

Vendors, Ice Cream, BBQ, Snacks, Games, Dunk Tank, Inflatables, Dance & More Fun!

Fun Zone Wristbands: \$10 each for ages 4 & up



Ad Space Donated By





Vol. 8, Issue 21

Canada's most-awarded community newspaper

May 29, 2025



Traffic camera near Crossroads vandalized

Daniel Smeenk Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The traffic camera installed near Crossroads Public School in Virgil was brought down at its base by an unknown vandal early Tuesday morning.

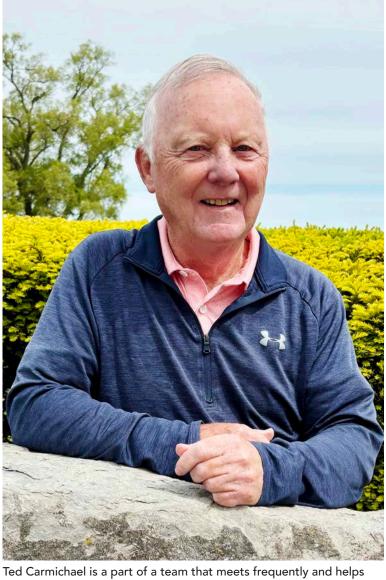
The Niagara Region, which owns the camera, said it is working to get the camera fixed soon. It appears to have been cut by a power tool.

"Niagara Region is aware of the vandalism to the automated speed enforcement camera on Regional Road 55," said Scott Fraser, the region's associate director of transportation planning.

Continued on Page 3

Shaping Canada's financial future

Ted Carmichael is part of an exclusive group advising the central bank



advise the Bank of Canada on interest rates. TIM TAYLOR

Tim Taylor | The Lake Report

t 11:30 a.m., eight Thursdays a year, Ted Carmichael joins a Zoom call with 11 other eminent Canadian economic minds to debate their recommendation for the Bank of Canada's next setting of the country's shortterm interest rate.

By 1 p.m. the same day, that prestigious group — the C.D. Howe Monetary Policy Council — has distilled the entire debate to a consensus recommendation on whether the Bank of Canada should raise, lower or hold steady its key interest rate.

The final decision is announced by the bank the following Wednesday — a foundational decision that can affect Canada's entire economy. The policy council meets today, May 29, and the central bank's latest interest rate setting is next Wednesday, June 4.

Being part of such an influential policy group is very satisfying, according to Carmichael, 74, a resident of Niagara-onthe-Lake for the past seven

Ever since an engaging Queen's university professor hooked Carmichael on economics in the early 1970s, he has been passionate about the intensity of economic debate.

"I kind of like the debates," says Carmichael, almost an understatement. "In economics, there is some certainty, some truth, some rules, but everything is debatable. Things are not black and white."

He smiles when economists and weather forecasters are compared. And he has a standard 90-second spiel to prevent vacant stares at cocktail parties when he is asked what he does.

"There are so many things you can get right and wrong in the field of economics. The future is not knowable. It doesn't matter how good a model you have. There are shocks and surprises you never see coming."

"That's where the debates are. They are not: 'You're completely wrong and I'm completely right.' "

He describes the monetary policy group's discussions as insightful: the chief economists of all six big banks, several university professors and Carmichael, long retired from the

Continued on Page 15

Residents debate more restrictions on vacation rentals in town

Daniel Smeenk Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

With debate around Niagara-on-the-Lake's vacation rental industry showing no signs of cooling down,

the town is going to take a closer look at the rules around short-term rentals including a potential cap on how many rentals should be allowed to operate.

Council passed a motion during its Tuesday meeting

to consult with stakeholders over density limits and cottage rental numbers, after a lengthy conversation about the state of the short-term rental industry in town and its impacts, both good and

Short-term housing rentals was a major topic during the May 27 meeting, with the town taking feedback from seven members of the public about how to update an existing rentals bylaw.

