the next two months. He does manual labour, harvesting the corn in the mornings and husking it in the afternoons. It's harder than working in the vineyard.

Velazco is content to spend time with his family and just do odd jobs around his home, after eight months of hard work here.

Estrada will help his father on his farm.

All of them talk of having fiestas with friends and family, to relish their favourite foods together, like barbacoa and carne asada.

Until then, their work continues for now mostly inside the winery, where grape juice from this harvest is fermenting in huge tanks and more mature wines from previous years' harvests are ready to be bottled.

Once the last grapes are picked and pressed, they'll be on their way home, until the vines need their handson care again in March.

Next week, Heartbeat of the Harvest continues with a visit with Oral Walters and Wayne Blake, who are from Jamaica and work at Stratus Vineyards

Holiday House Tour tickets on sale now

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Prepare to deck the halls and welcome the holiday spirit in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The 25th annual Holiday House Tour is set to enchant the community once again, inviting residents and visitors to explore six beautifully decorated homes on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7 — with tickets on sale now and expected to sell out sooner rather than later.

The indoor and outdoor fundraiser features two distinct tours: The general tour from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the McArthur Estate tour, where guests can explore the site at 60-minute intervals from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. for a one-hour visit.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, these self-guided tours serve as the club's largest charity fundraiser.

They promise an immersive and festive experience, featuring a mix of familiar favourites and new surprises, said Rose Campbell, cochair of the tour committee alongside Kevin Stokes.

Since its inception, the



The McArthur Estate will be part of the tour. SUPPLIED

tour has drawn holiday decor enthusiasts from many parts of Canada and the U.S. NOTL to admire the lavish decor of these historic homes.

"People really look forward to it. A lot of people come year after year," said Campbell. "It's quite amazing that it has become such an annual event for many."

The general tour features The Cedar House, Blue-Gate, Lakeview, Somerset, Royal Manor Inn and Riverview, all to be decorated by different teams of homeowners, gardeners and garden centres.

Willowbank, which was featured as one of last year's six homes, is now a permanent site on the Holiday House Tour, said

Campbell.

Inside the McArthur Estate, guests can enjoy Peller Estates sparkling wine and hot apple cider while surrounded by decor, live music and festive characters like Santa and the Grinch — all while cozying up around crackling fires and learning about the history

of the site. Supporting this event not only enriches the community spirit but also ensures the proceeds benefit those in need, she said.

The tour raises funds for a range of community projects, including local organizations like the Niagara Jazz Festival and YWCA, as well as international initiatives such as ShelterBox and Doctors Without Borders.

Campbell encourages first-time attendees to watch for hourly lineup notifications via email.

She also advises wearing comfortable, warm boots that slip off easily since guests must remove their footwear in each home. They should also bring a bag for their boots.

Attendees can secure spots at a discounted rate with early bird tickets for the general tour available for \$45 each until Nov. 8. After that, the price increases to \$52.50.

The McArthur Estate tour costs \$65 for adults, with children under 12 entering for free. There is no early bird option for this tour.

A combined adult ticket for both the general Holiday House Tour and the McArthur tour is also available for a discounted price of \$100.

Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, as the general tour has sold out before the end of early bird sales in previous years, said Campbell.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to sign up to volunteer for the tours, visit holidayhousetournotl.ca.

Lake Report

PLEDGE IT

Pledge your support for The Lake Report, your trusted, award-winning source for NOTL news

The Lake Report's **Pledge It** campaign has two main components:

- **1. Pledge** a recurring annual donation to support journalism in NOTL.
- 2. Pledge an endowment to the paper so your dedication continues to have a positive impact on the community after you are gone.

What your pledge supports:

- Original, independent civic journalism
- Holding our elected leaders accountable
- Charities and local non-profit organizations
- Local artists and arts organizations
- Local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Families in our community
- Preserving NOTL's history
- Historic organizations

Pledge your annual donation at www.lakereport.ca/donate-today

Contact us at editor@niagaranow.com to let us know of endowment plans



Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagaranow.com

Your Niagara-on-the-Lake Real Estate Professionals

7819 Pender Street, Niagara Falls \$1,299,999



AMBER LOFORTI, REALTOR Amber@McGarrRealty.com 905.359.5780





882 Line 1 Road Niagara-on-the-Lake \$729,000



27 Arbourvale Common St. Catharines \$1,775,000



CINDI LOFORTI, REALTOR Cindi@McGarrRealty.com 905.329.0353

33 Hickory Avenue Niagara-on-the-Lake \$1,225,000



925 Queenston Road Niagara-on-the-Lake \$1,750,000



JOY MIELE, REALTOR Joy@McGarrRealty.com 905.347.3728

1424 Four Mile Creek, Virgil \$1,888,000



NICOLE MARSH-BURKE, BROKER Nicole@McGarrRealty.com 905.751.5171

92 Warner Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake \$2,900,000



OPPORTUNITY

ANGELA BACHERT, REALTOR Angela@McGarrRealty.com 905.687.2117





The Lake Report





Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Zahraa Hmood
Editor Emeritus: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee,

Lisa Jeffrey

Contributors: Denise Ascenzo,
Dr. William Brown, Penny-Lynn Cookson,
Kevan Dowd, Linda Fritz, Patty Garriock,
Steve Hardaker, Brian Marshall, NOTL
Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Paige
Seburn, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer,
Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White,
Richard Wright, Joanne Young and many more
members of the community



The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.





Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 112 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"What we are today comes from our thoughts of yesterday, and our present thoughts build our life of tomorrow. Our life is the creation of our mind." - Buddha

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:

Letters: editor@niagaranow.com Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com

Phone

Newsroom: 905-359-2270

Advertising Department: 905-932-5646

Office Address

496 Mississagua St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.

Mailing Address

PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, LOS1J0

Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com



Fall reds in bloom

Photographer Dave Van de Laar captured this image of the Niagara River from Queenston. The vibrant reds of fall are in full swing this week, so head out and check out nature's art.

Editorial

Zalepa & Co. acted undemocratically

Richard Harley Editor-in-Chief

They did nothing wrong legally but got everything wrong democratically.

Last week our town council and mayor entered a secret meeting, in a private room away from the public eye, to appoint someone who didn't run in the last election to fill a vacant seat of council.

Yes, you read that correctly. Without public consultation or a byelection, our town council decided to appoint Andrew Niven, the current chair of Tourism NOTL and the Chamber of Commerce, to council, rather than the person who finished next in the 2022 election.

The move ignored a long-standing precedent in our town to appoint the next democratically chosen runner-up.

Astonishingly — or maybe not so much any more — only two voices of reason spoke against this decision: Couns. Sandra O'Connor and Gary Burroughs.

We want to emphasize that none of this is Niven's fault, and knowing Niven, he will likely do a great job at representing the residents of NOTL.

But that is far from the point.

The point is that our council, or at least Zalepa & Co., continues to act in a way that spits in the face of democracy and the resi-

dents of our town. And this is just another example of how five council members continue to ignore the people who voted them into their positions.

While council was within its rights to appoint someone to fill the seat per requirements of the Municipal Act — and while discussing such matters in a closed—session meeting seems to be the norm across the board in situations like this — the move has rightfully angered swaths of people in our town, who are left wondering if their voices mean anything any more.

And, really, are they wrong to question that? Based on the history of this council, in just two years, we would argue it's become obvious the voices of the people are secondary to the enigmatic preferences of Zalepa & Co., who vote together on just about everything, as if the decisions were cooked up in a backroom cauldron of bad ideas and egos.

Objectively, the clear and obvious democratic choice, next to holding an expensive byelection, was to select the next runner-up, Allan Bisback, to fill the vacant seat.

Bisback, who lost by just 66 votes, has previous council experience, was interested in the position, has no other jobs to interfere with the time he spends working for our town (Niven has three other jobs), and notably, is

the candidate the people voted for — and who beat Niven in the 2018 municipal election, by the way.

The appointment was an insult to Bisback, his campaign members and every resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake who cast a vote in the last election.

Perhaps it's just a coincidence Bisback has differing views than the current gang of five who seem to be running our council, but it seems pretty obvious why Zalepa's gang ignored him. It appears to be nothing more than sickening cronyism and could be seen as further evidence that most of the members of this council, especially Zalepa and his deputy, Erwin Wiens, think they know better than everyone else.

It's part of a pattern of certain council members to ignore the voices of the people of this town.

This egregious move comes after several decisions in which town council has ignored the loud cries of residents: With the hotels at Parliament Oak and on Queen Street, in Glendale at White Oaks and for the secondary plan. The list goes on.

It also follows an Ontario Land Tribunal decision in favour of the town, which showed Zalepa and Wiens were wrong by proving de facto that not all legal challenges are losing battles at the expense of the taxpayer.

Oops, we suppose that argu-

ment is out the window now.

It saddens us that we have a majority of council that seemingly doesn't care what residents think and acts collectively, often defending their actions with poorly justified excuses.

The only thing we can say for Zalepa & Co. is that at least they were democratically elected — even if their platforms were 180 degrees from how they've been voting. In many cases they have not acted at all how they told the electorate they would, which in most real-world circumstances is simply called fraud.

But alas, this decision, like some of the other poor decisions this council has made, is final and can't be undone.

So with that, we must look to the future.

We congratulate Niven on his position and hope his voice will be a refreshing one and that he listens to the people — even if those people didn't put him in his position.

And then we must look to 2026, when voters can decide if they want to remove people from council who seem to have forgotten who put them in their positions in the first place, or who didn't live up to their platforms and promises.

In the meantime, we can celebrate that these decisions are all on the record for the public to see, share and be loud about.

editor@niagaranow.com



Audiologist

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 complimentary hearing test.

hearing healthcare.

A global leader in

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON





LETTER OF THE WEEK

Opportunity to build trust has been missed

This letter is much shorter than my Aug. 8 letter in The Lake Report about the lord mayor's "changing of the channel" and calling upon him to foster "transparency, accountability, and most importantly, restoring trust" ("Letter of the Week: Criticism of protest a cynical attempt to 'change channel'").

In that prior letter, I noted (among many things) that after the false accusations of violent protest (which Coun. Erwin Wiens coincidentally

echoed — more below), the councillors went behind closed drapes to hold a secret meeting.

I now read this week that council, again, went behind closed doors to hold a secret meeting to not appoint the traditional next vote-getting candidate in the last council election, not choose to hold a byelection and not give any explanation whatsoever as to their choice for council vs. at least one known alternate candidate who was, in fact, the next vote-getting

candidate in the last election.

Since this was done behind closed doors, there may have been other candidates, but we will never

This is not about the credentials of the chosen councillor.

As noted in the Aug. 8 letter, the lord mayor only has a "few more chances to change his ... tone that many believe stems from perceived, if not real, conflicts of interest within council."

The lord mayor just missed a golden opportunity to change the tone and build trust.

Councillor Wiens' subsequent comments about how legal the process was suggest they have already "lawyered up" to lecture citizens and further push down any thoughts about how good leadership might change the tone.

It is what it is. They are who they are.

Paul Kirkconnell NOTL

Mould House sells for over asking price

Continued from Front Page

Three went back for sweetening, and the place sold over the \$1.4 million asking price. In fact, \$200,000 more.

Sorry, kids. Odds are this sweet structure will soon be excavator food, with a monster house rising in its stead.

The days of snagging a fixer-upper at a reasonable price (what a world when \$1.4 million seems cheap ...) have apparently ended. Off you go to St. Catharines.

Well, a key point was that this house sat empty for years, growing fungus. As mentioned last week, at least 800 vacant places are currently for sale in the region - a record.

We don't lack properties to choose from. We just don't have many people can afford.

Mike Kostecki tells me he's aware.

"We have lived in NOTL and built my house on York Road in 1975," he says. "You are right on about availability and vacant houses."

"Yesterday before reading your article I counted three houses on York Road from my house to St. Davids that were totally vacant and many houses up for sale."

Our weird real estate market, the battle between heritage and development and the endless flow of Americans through our



If this mud hut were in Old Town, it might just fetch a million bucks on the market.

streets have been themes of this column.

Now, mortgage rates are going down (good) but we face the ascendency of Trump (maybe bad) and the build-baby-build fetish of local and Ontario politicians (so long mould cottage).

It's worth remembering why people always wanted to come to this place. Now more than ever.

Lin Slee wears one of those blue "ambassador" vests in town, spending time with the folks from across the river.

"Most of our visitors are from the U.S.A.," she confirms, echoing NOTL Chamber of Commerce

"They have shared many times lately that they are here to destress. From the violent weather. From mass shootings. But mainly because of the politics."

Amen. The next steamy

edition of the Lake Report will be published five days before the presidential election. It's all about Trump.

If he wins, economists predict chaos may ensue (tariffs, trade wars, inflation, deportations).

If he loses, he may not concede. More chaos.

Will we see American refugees?

"I was walking my dog past the white B&B near Greaves," Lin adds.

"My dog stopped to look at guests eating breakfast. Dogs sure invite conversations. A couple from Cleveland are seriously thinking of relocating to NOTL for a quieter and safer retirement next year."

"I listen, welcome people and often steer them to the river to relax. We are so fortunate living here."

Indeed. If you can afford it. And if we don't screw it up. Three million people

come here yearly to traipse

down Queen Street, soak in the leafy Leave-it-to-Beaver 'hoods and relish the history. Yes, special.

But, there are risks like replacing the old, quaint and attainable digs with faux-vintage Mississauga McMansions.

Being wealthy and a moron aren't mutually exclusive.

And then, as a reckless reader points out, there's the danger of surly columnists.

"Your photograph is a slightly cynical, cautionary warning of 'don't mess with me' expression with the slightest touch of contempt," she writes. "Garth, that's not necessary in NOTL. There is no need, and does you no service."

Little does she know. That's my happy face. Garth Turner is a NOTL resident, journalist, author, wealth manager and former federal MP and minister.

garth@garth.ca

YOU'RE INVITED TO A TRAVEL PRESENTATION!

collette

Small Group Explorations

14-24 Travellers

Join Silvia Fuchs, your local travel professional, for a presentation with Collette on small group journeys on Saturday, 2 November at 2:00 PM at Niagara on the Lake Community Centre





55 York St, Suite 1003 Toronto, ON M5J 1R7 416-367-8264 ext. 2547

RSVP to Silvia by 30 October at 905-321-5892 or sfuchs@thetravelagentnextdoor.com

Lake Report

PLEDGE IT

Pledge your support for The Lake Report, your trusted, award-winning source for NOTL news

The Lake Report's **Pledge It** campaign has two main components:

1. Pledge a recurring annual donation to support journalism in NOTL.

2. Pledge an endowment to the paper so your dedication continues to have a positive impact on the community after you are gone.

What your pledge supports:

- Original, independent civic journalism
- Holding our elected leaders accountable
- Charities and local non-profit organizations
- Local artists and arts organizations Local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Families in our community
- Preserving NOTL's history Historic organizations

Pledge your annual donation at www.lakereport.ca/donate-today

Contact us at editor@niagaranow.com to let us know of endowment plans



HANDYMAN

Powerwashing, eavestroughs, weeding, yard work, wood cutting, tree trimming, household repairs, windows/deep cleaning, snow, garbage and recycling removal, auto and heavy equipment washing, polishing and detailing.

905-246-1843

Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

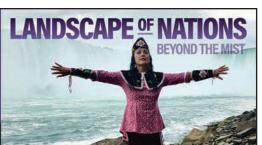


BOOK LAUNCH

Join us for a 45-minute presentation followed by a signing with several of the book's authors.

Saturday, Oct. 26 | 1 - 3 p.m. @ NOTL Museum

905-468-3912 | notImuseum.ca | Open daily





Of the Rand Estate and other things



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

Off the top, allow me to congratulate SORE (Save Our Rand Estate), the McArthurs and the town on the impressive list of results contained within the Ontario Land Tribunal's recent decision relative to the Rand Estate.

In short, the Ontario Land Tribunal found Solmar's proposed plan of subdivision unacceptable and that "its effects on the Rand Estate's cultural heritage value or interest do not represent good planning in the public interest."

Moreover, should Solmar elect to undertake the necessary studies and revisions to its development plan — the company has two months to make this decision — it is the tribunal's expectation that this would result in "substantial revisions to the design of the proposed subdivision related to the tribunal's findings on cultural heritage, vehicular access, tree protection and natural heritage."

Of particular note, the tribunal decision requires Solmar, in the event of choosing to move forward with a revised plan of subdivision, to do so in consultation with SORE, the McArthurs and the town.

Finally, if Solmar fails to undertake the studies and revisions as specified by the decision, the tribunal will entirely dismiss the company's appeals related to the property.

I don't know about you, dear readers, but in my book, this tribunal decision must count as a "win" and flies in the face of an often-repeated suggestion voiced by certain members of the town council that costs associated with going before

the tribunal are a waste of money because we're going to lose.

Now, there is no question that the Ontario Land Tribunal's record of decisions clearly indicates that it finds in favour of developer appeals at an inordinate level — 96.6 per cent of the time — which begs the question, "Why is this case different?"

In my opinion, the answer to that question lies fundamentally in the quality of the cases put together by SORE, et. al., and the town, which were clear, concise, well-articulated and supported by an outstanding list of expert testimonies.

Furthermore, both the town and SORE advanced alternative concepts for the subdivision, illustrating their cases were not based on knee-jerk "not-in-mybackyard" objections, but rather, the intent to ensure any development of the Rand Estate properties would respect all facets of the public interest — including, but not limited to, infrastructure, natural heritage (trees, wetlands, etc.), built heritage and the cultural heritage context.

And, perhaps of equivalent importance — vis-àvis robbing the developer of leverage points in their argument — the cases were remarkably free of any significant dissenting recommendations from the town staff, their consultants or SORE's experts.

This stands in stark contrast to NOTL's typical application processing practice wherein planning staff might disregard many of the important criteria cited in this Ontario Land Tribunal decision (and the town's official plan) and revert to the general criteria defined in the overarching provincial Planning Act.

I'd suggest one of the most lethal arrows in the heart delivered to any contesting presentation before the tribunal was inconsistencies in how the original application was processed.

Perhaps the most common example of introducing an inconsistency occurs when municipal staff



The Ontario Land Tribunal found Solmar's proposed plan for a subdivision on the historic Rand Estate unacceptable — a testament to the quality of the cases put together by Save Our Rand Estate and the town, writes Brian Marshall.

produce recommendations that the application be "accepted" and subsequently a committee or council refuse that recommendation by voting against the application.

66 Now, there is no question that the **Ontario Land** Tribunal's record of decisions clearly indicates that it finds in favour of developer appeals at an inordinate level - 96.6 percent of the time – which begs the question, "Why is this case different?"

This establishes a clear and unequivocal conflict between the opinions of staff and elected (or appointed) officials in any future argument presented before the tribunal and, since staff recommendations, once presented, exist in the public domain, this conflict is invariably leveraged by the applicant appealing before the tribunal.

And why would the applicant not do so?

After all, a municipal staff recommendation contains all of the background and justifications drawn from various legislative acts — which may include the municipality's official plan — that underwrite their recommendation.

In addition, leveraging this type of conflict (within the municipal processes related to the application) during an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal places the municipality's representative(s) in the unenviable position of attempting to discredit the original staff recommendation and/or bringing forward additional information, in an effort to underwrite the subsequent decision by council or committee to vote against the application.