"We heard some very

interesting things tonight from the delegates," said Coun. Gary Burroughs.

Back in December, council asked staff to write a report about the issue of short-term rentals and the state of the local industry

since the municipality passed its major short-term rental bylaw in 2021.

The bylaw gives the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake the authority to issue a fixed

Continued on Page 2



Support Local **Businesses** Niagara 7 // Region

NEWS

Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days: **Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month** Customers 60+: Every last Thursday of the Month

Pharmacy: 905-468-2121

Apothecary: 905-468-8400

www.simpsonspharmacy.ca



Have an opinion you want heard?

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

Dispute rages on about short-term rentals

Continued from Front Page

number of licences to operators of short-term rental properties, which include cottage homes, villas, bed and breakfasts, vacation apartments and country inns.

The number of licences the town should issue was a key subject of debate during the meeting, namely the number of acceptable licences to give to cottages and villas.

Visitors who rent these places have access to an entire single-detached home during their stay.

The key number to remember here is 231: That is the number of licences the town issues to cottage and villa short-term rentals. They are often listed on websites like Airbnb and VRBO.

The number of cottage and villa homes has been capped by the town because of noise and other disturbance complaints from neighbours.

Those who support the short-term rental industry argue they offer a convenient and comfortable way for tourists to stay in



Maple Tree Cottages is one of hundreds of licensed shortterm rentals in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Input on changing the existing bylaw relating to short-term rental properties was one of the main topics of debate at Tuesday's council meeting, receiving mixed opinions. DANIEL SMEENK

NOTL and boost the local

"I strongly oppose an outright ban," said Erica Lepp, owner of Rentals Niagara. "Short-term rentals are essential, affordable alternatives to hotels."

"I understand there were issues with noise in the past, but this is an overreaction. 231 is more than enough."

Currently, there's a moratorium on licences given to short-term rentals, particularly cottage rentals, country inns, vacation apartments and villas, which started on Dec. 10. Those who had one before the moratorium can renew

their licences, but the town isn't issuing any new ones.

Five options for the future of the short-term rental bylaw were presented in the report discussed in council on Tuesdays, ranging from an outright ban of cottage and villa short-term rentals to a variety of compromises, including capping just cottage and villa properties and capping all kinds of short-term rentals.

Norm Arsenault, former NOTL councillor, shared that he's displeased by the negative effect that cottage and villa short-term rentals have had in Niagara-on-the-

"Cottage rentals and villas have taken over what was once quaint neighbourhoods," said Arsenault.

"Residents have strangers rotating through their neighbourhoods ... We need to bring life back to taxpaying residents."

Arsenault also noted that other municipalities in Niagara have restricted short-term rentals.

However, Jason Clements, a local real estate agent with Royal LePage, thinks Niagara-on-the-Lake is an exception to the rule in Niagara.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake is unique," said Clements. "We're tourist-driven."

Other ideas discussed during the meeting included whether rentals should be limited only in urban areas and whether there should be specific restrictions on large, short-term rentals with pools.

After the delegates presented, there was general agreement from council that further conversation was necessary before making changes to the bylaw.

"Eventually, a bylaw (will) come forward," Zalepa said.

daniel@niagaranow.com



8-15 MERITAGE LANE \$1,399,000 Thomas Elltoft & Viviane Elltoft



\$1,125,000 Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk



\$1,199,000 Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

Christopher Bowron*** 905-327-6704 905-380-8011 Randall Armstrong**..... 905-651-2977

12 MURRAY STREET

\$1,795,000

356 DORCHESTER STREET

\$1,699,000

Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft

2165 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD

\$4,895,000

Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft

NEW LISTING

Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft



905-941-0276 Cheryl Carmichael* 289-213-8681

1-57 QUEEN STREET

Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

\$845,000

115 FRONT STREET

\$8,995,000

Thomas Elltoft & Km Elltoft

6274 FOREST RIDGE DRIVE

\$849,000

Randall Armstrong



15261 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY

\$2,800,000

Viviane Elltoft

16 BROCK STREET

\$1,598,000

Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft

\$1,759,000 Randall Armstrong

Patricia Atherton* *** Broker of Record

...... 905-933-4983

246 Four Mile Creek Road 905-262-6996

Viviane Elltoft* .