The municipality's case is not only fundamentally flawed but their arguments come from a position of weakness — to quote an old saying, it's like closing the barn door after the horse has bolted.

I have often wondered whether planning applications, upon being received by the town, go through an upfront vetting to assess the merits of each against a standardized, published set of criteria — say, a list of planning criteria that directly relate to the town's vision statement as expressed in the strategic plan: "Enriching and protecting our heritage, agriculture and natural beauty while creating a resilient, vibrant and welcoming community for all."

That is, prior to being assigned to a member of the

planning staff, a determination is made whether it conforms to the criteria or not.

If not, what does the applicant have to do to modify the application per the criteria and thereby allow it to move forward through the process?

I know of many organizations that hold weekly meetings to assess new projects.

In this meeting, by project, they conduct an analysis against a standard set of criteria, establish the general approach, define associated timelines and identify benchmarks to evaluate both progress and adherence to the established approach as the project moves forward.

It seems to me if this "assessment committee" model — or similar — were in use, it would maximize the likelihood that each application would be dealt with on a seamless basis from beginning to end and distinctly reduce the risk of introducing inconsistencies at any point in the process.

And, the model would have the additional benefit of generating higher levels of comfort and security for staff members, particularly when their recommendation on an application is to deny.

On another topic, it was recently pointed out to me that the statement I made identifying the fact there are "many inaccuracies" in the records drawn upon by town staff in my Sept.

18 column ("Once upon a time, NOTL respected heritage") could be misconstrued as an intimation that town staff was responsible for those inaccuracies.

Allow me to state categorically that town staff had nothing to do with the inaccuracies I was referring to: That fault lies at the feet of the Ontario government.

This is not a reality unique to the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake when it comes to land registry records, but rather a challenge across this province.

During the process of digitizing land registry records across Ontario (1980 to 2010), a significant number of errors, exceptions and decisions were made that rendered the validity of the complete central database (records), which all municipalities draw on, very questionable.

For example, it was common practice, particularly during the early years of the digitizing undertaking, to report the build date of a particular address with a "change of use."

To illustrate this, if a residential building was constructed in, let us say, 1885, and in 1930, it was converted to commercial/retail — then, the digitized records may well reflect the year 1930 as the build date.

Several buildings in St. Davids are subject to this particular cloud.

In fact, one contributor to the cost of any professional heritage study on a property is the requirement that they must assign hours (read "many") for a complete analysis of the original handwritten archival records (which also may or may not be complete ... in the latter case resulting in additional research billing hours to flesh out the information from other sources).

As those familiar with me know, I am never hesitant to call out incompetence, but I also believe in clearly assigning the blame where it belongs and in this case, that's the province.

Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.



Korean-themed bakery & cafe roll cakes | scones | pastries | buns coffee | tea | smoothies

358 Mary St. | 289-241-7789 | sokobakerycafe.square.site





Democracy is on its last legs in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Dear editor

Democracy is drawing its last breath in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Already on life support following a series of egregious planning decisions by a municipal council that seemingly can't or won't hear the voices of town residents, it took a tailspin this week when council, in a closed-door session, voted to break with precedent and appoint Andrew Niven to its ranks.

By rights, former councillor Allan Bisback should have been asked to fill the seat vacated by Nick Ruller in September.

Bisback finished ninth in the 2022 NOTL municipal election, a mere handful of votes behind Maria Mavridis. With only one exception in recent times, when there has been a vacancy on council during its current term, it has turned to the ninth-place finisher in the past election to fill that seat.

Gary Zalepa, our lord mayor, is well aware of the precedent. It was followed when he was appointed to NOTL council in the 2000s to replace the late Bob Howse.

Appointing Bisback would have been democratic and justifiable.

There are good and valid reasons for previous councils to have set and followed the precedent of turning to the ninth-place finisher to bolster its ranks.

the definition of precedent as: "Something done or said that may serve as an example or rule to authorize or justify a subsequent act of the same or an analogous kind; or the convention

Merriam-Webster gives

established by such a precedent or by long practice."

The fairness in word and deed that precedence implies and instills is also key to our system of common law.

According to the American Bar Association:
Respect for precedents gives the law consistency and makes interpretations of the law more predictable — and less seemingly random.

In fairness to our current council, there is nothing in the Ontario Municipal Act that requires it to turn to the ninth-place finisher to fill a vacancy.

The act merely requires it to either: a) fill the vacancy by appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed; or, b) require a byelection to be held to fill the vacancy in accordance with the Ontario Municipal Elections Act.

But, by not following the precedent established by previous councils — Niven did not run in the 2022 municipal election and finished eleventh in 2018 — it has, in my view, turned away from

democracy and fairness.

And, it has yet to justify or explain the rationale for its decision.

Council has potentially also created an awkward situation for itself.

As chair of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and director of marketing for a winery, Niven may well spend the next two years on council sitting on the sidelines because of an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Terry Davis
NOTL

Council's decision was undemocratic

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and members of town council. A copy was also sent to The Lake Report for publication.

This council has decided to fill a seat made vacant by a resignation, behind closed doors. The question is: Why?

Whatever qualities Mr. Niven has or does not have, and in what way he may contribute to council, he does not represent me nor any other residents of NOTL and as an unelected person, he represents nobody but himself.

The democratic process in which the electorate can express an opinion has been completely ignored by this council.

Former councillor Allan Bisback ran for office during the last election and with the votes he collected, this makes him the natural first runner-up.

He is also prepared to stand again — so why?

Perhaps our lord mayor can provide a comment on this and a reason behind the choice.

This council is one of shame, and those who voted in favour of this terrible and unwise decision should resign immediately

> Derek Collins NOTL

A lot of questions about filling of seat

Dear editor:

The recent decision by town council on filling the vacant position is very disturbing. Though council had the legal option to make the decision they did, it was a departure from past practice.

It is important to note that the newly appointed councillor was not elected in the 2018 municipal election, nor did he run in 2022.

One has to wonder why this current council selected a previously unelected person in lieu of someone who came within 66 votes of being elected in the 2022 election. While I am not doubting Andrew Niven's ability to serve on council, there is someone who did run in 2022 who I believe would have well

served the town's best

I am left with many questions

Why was this done in-camera? What criteria did council use to select Andrew Niven? Where is the transparency? Why does council seem to not listen to voters opinions?

Sandra Hardy NOTL

Process of filling seat was infuriating

Dear editor:

As a member of an election team that spent long hours, walking endless miles, at no small cost, to reach out to the

NOTL electorate only to have the practice tossed away as irrelevant and the vacated position offered to someone who was not interested in doing the work to get elected in the first place, I find infuriating and disheartening to say the least.

Carol Williams
Old Town

Thanks for article on tree protection

Dear editor:

I much enjoyed reading arborist Sean Parkinson's article on the need for better protection for our trees in NOTL, "Opinion: Tree protection in NOTL is an embarrassment" (Oct. 17).

Of the numerous benefits offered by mature trees, the one most valued by me is the mental and spiritual well-being that I experience when in the presence of these silent members of our community.

Though they are rarely silent, pause and pay attention to the soughing of the wind in their branches. A fierce wind will sound like pounding ocean surf. A gentle

breeze will sound like whispered secrets.

Lay your hands against the trunks of the trees that hold significance for you and thank them for their being. If your heart is open, you will feel a connection.

I hope we'll see more articles from Sean.

Win Laar NOTL

Lake Report PLEDGE IT

Pledge your support for The Lake Report,
your trusted, award-winning source for NOTL news

The Lake Report's **Pledge It** campaign has two main components:

- **1. Pledge** a recurring annual donation to support journalism in NOTL.
- **2. Pledge** an endowment to the paper so your dedication continues to have a positive impact on the community after you are gone.

What your pledge supports:

- Original, independent civic journalism
- · Holding our elected leaders accountable
- Charities and local non-profit organizations
- Local artists and arts organizations
- Local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Families in our community
- Preserving NOTL's history
- Historic organizations

Pledge your annual donation at www.lakereport.ca/donate-today

Contact us at **editor@niagaranow.com** to let us know of endowment plans



The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississagua St., NOTL.





Tony Chisholm named Niagara Foundation's Living Landmark

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Tony Chisholm says he's no Superman.

His efforts over the past 16 years to lend a helping hand to his community are borne out of a desire to curb boredom, meet new people, try new things and keep his town and Niagara a great place to live.

"Primarily, it's fun, it's interesting and it keeps me out of trouble," he told The Lake Report.

In recognition of his work as president of the Friends of Fort George and his volunteer work for various local organizations, including the NOTL Museum and the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee, the Niagara Foundation has named him the recipient of this year's Living Landmark Award.

The award, first introduced in 2006, is presented annually "to a person or persons who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara," says an announcement on the foun-



Friends of Fort George president Tony Chisholm recalls the many volunteering joys in his life while sitting in his NOTL back yard. The 80-year-old retired publisher has been named the Niagara Foundation's Living Landmark Award recipient for 2024. RICHARD WRIGHT

dation's webpage.

The foundation focuses on the preservation of the heritage and cultural landscape of NOTL, so the majority of the award winners have been based in town.

"Tony has been front and centre with so many initiatives in Niagara-onthe-Lake it's hard to keep track," said Lyle Hall, chair of the Niagara Foundation, in the announcement.

"Whether it's heritage, community, tourism or social services, Tony seems always willing to lend a hand."

Chisholm spends his days volunteering for various organizations, including the NOTL Museum as a tour guide, both on foot and by bike, and is president of the Friends of Fort George.

The retired trade magazine publisher, who has lived in NOTL permanently since 2008, volunteers as a tour guide at the local museum and is active in ongoing efforts to develop the heritage trail.

Also in the realm of heritage and historical commemoration, he helped make sure the parade of tall ships touring during Canada's 150th birthday celebration had a floating dock to land at in NOTL and assisted in planning bicentennial celebrations for the War of 1812 around town.

Additionally, he was instrumental in NOTL placing first three years in a row in the Communities in Bloom's annual awards from 2014 to 2016 and works once a week to help feed homeless people in Niagara Falls.

Life can be a grind, he said, so he took the chance to enjoy his retirement by moving away from thinking about bottom lines, payrolls and shareholder demands and turning his current work into something he does for nothing more than passion.

"I was a businessman in my career, so everything was profit-orientated," he said.

"You know, make more money for the company, make more money for the company. And this is a refreshing change. I don't have to make money for anybody and nobody can fire me," he said, laughing.

While the making money thing is not entirely true, the

gist of his message is clear.

Chisholm has made plenty of money for the organizations he has helped while living in Niagara — money that isn't done from the boardroom, but rather the fundraising desk.

He describes his responsibilities as not intensive but hugely satisfying.

"Being (the president) of the Friends of Fort George is a fairly minimal job," he said

"There's an administrator who does 90 per cent of the work."

"The heritage trail, same thing: We've had to concentrate on fundraising so that anything we do is orientated to that."

"It all hasn't taken a huge amount of time, and it's been extremely rewarding."

The best part of it, he adds, is that his efforts get him out of the house.

"What worse than retiring and sitting on a couch and watching the tube for the rest of your life?" he rhetorically asked.

Chisholm will be formally recognized on Nov. 15 at Navy Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

wright@niagaranow.com



St. Davids Roundabout Public Engagement Workshop

Niagara Region has started the detailed design for the reconstruction of York Road (Regional Road 81) and Four Mile Creek Road (Regional Road 100), into a single lane roundabout and is inviting public input into the design features of this new infrastructure.

We want to hear your ideas!

The design of the roundabout and boulevards along York Road will allow for a unique streetscaping opportunity. The landscaping and height elements in the central island will add a focal point for St. Davids, and a way to express the uniqueness of this community.

As part of the design process Niagara Region is inviting the community to provide input into their creative vision for this roundabout as a public space feature for the area. The workshop will involve facilitated discussions to get input from the community on how the following key areas can be incorporated into the project:

- Important Stories: History relative to the area
- Shapes: Meaningful shapes that represent the community
- Materials: Material elements define the community

You're Invited

Join the in-person workshop:

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, 5 - 7 p.m.

White Oaks Resort and Spa (Ballroom), 253 Taylor Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Email **stdavidsroundabout@niagararegion.ca** to register for the event. Registration is required in order to participate in the workshop. The deadline for registration for the event is **Wednesday November 6, 2024.** This will be a facilitated workshop and participants should plan to take part for the full duration of the event.

Accessibility

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

For More Information

Visit our project webpage at niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-81-and-100reconstruction/default.aspx

Project Contacts

Stephanie Huppunen, C.E.T., Manager, Capital Projects, Transportation Engineerin, Niagara Region

Mark Mascioli C.E.T., LEL

Manager, Municipal Infrastructure, Associated Engineering Ltd

NEWS 🕞

Explore history at Doors Open NOTL

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Doors Open Niagara-onthe-Lake returned this year on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering visitors another unique opportunity to explore 15 historic sites, including churches, lodges and museums, to celebrate the town's architectural and cultural heritage.

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Nestled in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Mark's Anglican Church stands as a testament to the town's rich history, with its origins tracing back to 1790.

Gene Anne Smith, a warden at the church, says it was founded by Robert Addison, a missionary who traversed the Niagara Peninsula by horseback.

"The church itself was founded in 1792 by Robert Addison, whose memorial is right there," Smith said, pointing to the memorial.

"The church was originally built in 1804 and was the only structure to survive both the fires and the War of 1812, thanks to its stone walls," she said.

However, the church did face challenges. She said it

was gutted during the war and the roof was lost.

A significant restoration therefore took place throughout the 1820s, finishing around 1838 or 1839.

Smith said the stainedglass window behind the altar is the oldest in Ontario, dating back to 1840.

It's important to share St. Mark's history with the community, she said: "It is so much part of the history of the origin of Ontario, really. And it's a lovely, beautiful place."

Niagara Masonic Lodge No. 2

Niagara Masonic Lodge No. 2, the oldest lodge in Ontario, is historically significant as the site of Upper Canada's first legislature and the first hospital in Newark.

Founded by Col. John Butler, the lodge has played a pivotal role in the region's heritage, said Master Mason Shawn DeBruyn.

During the wars, many military members who were Masons needed a place to uphold lodge, said DeBruyn.

"So, that's when they formed this lodge. It was the first lodge of Upper Canada — which is what Niagaraon-the-Lake used to be called." The lodge has occupied its current building since 1816, though DeBruyn said it has been rebuilt after several fires throughout history.

"The basement and first floor have served as a hospital and been part of St. Mark's Church," he said, emphasizing how the lodge has always remained in its upper location.

DeBruyn believes it's essential for the community to understand the lodge's history, as it is an important part of Canadian heritage as the oldest lodge, and because Masonry in general is often misconceived, he said.

"Many think of it as a secret society and are unsure of what happens. We're very visible: We're not hiding anything."

Niagara Apothecary The Niagara Apothecary stands as another one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's historical sites.

It's an authentic museum restoration of an 1869 pharmacy that operated in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1820 to 1964. The museum itself opened in 1971.

This mid-Victorian building, now restored, is the only remaining structure from the Canadian Confederation period in the town and served as a pharmacy for almost 150 years before the Ontario Heritage Trust acquired and restored it.

The trust partnered with the Ontario College of Pharmacists to ensure its historical accuracy.

David Leonard, senior marketing communications specialist at the Ontario Heritage Trust, said the collaboration with the Ontario College of Pharmacists was the reason for his presence at the Niagara Apothecary on Saturday.

"Every year during Doors Open Niagara-on-the-Lake, we also send a small staff team from Toronto to support the College of Pharmacists folks in getting Doors Open here and interpreting the site," he said.

Leonard said the preservation of the apothecary makes it unique among the 15 sites featured in Doors Open.

"This site is preserved just as it was when it closed as a pharmacy in the 1960s," he said. "The wealth of artifacts here is remarkable."

Despite its single-room layout, Leonard said the apothecary offers various ways for visitors to engage with local history, whether they're interested in adver-



Among the 15 sites that opened their doors this year, the Niagara Apothecary on Queen Street invited visitors inside for a look at what an 18th-century pharmacy looked like. Here, Norris Brown shows some of the artifacts on display. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

tising history, medicinal practices from a century ago, or simply curious about the community itself.

"It's just such a unique slice of history," said Leonard.

Other featured sites for Doors Open included the NOTL Museum, historic Court House, Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara, the Exchange Brewery, Grace United Church, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, RiverBrink Art Museum, Shaw Festival Theatre, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Voices of Freedom Park and Willowbank.

SPONSORED

GOCA Space exhibition 'The Ink of Life' opens Sunday

SPONSORED
The Lake Report

GOCA Space is pleased to announce that ZhengHui Lan's latest solo exhibition in gallery, The Ink of Life, will be presented on Oct. 27, 2024. It will start at 3 p.m. Curated by Jason Gao, this exhibition will feature more than 20 works created by the artist in recent years, and will run until Nov. 26.

Exhibition Preface

As one of the most influential contemporary Chinese ink artists, ZhengHui Lan has established a cornerstone for the Structural Expression of "Heavy-Ink-Wash" with his unique large-scale paper painting style. His artistic pursuit focuses on the exploration of a universal aesthetic structure that draws from the fusion of multicultural integration. His works are treasured by important museums, galleries, and private collectors around the world.

Structural Expression is the essence of ZhengHui

Lan 's Heavy-Ink-Wash, and life consciousness is another important spiritual core of his work.

What exactly is the essential role of art? It is this question that has permeated ZhengHui Lan's lifelong pursuit of creative exploration. In Zheng-Hui Lan's view, good art should not be constrained by external expectations. Society should not demand what artists focus on, critique, or praise certain things, because this would lead artists to functional expression, hindering their pure artistic expression. In ZhengHui Lan's eyes, art is to show the value and significance of life itself.

As ZhengHui Lan said, the fundamental task of an artist is to present his inner mental sensitivity through a paintbrush to present a new life on paper. For artists, the most profound and fulfilling experience of existence is their inner spirit. All of their creativity and originality are built upon this sensitivity. The artist's task is to express this sensitivity in their works, to present to the audience the richness, delicacy, or profound heaviness contained in the snippets of life; this is the creative power of art.

In a society where practicality reigns supreme when artists still choose to create art with their own lives and souls to fulfill a deep-seated mission and sense of pride, perhaps that is where the true value of art lies. As ZhengHui Lan puts it: "Art is the ink of life."

EXHIBITION TITLE

ZhengHui Lan:
The Ink of Life
ARTIST
ZhengHui Lan
CURATOR
Jason Gao
DURATION
2024.10.27 - 2024.11.26
VENUE
GOCA Space
1875 Niagara Stone Rd.
(inside Vineridge Academy)
Niagara-on-the-Lake,

Ontario. LOS 1J0



One of the many pieces of art on display at the GOCA Space "Ink of Life" exhibition by Zheng Hui Lan at Vineridge Academy which opens this weekend.





Is your child feeling anxious about being back at school? Many children experience back-to-school jitters, but sometimes, these anxieties can mask underlying vision problems. Some signs that vision issues might be contributing to your child's anxiety include headaches after reading, difficulty concentrating in class, frequent blinking, trouble tracking moving objects, and poor hand-eye co-ordination. Our vision therapy programs can address these challenges and improve your child's visual skills.