Thomas Elltoft*

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

Page 3 May 29, 2025



Silks' 30th birthday raises \$1.7K for Red Roof

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Silks Country Kitchen turned its 30th anniversary into a party on Monday, serving up free food, drinks and prize draws — while rallying the community to raise more than \$1,700 for Red Roof Retreat.

Guests at the anniversary open house were asked to donate to Red Roof in lieu of a cover charge and 100 per cent of it went directly to the local non-profit, which provides programs and support for individuals with special needs and their families.

Jennifer Phelan, one of



Sibling owners Jennifer Phelan and Joel Dempsey celebrate during Silks Country Kitchen's 30th anniversary open house on Monday. PAIGE SEBURN

the sibling owners of Silks alongside Joel Dempsey, said the celebration drew an estimated 200 to 250 people throughout the evening.

She said the turnout was great.

"Amazing, actually," said

Phelan. "There were so many people."

Upon arrival, guests were greeted with live music, complimentary food, three free drink tickets and a free entry into door prize draws, which featured gift cards, tastings at Niagara Oast

House Brewers, IceDogs tickets and more.

A separate raffle featured bigger-ticket prizes like Toronto Blue Jays tickets, a signed Wendell Clark jersey and other items, with tickets sold for \$10 each. Extra drink tickets were also for sale at three for \$10.

"All that went to Red Roof," Phelan said.

Phelan and Dempsey were on site to welcome guests and reflect on 30 years of Silks in the community.

Phelan said Silks intends to keep going strong: "We're not going anywhere anytime soon."

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



1010 Line 2, NOTL, 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

CPAP AND SLEEP APNEA SUPPLIES

111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202

airway CPAI

Town launches #GetActiveNOTL campaign

Staff
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagaraon-the-Lake is launching a refreshed community wellness campaign this June to mark Parks & Recreation Month.

Dubbed #GetActive-NOTL, the initiative builds on previous Step Challenges but aims to be more inclusive, accessible and closely tied to local parks and amenities.

"This campaign is about promoting community well-being, inclusivity, and the incredible outdoor spaces that make Niagara-on-the-Lake such a vibrant place to live," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa in a news release. "I encourage everyone to get involved in whatever way works best for them."

Unlike past challenges that relied on digital

step-counting apps, this year's program encourages residents of all ages and abilities to get active on their own terms, with no technology required.

Participants are invited to walk local trails, cycle along the Niagara River Parkway, or visit community parks and playgrounds — all while tracking their activity through a printed Parks & Recreation Passport, available starting June 2 at Town Hall, the Community Centre or online.

Two passport versions are available: one for all ages and another tailored to children. Completing 10 activities and submitting the passport by June 30 earns residents a chance to win a prize.

Chief administrative officer Bruce Zvaniga said the goal is to remove barriers and encourage movement in all its forms.



Participants are invited to walk local trails, cycle along the river or visit community parks and track their activity through the town's Parks & Recreation Passport. FILE

"We know that being active doesn't look the same for everyone, and that's the beauty of #GetActive-NOTL," he said. "We're excited to offer flexible, accessible ways for residents to participate and enjoy everything our parks and facilities have to offer."

Residents can also enter the campaign's social media contest by posting photos of themselves being active in town using the hashtag #GetActiveNOTL and tagging the municipality on Facebook, Instagram or X. Submissions by email will count as bonus entries.

The town says it hopes the initiative will spark greater appreciation for the region's public spaces while boosting community spirit and wellness.

St.David's stdavidsvetclinic.com Is your pet protected? House-calls available © 905.262.8777





Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Speed cam expected to be replaced within days

Continued from Front Page

He said the camera vendor, responsible for the installation and maintenance of the camera (which includes dealing with instances of vandalism), has been notified.