Schedule a comprehensive eye exam today.



NOTL: 905-468-8002 | 358 Mary St. St. Catharines: 905-682-9119 | 8 Secord Dr. www.theeyedoc.ca

Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Pumpkin carving contest brings fall fun

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

For Candace Dyck's three children, Kade, Blake and Maclane, the highlight of this year's Fall Fun Fest was easy to pick — the pumpkin carving contest.

"The kids love it," said Dyck, smiling while she watched the three of them proudly create their masterpieces.

"They always do such nice community events here," she said.

Held on Saturday afternoon at Revel Realty Inc. in Virgil, the third annual Fall Fun Fest offered plenty of activities for families to participate in, from a bouncy castle to fall-themed games.

But for most attendees, it was the personal touch and community spirit which made the day special, as attested to by Dyck and her family.

Andrew Perrie, the organizer and owner of the Fine Estates Team out of Revel Realty, said he was thrilled



Jonathan Dyck and his children, Kade, Maclane and Blake enjoy some quality family time carving pumpkins under the autumn sun at the Fall Fun Fest. PAIGE SEBURN

with the turnout, as the festival ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"All our events have either a family aspect or a youth aspect to them," he said. "This year, we did a pumpkin carving contest and colouring contest."

Not only are the contest entries free, but Perrie said the prizes include an exciting \$500 worth of Toronto Maple Leafs tickets. With better-than-expected fall weather — sunny and a comfortable 20 degrees — he said the scene was filled with families enjoying the activities and local vendors.

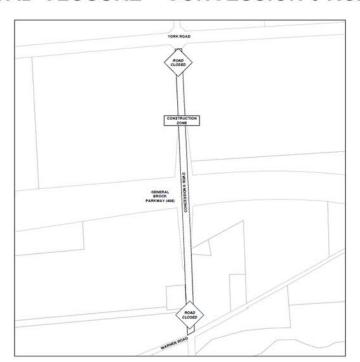
For Perrie, hosting free events like this one is about giving back to the community.

"As a real estate company, and as a local realtor here, we like to give back to the community. All our events are always free, and they usually have some type of either charity or giveaway," he said.

As the day wrapped up and kids left with painted faces, Perrie said he hopes the Fall Fun Fest will continue to grow each year, creating a lasting tradition for Niagara-on-the-Lake families.

Niagara Lake

TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ROAD CLOSURE – CONCESSION 6 ROAD



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its contractor Rankin Construction, will be commencing with the road reconstruction of Concession 6 Road from Warner Road to York Road. The road closure will begin on October 24, 2024 and be in place for 12 weeks.

A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic. This closure is necessary due to the narrow roadway and to facilitate a shorter construction schedule for the road reconstruction.

Emergency Services will be notified of this closure by the contractor before work commences.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Email – mike.komljenovic@notl.com

Phone - 905-468-3061

Your co-operation is appreciated. Thank you!

Join Us for the First-Ever Niagara-on-the-Lake Harvest Festival!

Join us for the inaugural Niagara-on-the-Lake Harvest
Festival on October 26th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at
Market Square! Enjoy delicious food and drinks,
unique shopping, and live entertainment from Cory
Cruise in a family-friendly atmosphere. Come
celebrate and support our local businesses as we
showcase the best of Niagara-on-the-Lake this fall!

Sponsored by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lions Club.

Scan the QR code to explore more details and check out our full lineup of vendors!





A portion of the proceeds will support the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, helping to preserve and share the rich history and cultural heritage of our town.

Gerry McIlhone talks summer of tennis wins

The Lake Report

Gerry McIlhone has spent decades, racket and ball in hand, out on tennis courts across the province — from starting on the courts of Malvern Collegiate Institute in east Toronto to spending Saturdays the past 15 years at Memorial Park in Old Town, facing off against fellow members of the NOTL Tennis Club.

This past summer, however, is likely to go down as one of the highlights in his personal history of playing tennis.

McIlhone, a Nigara-onthe-Lake resident since 2009, partnered with Henry Andrulis at the Canada 55+ Games in Quebec City in late August, and together, they each took home the gold in the over 60 men's doubles category.

They won their final match on Aug. 30, the last day of the four-day championships that started Aug. 27,



Gerry McIlhone, longtime member of the NOTL Tennis Club, is winding down after getting gold at the Canada 55+ Games in August. DAVE VAN DE LAAR/FILE

breaking a 6-all tie in their second set, beating Michel Morissette and Denis Ouellette.

"It's been one of the very best summers I can remember," he told The Lake Report.

This win finished off a series of triumphs for McIlhone this summer: He won the NOTL Tennis Club's mixed doubles A division championship with Kim Laidlaw, the club's men's A division championship with Manny Umoquit and was a semifinalist in the singles championship.

Over at the Hamilton Tennis Club, of which he is also a member, he won the men's B singles and was a finalist in the men's over 60 singles championship.

"Sometimes the stars just align and you get the right partners and you're in good enough physical condition," he said.

While McIlhone says he doesn't believe he's an overly competitive player, he said he enjoys the part of tennis that's all about figuring things out and solving problems on the court, whether it's as a solo player or as part of a duo.

"Competition can make you nervous and tight, or it can make you relaxed. For me, it's very relaxing," he said.

"I'm just so happy to get out there, competing and running and try things out ... If I win or lose, it's almost irrelevant. I'm just trying to get out and do the best I can."

On Aug. 30, he faced his competition with Andrulis, who's from Thorold. He's someone McIlhone said he knows from their time playing together at the White Oaks Fitness Club's tennis courts and who he said is a great athlete and a tremendous tennis partner.

"Part of the doubles is chemistry. You need to

play with somebody you get along with, somebody you can when they're not playing their best, who can support you when you're not playing your best, somebody who shares your philosophy of, 'Let's just do our best."

On the other side of the net, Morissette and Ouellette, McIlhone said, were really good players and brought great sportsmanship to the match.

"We clapped for their great shots and they clapped for ours," he said.

They faced off against Morrissette and Ouellette in two sets for the championships, winning the first set 7-6.

During the second set, they entered into a 6-all score, creating the opportunity for a tiebreaker which, in the end, went to McIlhone and Andrulis.

"That was the culminating moment and we were just delighted," he said.

"We'd had a great time in Quebec City," he said. "The

tennis was the cherry on top of what was a tremendous trip."

With the NOTL Tennis Club's closing date for the winter season around the corner, McIlhone and several of the local folks he plays with will take their matches indoors to White

When he's not busy with work as the manager of transit operations for the city of Brantford, or refereeing basketball games for the St. Catharines Catholic Youth Organization, he plans to play there semiregularly.

As for what's on the docket for tennis competitions next year, McIlhone is eyeing the Ontario Tennis Association's singles and doubles tournaments, though it will involve travelling to Toronto to play.

"I'm very busy and very active and that's part of the reward of being fit and healthy."

zahraa@niagaranow.com



CALLING ALL MONSTERS & GHOULS!

Join us for a frightfully fun night filled with thrilling entertainment and wicked vibes. Dress to impress in your most creative, creepy, or hilariously spooky costumes and enjoy a lively, energetic evening with the Tim Sanphy Duo from 7:30 to 10:30 PM.

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME & BEST COUPLES COSTUME

Reserve A Table · Limited Space Available · Open Menu

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

Now Accepting Reservations. We Will Be Managing A Waitlist When The Pub Is Full.



Bathroom Remodeling

- Basement Finishing
- Kitchen Makeovers
- Windows and doors Covered patios and decks
- Restoration
- Commercial renovations
- And much more!



We strive to provide quality, innovative, and superior workmanship to every project, and put our client's needs above all else.

Brandon Noel 905-325-2766 Jeff MacIntosh 905-651-4803



Olde Towne Building Company

www.oldetownebuildingcompany.com



Family, friends cheer on NOTL's Dietsch in return to OHL

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

Other than the ending on the scoreboard, it probably couldn't have been scripted better.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Kaleb Dietsch made his debut as a full-time member of the Ottawa 67's last Thursday night in St. Catharines before a crowd that included a large contingent of family and friends all there to cheer him on.

The NOTL minor hockey graduate, who was drafted 46th overall from the Southern Tier Admirals by Ottawa in 2023, spent most of last year plying his trade with the Jr. A Ottawa Senators.

He was added to the 67's Ontario Hockey League roster after Christmas.

The lanky 6-foot-3 defenceman didn't get into a lot of games, but he practised and worked out with the OHL club daily, all in preparation for staying with the big club this season.

Then early this past summer, during a post-season workout with his trainer, Dietsch, 17, felt something wrong in his right shoulder.





Left: Kaleb Dietsch competes in the Ottawa 67's game against Barrie on Sunday. TIM AUSTEN/OTTAWA 67'S Right: Dietsch's cousin Colton holds a sign as he and some friends cheer on the Ottawa 67's player in his return to the lineup last week. SUPPLIED

It "came out," something he'd experienced a few times before. Usually, the discomfort lasted only a minute or two, but this time was different and his trainer urged him to get it looked

An MRI revealed a torn labrum (the cartilage that keeps the shoulder stable and in place). So, within short order Dietsch was undergoing surgery in London, Ont., under the care of Dr. Robert Litchfield,

a renowned orthopedic surgeon.

That meant instead of working out and skating, he spent much of the summer resting and recovering — and eventually rehabilitating the shoulder in hopes of returning to the lineup.

"It was hard, really hard," Dietsch said in a post on the 67's website.

"I went from doing all this stuff every day, to sitting in my recliner for a week in front of my TV watching eight movies a day. I couldn't even move. I mean, it's pretty boring."

But all his hard work at rehab paid off and now tipping the scales at 195 pounds, he was game-ready sooner than expected.