Currently, the region doesn't have an estimate of how much it'll cost to repair the camera, Fraser said.

"However, we expect the site to be repaired and the camera returned to service within the next few days," he said

Niagara-on-the-Lake has seen a wave of vandalism this year. On New Year's Day, there were 16 vehicles that had their windows smashed. In February, 10 cars had their windows broken at the Pillar and Post Hotel & Spa.

The region started its speed enforcement program in 2023, with cameras rotating in different parts of Niagara since then. A camera by Crossroads was active in 2024 and again this year.

The use of traffic cameras to enforce speeding, including in school zones like this one, has been met with some anger and controversy due to a belief among some drivers that the installation of the cameras is motivated by money-making rather than road safety, as well as issues

with technology relating to the automated ticket system.

"My wife and son each received a ticket each in late February for going 53 and 52 km/h," one local told The Lake Report in a roundup of opinions from ticketed drivers published last March.

"Total fines were \$85 and \$80, respectively. We will pay the fine, but we will take action to avoid Virgil. I believe these automated cameras are a soft way to get extra money into coffers in the guise of safety. We are all pro-safety, but also common sense."

"I received a speeding ticket at Crossroads — \$115

for driving at 58 km/h," said another complainant. "I paid by mail as the internet connection on the ticket did not work."

Parents like Todd Graves, the father of a Grade 5 student at Crossroads, see this as no excuse for the vandalism.

"I can understand speed camera frustration," Graves said. "But they are meant to be there for the benefit of the kids and vandalism is never acceptable."

A spokesperson for Niagara Regional Police says the force is aware of the incident and is asking the public for help in identifying the vandal.

daniel@niagaranow.com



Village farmers' market returns with new zest for local

Maddy Gordon The Lake Report

Vendors and consumers alike are happy to see the annual farmers' market back in the Garrison Village — this year, with a new incentive to support local businesses.

Movements like #shoplocal are rising in popularity in response to American tariffs, encouraging Canadians to get items like produce from local farms instead of large corpora-

The farmers' market opened for the season on Saturday, and some of its vendors who run Niagarabased businesses are noticing a trend of customers wanting to keep their dollars in the community.

Sillastial Farms' Jennifer Johnston said she has already seen an increase in customers looking specifically for local alternatives to get their groceries.

She noted how hopeful it is to see Canadians build community even in challenging times.

"Canadians have a really good way of coming together," Johnston said.

The Sillastial Farms stand sells a range of produce,



Jennifer Johnston from Sillastial Farms sells fresh greens at the Village farmers' market. Sillastial Farms is one of multiple returning vendors setting up shop at the market for the summer. MADDY GORDON

including vegetables, herbs and pickled greens.

Two hours into her second year at the farmers' market, Johnston said that from the first day back, even with gloomy weather, she can tell the community is eager to shop local.

Other returning vendors, like the team behind Sweets and Swirls Cafe, said they're excited to connect with the community through the market.

On the opening day, vendor James Cadeau and his daughter, Sophie, sold baked goods, coffee and breakfast sandwiches — the coffee and sandwiches being especially popular in the early hours of the market.

Sweets and Swirls' patrons aren't just from within the Niagara region, Cadeau said — he's thankful to have customers from the U.S. who return every time they visit Niagara-onthe-Lake.

In upcoming months, he said the business hopes to

keep seeing international customers return.

Niagara's in a lucky position when it comes to shopping local, as the region has easy access to agriculture, Cadeau said, making it easier for customers to find lower prices for local goods.

NOTL's community in particular, Cadeau said,

is full of joy, making the 20-week run of the Garrison Village market an anticipatory time of year.

The Good Ground, another farm returning to the farmers' market, is based in Lincoln, Ont. Mike Hutten, Good Ground owner, said he hasn't felt a big impact from tariffs on business costs because their operations are kept local.