So, when the 67's travelled to Niagara last week, Dietsch was with them and hit the ice at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines.

With so many friends and family members in attendance, "I was nervous. I wanted to make sure I played well in front of them," he told The Lake Report.

The nerves quickly evaporated and he settled in for his regular shifts and had a solid game on the blueline.

The IceDogs are the top team in the OHL's eastern division so far this season, while the 67's have struggled. But Thursday's match went to overtime before Niagara edged the visitors 5-4.

Dietsch was happy with his own play and figures if a few bounces had gone his team's way, they could have pulled off the upset win.

"I thought we were outplaying them a lot. We just got unlucky," he said.

"We showed we can play with them," so he's confident the 67's will find their game as the season goes on.

The fans on hand for Dietsch, including his cousin Colton, who brought along a big sign to welcome him back, were thrilled for him.

Dad Paul Dietsch said, "It was a proud moment for Natasha and I and Liam, as well as Kaleb's extended family, aunts, uncles, cousins and his Nanny Brown.

And friends from Niagara."

"It was so special to see all his hard work and determination through the summer pay off. He was extremely motivated to return."

Paul and his brother Matt are well-known in NOTL as proprietors of the Sandtrap Pub and Grill on Mary Street

And last Wednesday night they had a return visit from some very hungry special guests.

"The whole team went there to eat," Kaleb said.

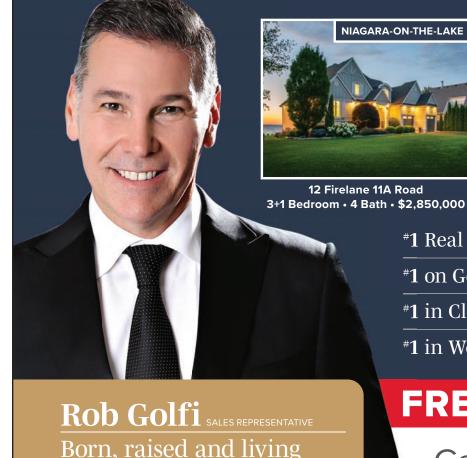
The 67's took over a large section of the restaurant to chow down. They'd stopped in last year as well, but this time, considering the trauma Dietsch endured with his injured shoulder, it seemed a fitting way to get ready for his return to the lineup.

And looking ahead, he said he's determined to continue working on his game and getting stronger.

"I don't really care about points too much, because that's not my role," Dietsch said. "I'm the guy who will grind and get the puck back for us."

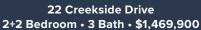
kevin@niagaranow.com

MAXIMIZE your home's exposure with GOLFI TEAM!



in Niagara and loving it!







10 David Lowrey Court 4 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,999,900

#1 Real Estate Team*

#1 on Google Trends

#1 in Client Service ***

1** in Web Traffic

***1** RE/MAX Team Canada

***2** RE/MAX Team Worldwide

***2** on Toronto Real Estate Board*

Million-dollar marketing system!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



Call **905-641-0308** or visit **RobGolfi.com**



*Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. **Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2021. **Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews **Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Te. Residential, 2022. **Source: REDATUM Agents by units - listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1 - June 30, 2022. RE/MAX Escarpment Golfi Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.





Left: Club champ Ricky Watson, with pro Owen Howells, has his hands full with the Jim Brown Cup and the President's Cup. Right: John Sobil, who teamed up with Jon Taylor to win the Goldup pairs match, accepts the trophy. SUPPLIED

Watson scoops top men's match play cups

The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's men's champion Ricky Watson wrapped up a solid season on the links by adding to his trophy haul with victories in the top two match play competitions.

Watson, who edged out James Grigjanis-Meusel by one shot to regain the men's open championship in August, had to beat his golf buddy again to claim the

President's Cup.

It was another tight one, with Watson prevailing 1-up. A year ago the tables were turned and Grigjanis-Meusel, who also was the 2023 club champ, beat Watson.

The President's Cup is the only one of the club's match play competitions in which players' handicaps are not a

Watson also won the Jim Brown Cup, named after the much-loved former member

who died in 2021.

He faced Paul Dickson in the final of that contest and won the Jim Brown trophy for the third year in a row.

In the other men's competitions, all played out in a series of elimination matches over the course of the season, Kevin MacLean won the Wettlaufer Cup and the Carmichael Cup.

In the Goldups pairs category, Jon Taylor and John Sobil prevailed, dominating most of their opponents to

again finish as champions.

The cups were handed out last Thursday at the annual men's league closing ceremony.

As part of the evening's activities, in addition to a large selection of prizes, members could test their skill in a putting contest with some big cash at stake.

The sure-handed Ted Carmichael was the big winner, sinking about a 45-footer to scoop the top prize of nearly \$1,000.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style. Category: THE NAME OF THE GAME

> A war vessel of the most heavily armed class.

Last issue:

Category: PHRASES & IDIOMS

Clue: You don't have to be a Marvel hero to have this awareness of danger introduced in a 1962 comic book.

Answer: What is a spider sense? Answered first by: Bob Wheatley

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bill Hamilton, Lynda Collet, Sue Rautenberg, Jeff Lake, Katie Reimer, Jim Dandy, KC King, Howard Jones, Nancy Rocca, Esther VanGorder, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, Lynda Hosty

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$25 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

*REMEMBER TO PUT "WHAT IS" FOR **JEOPARDY QUESTIONS!**

Love games? Join us for fun events every week at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at www.theirishharppub.com

J&S / Performance

GRACE UNITED

CHURCH

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO

222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

SALES & SERVICE

901 East/West Line, NOTL

HUSTLER

905-468-9735

A



CARPENTRY · CABINET MAKING · BUILT-INS · KITCHENS · FLOORING · RENOVATIONS · BASEMENT CONVERSIONS



facebook.com/notl.carpentry





1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2, Virgil 905-468-5300

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Accounting *Taxation *Business Services *Estate Planning Formerly Lida Kowal Professional Corporation

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON





YOU ARE INVITED PENING RECEPTION About Town -MY IMPRESSIONS OF NOTL RICK CULLIS

B.A., B.ED, AFCA, SCA SUN, NOV 3, 2024 | 2-4 PM

Exhibit runs from OCT 30 - NOV 27, 2024

247 Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake Arts Centre exhibitions

D-Handyman Services

Painting, wall and ceiling repair and much more!

289-929-hanD (4263) d.handyman.denis@gmail.com PO Box 1088 Virgil, Ontario

Denis Curtis Proprietor http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman









Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

www.graceunitedchurch.com

Our 201st anniversary | 1823-2024



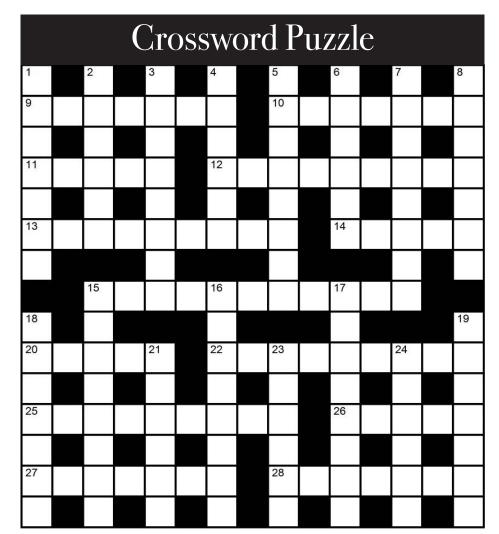
Have some fun

Across

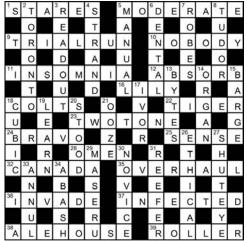
- 9. Roman sea-god (7)
- 10. Exhausted (3,4)
- 11. Mature (5)
- 12. Cheap book edition (9)
- 13. Inflammation of the lungs (9)
- 14. Snares (5)
- 15. Witches (11)
- 20. Have a cow (5)
- 22. Peculiar (9)
- 25. Lack of knowledge (9)
- 26. Greeting (5)
- 27. Fragment (7)
- 28. Loss of memory (7)

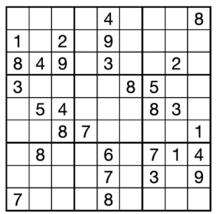
Down

- 1. Sad (7)
- 2. Natty (6)
- 3. Patron (8)
- 4. Make more intense (6)
- 5. Military aircraft (8)
- 6. Red Bordeaux (6)
- 7. Today (8)
- 8. Most feeble (7)
- 15. Magnificent (8)
- 16. Infinite time (8)
- 17. Fine weather (8)
- 18. Make dim by comparison (7)
- 19. Performer of gymnastic feats (7)
- 21. 2nd smallest continent (6)
- 23. Roman general (6)
- 24. Condiment (6)



Last issue's answers









This year's Nobel Prizes and the triumph of AI



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown Columnist

In an unprecedented move this year the Nobel selection committee highlighted the foundational contributions of John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton to the development of machine language and artificial intelligence, or AI, for the physics prize.

If that were not enough, the Nobel committee for chemistry singled out the work of Dennis Hassabis and John H. Jumper for their development of powerful software tools for unravelling the relationship between the linear sequence of amino acids in proteins to their 3D structure with a high degree of confidence.

David Baker developed similar powerful software, which led to the development of potentially useful novel proteins, unknown in nature. Laureates and others in the field of machine learning devices like to refer to their computers as modelled on the brain.

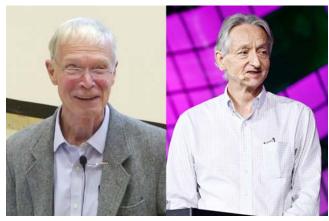
For example, it's not uncommon for simplified neural networks modelled after the brain to be illustrated by interconnected nodes, likened to neurons and their neural connections and layers of nodes to similar layering found in the brain

The Nobel committee highlighted this similarity between computer networks and the brain's neural networks in its summaries of the Nobel Prize-winning studies.

The popularity of this analogy is one of the reasons why the term "neural networks" is so often used by experts in the field. However, the analogy leaves me wondering whether it is misleading.

For much beyond those highly simplified illustrations, readers and students are trying to understand just how neural networks actually work.

Recently a map tracing every nerve cell and fibre in the brain of the house fly was completed leaving any-



John Hopfield, left, and Geoffrey Hinton won the Nobel Prize in physics for their work in AI. WIKIMEDIA

one looking at such a complex connectome struggling to figure out the functional relationships of all those cells and connections.

And the tiny fly brain turns out to have only 140,000 nerve cells, a drop in the bucket compared to human brains.

The human brain is incredibly more complex because of the estimated 100 billion neurons, many specific in shape and function, and the vast network of neurons they are connected with, to say nothing of the many trillions of connections in the brain.

Imagine the challenge, then, of mapping every neuron and connection in the human brain and functionally making sense of everything.

That complexity is why most neurophysiologists have stuck to subsystems such as memory, vision, hearing, smell, position sense, the motor system and the spinal cord, which though complex enough, are much simpler to study than trying to unravel the mysteries of consciousness and awareness.

There's another issue with using the brain as an analogy for AI and machine language because while many areas of the brain are layered or highly organized in some manner, they usually behave in highly coordinated fashion as happens, for example, with walking.

Walking seems simple enough, but walking involves exquisitely timed coordination at many levels in the brain, from the neocortex to the basal ganglia, cerebellum, brainstem and spinal cord, which systems also incorporate feed forward and backward circuits to fine-tune the activity.

Walking may look simple
— but it is not.

What we can say is that today's machine language and AI systems are capable of learning from vast databases — well beyond the capacity of any human or group of humans to achieve and identify novel relationships and even develop or acquire algorithms, which offer paths for analyzing the data in ways their human creators did not foresee.

That's the advantage of modern-day self-learning programs, which are capable of analyzing huge databases and what makes them perfect for analyzing weather and climate data and, in 2021, for translating linear sequences of amino acids characteristic of proteins into 3D constructions of what they actually look like and hints about how they might function.

That was the triumph of Dennis Hassabis and John H. Jumper's AlphaFold 2 program for deciphering proteins and the same for David Baker's RoseTTA-Fold, which has similar capabilities.

Baker's team has gone on to create novel proteins not seen in nature, but which have practical applications in health care.

Both groups released their programs for free to scientists around the world and already well over a million scientists employ one or both programs with amazing success.

Despite their success, these programs aren't perfect and there are some things they cannot do so far — such as show us how the shape of proteins changes when they interact with other proteins or perhaps viruses.

Nobel committees don't always get things right, but this time they made a spectacular, if controversial, choice.

Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.





EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The old rifle range

This Second World War photograph shows soldiers training at Niagara Camp's rifle range. The grounds were located along Lakeshore Road, just west of Shakespeare Avenue. Today the land is still fenced off with federal government signage marking the entrance. The training involved at this site included general target practice but also training the soldiers to continue firing while wearing gas masks and being exposed to gas. The flag to the left signals "Stay-Away" so that anyone nearby, whether on land or in the lake, would keep their distance. This land was also used to practise rocket launchers, mock battles between the soldiers and other training tactics meant to prepare them for the new weaponry they would face in Europe.

Books and more in NOTL – plus, the northern lights



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson Columnist

There can be no good excuse for not reading books here in our Niagara. I will commence this Ramblings with a shout-out to Laura MacFadden, the elegant, effervescent and pulchitrudinous proprietress of the Old Niagara Bookshop downtown.

Across from the Olde Angel Inn, this Hollywood set-like "browsing shop" at 223 Regent St. is perfectly ensconced in an older building, which just seems to make lazy afternoons even lazier.

It is a must-do for my young adult children when they are home for a visit.

Ms. MacFadden is always meticulously coiffed and dressed to the nines, often in sassy outfits from Bella Grace on Queen Street. With her wire-rimmed spectacles perched perfectly on her delicate beak, this 56-year resident of NOTL fits here like Duke Kahanamoku used to fit surfing the waves off Waikiki Beach.

She has provided "books of the true sort" since 1969, deftly curating the shelves to feature Niagara history, Canadian geography and so many other interesting reads.

The books seem to blend together so calmly, and she is as cool as the other side of the pillow.

Her specialties are Canadiana, art and collectibles, history, biographies, travel and Canadian-based fiction. A particular delight is her children's book room at the back of her shop.

To ask "How does she do it?" seems trite, and only by watching the master will you believe it.

Asked to describe her shop, Laura said, "This is a small shop in a busy international tourist town, which is also home to the Shaw Festival and 204 wineries." Sort of says it all, eh?

If the NOTL Library or the museum don't have a particular title, challenge Laura to find a copy. A few days later, she almost al-



Ross Robinson says everyone should read more

ways enthusiastically calls to report she has located the book.

Her hours of opening are customer-friendly and she is open on most statutory and public holidays.

One further quick ramble about the Old Niagara Bookshop. When was the last time you were provided with a hand written and descriptive receipt for a purchase? Written to cursive script to boot.

Permit me to ramble on to another book miracle here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There is nothing like a clever acronym. Think GO Transit and the ONroute highway service centres. LiNC is the acronym for "Libraries in Niagara Cooperative" here in Lincoln County. Established in 2010, this wonderfully efficient and customerfriendly library consortium consisted of one college and four public libraries sharing an open-source library catalog system called Evergreen.

Now, there are eight public libraries involved.

To quote their information sheet, "LiNC is a collaborative venture and succeeds due to the efforts of its members. LiNC's libraries contribute annually to costs associated with the integrated library system. Cost to manage

a comparable proprietary system would be significantly more."

Hurray for LiNC, and I can happily report that they have a 100 per cent fulfillment rate when I have requested a title available from Fort Erie, Grimsby, Welland or Port Colborne public libraries, or other libraries in Niagara.

The logistics are challenging, but LiNC proves even though something won't work in theory, it works in practice. Much like the BCAA Car Share program in and around Vancouver.

Now for a rambling leap into electronic technology. Way out of my comfort zone, but this idea seems like such a natural. Something to increase our love of Canada, and our admiration of the natural world.

We know the Amber Alert system works and has saved lives. But last week, I was one of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who missed the chance to marvel at the aurora borealis.

Robert Service rhymed that, "The northern lights have seen queer sights, but the queerest they ever did see / was the night on the marge of Lake Lebarge / I cremated Sam McGee."

Why not have the tech wizards develop another Amber Alert system that would tell all of us that, "Between about midnight and 3 a.m. tonight, in the western or eastern sky, there will be a display of the northern lights."

So many Canadians would stay up, or get out of bed, dress for the weather and go out to witness this Canadian wonder.

Even with my northern Canadian background, I have only seen this spectacular light show twice: Once from a campsite on Lake Louisa in Algonquin Park, and once from the grandstand at Merrittville Speedway during the stock car races.

Both times free and both lucky episodes were unable to be described with mere words.

There, I have rambled. I hand the ball off to experts who can do the programming for this positive new Amber Alert or Aurora Borealis Alert, to provide a way for Canadians to meet Canadians, saying, "There is obviously a supreme being."

There must be.

Lake Report Invest in NOTL news

Pledge your support for The Lake Report, your trusted, award-winning source for NOTL news

The Lake Report's **Pledge It** campaign has two main components:

- 1. Pledge a recurring annual donation to support journalism in NOTL.
- **2. Pledge** a bequeathal to the paper so your dedication continues to have a positive impact on the community after you are gone.

What your pledge supports:

- Original, independent civic journalism
- Holding our elected leaders accountable
- Charities and local non-profit organizations
- Local artists and arts organizations
- Preserving NOTL's history
- Historic organizations
- Families in our community
- Local businesses and entrepreneurs

- Smart development
- Sense of community
- Adult and kids sports
- A place for residents to voice their concerns
- Tourism and marketing opportunities
- Living wage for dedicated reporters
- Human rights advocacy
- A voice for the people

Pledge your annual donation at **www.lakereport.ca/donate-today**Contact us at **editor@niagaranow.com** to let us know of bequeathal plans

Thank you!



FEATURED



The big pumpkin picture



GROWING **TOGETHER**

Joanne Young Columnist

Pumpkins, pumpkins and more pumpkins!

Everywhere you turn there are masses of colourful pumpkins. Besides knowing they are good for pies and carving for Halloween, how are you with pumpkin trivia?

Why not carve out (pun intended) some time to read these interesting facts about pumpkins?

Pumpkins are classified as a type of gourd. They are also categorized as a winter

It is believed that pumpkins originated in Central America and Mexico over 7,500 years ago. Even though they got their start in Central America, the name "pumpkin" comes from the Greek word "pepon," meaning large melon.

Pumpkins range in size from miniature, measuring only two to three inches in diameter, to massive monsters.

About 90 per cent of all pumpkins are water. According to the Guinness World Records, in 2023, a pumpkin weighing in at a whopping 2,749 pounds squashed (pun intended) previous records by 47 pounds.

The owner of this giant collected \$30,000 in prize money. Now that's using your gourd!

There are more than 45 different kinds of pumpkins being grown now on every continent — except for Antarctica, as it has too short of a growing season for them.

Pumpkins are more than just colourful fall decorations. Many parts of them are edible.