But, with the rise of the #shoplocal trend, Hutten said he is hopeful it will translate to an increase in

While it's too early in the farming season to make conclusions about sales trends, he said Good Ground will "always champion shopping local" and is happy to see the increase of consumers opting for that choice.

At its market stand, the farm is selling items like brussels sprouts, kale and broccoli, with more likely to come as more crops open up.

The Village farmers' market runs every Saturday throughout the summer and into the fall. In upcoming weeks, more vendors are expected to open up shop, especially once the farming season takes off.

Lemon goes the distance for camp fundraiser

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

As the old saying goes, when life gives you a lemon, make lemonade — or, toss it a kilometre, like the local students at the Niagara-onthe-Lake outlet mall did last Thursday.

The annual Lemon Twist brought together grades 4 and 5 students on Thursday from Niagara's Catholic and district school boards to the Outlet Collection at Niagara to form a giant circle and relay a lemon hand to hand, aiming to cover one kilometre.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa attended and made the third toss of the day, sending a lemon on a 14-minute and 32-second journey.

There were extra lemons on standby - and good thing, because the kids were tossing the lemon with such gusto, they nearly made lemonade out of it then and there.

The stunt served a dual purpose: Generating buzz for the fourth annual lemonade stand fundraiser for the Family and Children's Services Niagara Founda-



Niagara take part in the one-kilometre relay. PAIGE SEBURN

tion on June 7 and setting an unofficial world record — ahead of a planned world record attempt.

"It's such an important fundraiser for us," said Brett Sweeney, FACS Niagara's communications director. "Being able to send kids to summer camp is a luxury that some families just can't manage."

Sweeney said many families are facing difficult circumstances, made even harder by today's rising cost of living, which means discretionary spending, like summer camp, just isn't possible for everyone.

"We're providing equitable opportunities for all

kids to enjoy summer camp and have those experiences that make childhood truly magical," he said.

The relay was also a test run for a potential Guinness World Record attempt next May.

Since no official record exists for a lemon being tossed a kilometre by hand, the foundation hopes to set one.

"This is an opportunity for us to establish and set a world record," said Sweeney. "We're in some discussions with Guinness."

"This year, this is our trial run."

The lemonade stands, or Mountainview LemonAID Day, is a "kids helping kids" fundraiser where children across Niagara set up lemonade stands to raise money to send kids supported by Family and Children's Services Niagara to summer camp.

There were 100 stands available, with more than 60 already claimed.

"We encourage people to register as soon as possible," said Sweeney.

Because of sponsor Mountainview Homes, students can register for free and get a free kit with everything they need to serve up smiles.

Each kit will include cups, pitchers, shirts, hats and lemonade concentrate courtesy of Tim Hortons, which also supplies the stand itself.

Last year, the fundraiser helped raise enough money to send more than 400 kids supported by Family and Children's Services to summer camp, covering more than 600 weeks of camp.

Registration is open at facsniagarafoundation. org/mountainview lemonaidday.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Deadline is May 31 for Palliative care group's annual butterfly release

The Lake Report

The time is drawing near once again for NOTL Palliative Care's annual butterfly release event, where participants join in dedicating a butterfly to someone they love who has passed away - then, setting that butterfly free out into the world.

This will be the fourth annual butterfly release in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which will take place this year on Saturday, June 14, at the NOTL Community Centre at 1 p.m.

The event is a celebration

of life for those grieving the loss of someone they care about, whether they were a loved one, a beloved member of the community or a dear pet.

The butterfly release allows participants to honour the one they lost and process their grief with others.

Those interested in joining the event have until May 31 to reserve a spot for themselves by purchasing a butterfly in the name of their loved one. Butterflies are \$25 each.

To reserve a spot and a butterfly, contact the Palliative Care group at notlpc@ bellnet.ca.



Gates pushes \$1K payments for caregivers

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

MPP Wayne Gates says a new motion could ease pressure on Ontario's longterm care system and help families in communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake, where many seniors rely on unpaid caregivers.