 \bigcap Kind



Pumpkins aren't just great for fall decorating and pies, they're also a healthy source of magnesium, healthy fats, antioxidants and vitamin A. MIDJOURNEY

The bright golden orange flowers can be eaten raw or coated with battered and fried (yummy). The seeds, which are usually roasted, contain many health benefits as they are filled with vitamins, minerals and unsaturated fatty acids.

Eating only a small amount of them can provide you with a substantial quantity of healthy fats, magnesium and zinc. The seeds are one of the best natural sources of magnesium.

Pumpkin seeds also contain some antioxidants and small amounts of potassium, riboflavin and folate. Did you know that each pumpkin contains about 500 seeds?

The fruit itself is rich in beta carotene which converts to vitamin A when eaten which is great for your eye and skin health and supports your immune

One source said that even the skin, leaves and stems are edible. I think I will just take their word for it.

Here is another surprising fact for you: The first jacko'-lanterns weren't made from pumpkins at all. They were made from turnips!

An Irish folk tale said that "Stingy Jack" tried to trick the devil into paying for his bar tab. After Jack died, the devil wouldn't let Jack cross over to the afterlife.

Instead, he had to wander Earth at night, lit by a single coal. He put his coal in a hollowed-out turnip and earned the nickname "Jack of the Lantern."

This Irish tale led to the tradition of carving turnips in Jack's likeness, to keep him at bay.

When Irish emigrants moved to America, they found pumpkins much more suitable for carving than turnips, and the modern jack-o'-lantern was born. Maybe I will try carving a turnip this Halloween.

Here are two final facts in pumpkin trivia.

The largest pumpkin pie ever made came from the New Bremen Pumpkinfest in Ohio.

This Guinness World Record-holding pie had a diameter of 20 feet and weighed 3,699 pounds.

Its crust was made from 440 sheets of dough. Just imagine the amount of whipped cream they would need!

A man named Trevor Hunt holds the Guinness World Record for most pumpkins carved in an hour: He carved 109 pump kins in 60 minutes, or just 33 seconds per pumpkin.

You are now ready to squash the competition with your new pumpkin trivia.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.

About Bradley Hamilton

"My life's motto has always been to be kind and grateful for everything I have, treating everyone with respect and dignity regardless of who they are. As Dr. Wayne Dyer wisely said, 'We are all souls having a human experience.' I've found that many of my colleagues and friends feel uncertain about how to extend kindness beyond immediate family, often defaulting to monetary gestures. With that in mind, here are 100 ways to show kindness and make the world a slightly better place, while creating happiness for yourself."

Obituaries

Jeff MacIntosh

In Loving Memory of Jeff MacIntosh

June 10, 1964 - October 20, 2024

Today we celebrate a life lived vividly — one filled with laughter, love, and the inevitable ups and downs that life brings. Jeff MacIntosh, a son, brother, father, grandfather, and friend, embraced each moment with a heart as big as

Born in Woodstock, Ontario, and later growing up in St. Catharines, Jeff's journey led him to the town of Niagaraon-the-Lake, where he established both a thriving business and life. His roots were nurtured by the love of his parents, Carol and Don, and the camaraderie of his siblings, Greg (Andrea) and Michelle.

Family was the compass that guided Jeff's life. He cherished his three children—Westen (Tara), Georgia, and Brandon (Evangaline)—and found joy in being a grandfather to little Ivy. His beloved dog, Frankie, was more than just a pet; she was a loyal companion who walked alongside him through life's winding paths.

Jeff built his company, Olde Towne Building Company, from scratch. It was successful due to his skill, determination and ability to connect with his clients and community. His employees meant the world to him and he appreciated their loyalty and friendship.

Jeff had a gift for making every moment count. Known for his infectious laughter and vibrant presence, he filled rooms with joy, often leading friends to the dance floor with a familiar "Cooo Cooo Cooo!" His love for life was palpable, and many of us can still hear the songs of the '80s that we shared with him, each song a reminder of the good times, a song that reminds us of the better times.

Generosity flowed from Jeff like a river. He was the first to lend a hand, whether to a friend in need or a stranger on the street. His acts of service spoke volumes; for him, caring was not just a gesture — it was his love language. While this openness made him vulnerable at times, it also created a web of connections, where each of us felt the warmth

Yet, Jeff's journey wasn't without shadows. He faced profound loss — the passing of his sister Dona, his father Don, his grandparents, beloved aunts and an uncle, weighed heavily on his heart. These experiences shaped him, revealing both his strength and his struggles. The battles he fought with his own pain were deeply felt, and those who loved him shared in this poignant reality.

In the final chapters of his life, Jeff remained an eternal optimist, reaching for the light even when the path was steep. Recently, he shared a heartfelt Thanksgiving with family, reminding us all of the love that defined him. Those conversations were filled with hope, and he held on to the belief that he could rise again, surrounded by the love that had always

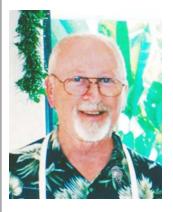
As we remember Jeff, let's honor not just the man he was, but the love he gave so freely. To have known him was to experience a profound connection that transcended words. In his last days, he felt our love and longed to return to us fully.

May his spirit remind us to live boldly, to love fiercely, and to carry forward his legacy of kindness, generosity and laughter.

In honor of Jeff's generous spirit, the family asks that you perform a random act of kindness, whether big or small. Donations to support sick kids' foundation and of course Save the Elephants would also be greatly appreciated.

Rest well, dear Jeff, we love you and you will forever be in our hearts. Celebration of life details to follow.

Philip Landray



LANDRAY, Philip Bennett -

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Philip Bennett Landray on Monday, Oct. 21. 2024, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 95. Beloved husband of Elaine for 44 years. Loving father of Sharon McVanel (Brian), Paul (Laura) and Donna Pearce (Adam). Grandfather of Maggie, Ted (Krista), Matt (Heather), Samantha (Lee), Sarah (Mark) and Darcey and great grandfather of six grandchildren.

Fondly remembered by many friends.

Philip worked as a sales representative for Carrier Canada Air Conditioning for 33 years, retiring in 1993 to run Linden House Bed & Breakfast, in Niagara-on-the-Lake

for 23 years. He was a longtime member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

The family will receive friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagaraon-the-Lake, on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a service to follow. Private family burial in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Walker Family Cancer Centre. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



member writes down acts of kindness to perform, drawing from a jar to

#2: "Implement a kindness

Grateful

month in your family. Each complete one each week."

Let us help you share memories of your loved ones. Email megan@niagaranow.com for pricing options. LOCAL EXPERTISE . GLOBAL RECOGNITION

The Fine Estates Team

REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

MEMBERS OF:

CALL US TODAY! 905.380.1158

Toronto Regional Real Estate Board

thefineestatesteam.com

\$1,050,000 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CLAUDIA YIU-LEE

376 CONCESSION 3 RD ST. DAVIDS

\$1,999,900 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE 9 ANGELS DRIVE ST. DAVIDS

\$795,000 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS **35 CANNERY DRIVE** ST. DAVIDS

\$929,000 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CLAUDIA YIU-LEE 32 PINOT TRAIL VIRGIL

\$1,259,000 LISTED BY: CRYSTAL SIMONS & ANDREW PERRIE

3676 REBSTOCK RD

CRYSTAL BEACH

CHARLE M. M. M. M. 1905 LAKESHORE ROAD NOTL

SOLD FIRM

LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

\$979,900 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS 130 LORETTA DR



\$949,900 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS



\$879,900 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & CRYSTAL SIMONS **8028 BOOTH STREET** NIAGARA FALLS

VIRGIL \$569,999 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & MARIA MUIA 6456 BURDETTE DR NIAGARA FALLS

\$1,079,000 LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE & TINA ODORICO 4065 HEALING STREET BEAMSVILLE

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2ND ANNUAL

WE HAD SO MUCH FUN WITH OUR AMAZING NOTL **COMMUNITY THIS PAST WEEKEND!**



2025

Thinking of Selling your Home in 2025?

Some things to consider...

- Research, Analysis, Staying Informed About Economic Trends
 - Timeline Planning
- Market Strategy
- Home Preperation
- Pricing Strategy

CALL ANGELIKA TODAY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY!
289-214-4394

ANGELIKA IS THE TOP 1%
REALTOR WITH THE MOST SALES.
NIAGARA AND BURLINGTON







LuxuryHomes.com™

Showcasing your luxury home world-wide while working with top brokers in the industry!

Proud member of LuxuryHomes.com

- Free packing of your house / Estate cleanup / Decluttering services
- World class videography, photos and drone footage, high quality hard cover print brochures & advertising in print media
- Large social media presence and extensive unique marketing techniques
- Your property will be globally listed gaining world wide exposure and will be seen on 48 real estate boards in Ontario
- Home renovation experience < experienced >
- Help Elderly Relocate
- Passionate to be of service
- We offer a 24/7 open line of communication
- Several testimonials and 5 star reviews
- Exceptional sales record
- Respected by colleagues and community

 NO OBLIGATION FREE HOME EVALUATION

- Long term presence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Local Right at Home Realty Team Office in NOTL (Over 6000 in GTA, #1 independent brokerage in the GTA for 10 years*)
- Angelika previously owned a highly successful marketing/media business in Toronto for over 20 years. Built relationships with Fortune 500, big banks, CTV, Global, Olympics, Film Festival. Over 10 years of real estate business.
- Abundance of knowledge in all aspects of real properties (waterfront, residential, agricultural, commercial and leases)
- Up to date on Mortgage trends and state of economy, strategy to sell
- Contribution to charities
- Lead sponsor in Chamber of Commerce NOTL Golf Tournament 2023
- Wealth of knowledge





OFFICE 905-468-8777

ANGELIKA ZAMMIT
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD



496 MISSISSAUGA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TEAM Bringing GTA Buyers to Niagara-On-The-Lake

#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA FOR 10 YEARS*