Gates reintroduced a motion at Queen's Park on Wednesday that would create a \$1,000 monthly direct payment for Ontario's unpaid caregivers people caring for family or friends at home.

The motion is timed to coincide with National Caregiver Awareness Month in May and is supported by a wide range of groups, including the Ontario Caregiver Coalition, Canadian Cancer Society and the Alzheimer Society of Ontario.

"I believe that they should be paid, just because of the number of hours that they're putting in," Gates told The Lake Report. "Some are still working. Some end up losing their job."

Gates said the proposal isn't just the right thing to do — it also makes financial sense.

"Nova Scotia, they have similar programs already," he said. "They're working well and they save the government money."

He said the initiative could offset the need for up



MPP Wayne Gates speaks at Queen's Park on Wednesday, where he reintroduced a motion calling for \$1,000 monthly payments to support unpaid caregivers. SUPPLIED

to 7.8 per cent of Ontario's long-term care beds.

"That becomes a savings to the government of close to \$300 million," he said.

Currently, more than 3.3 million Ontarians provide unpaid care. About 300,000 of them are struggling financially, and 33,000 have been forced to quit their jobs entirely, Gates said.

"It would mean fewer families are forced to turn to long-term care," he said.

Gates said the coalition's research would help determine how the policy could be implemented and rolled out.

"(The coalition) would work with us and the government if it's passed," he said.

He described the proposal as a win not only for caregivers, but also for "our parents, our grandparents, our moms and dads who

just want to stay at home," as well as for people with disabilities, "who want to

live with dignity." Gates emphasized this is not a tax credit, but a direct payment that would immediately ease the burden on care services.

"It eases the pressures off our long-term care facilities and our social services and our hospitals," he said.

He first introduced the motion in the previous parliament and said it remains one of the most important motions he is bringing forward due to its potential impact.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a prime example of a community that would benefit, Gates said, pointing to its aging population and large number of caregivers.

"Lots of seniors in Niagara-on-the-Lake," he said. "And there's a lot of people in Niagara-on-the-Lake that have caregivers."

In the days leading up to his appearance at Queen's Park, Gates said the motion already had backing from the Liberals, Greens, NDP and independent members of provincial parliament.

"I'm hoping that when we bring the motion forward — when it's called to the legislature — that I can get support of all the parties," he said, adding that the issue is non-partisan.

As for when residents might see results, Gates said that will depend on how the motion is received and debated in the legislature.

"(Residents) won't see the change unless we can convince the Conservatives when we bring the motion forward," he said.

He said he planned to reach out to Conservative members ahead of Wednesday's presentation to encourage their support.

"To see if they'll join us on Wednesday, as we try to highlight this motion and highlight the caregiver awareness month," he said.

Gates held a press conference to announce the motion Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at Queen's Park. It won't be debated or voted on yet, that happens at second reading — which usually takes weeks — and there's no set date for that part yet, said Jesse Michor, staff for Gates.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

WELCOMING OUR NEW OSTEOPATHIC

Jarrod Maidens, M.OMSc

OSTEOPATHIC MANUAL PRACTITIONER

After studying four years at Brock University and four years at the Canadian Academy of Osteopathy in Hamilton, Jarrod earned his designation as a certified Osteopathic Manual Practitioner (M.OMSc). His passion for health and wellness began after his professional hockey career was cut short due to injuries. Osteopathy played a key role in Jarrod's recovery —and opened his eyes to the powerful impact of alignment-based care.

Jarrod has seen the results firsthand, and now his mission is to help others experience the same. With a focus on restoring balance and function through hands-on treatment, Jarrod believes that healing starts with alignment.



Notl Health And Wellness. com443 Butler Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake (corner of Mary and Butler) 905-468-0614



The provincial service officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion Branch 17 from

June 25-27

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the provincial service officer should contact Branch 124, Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion office by June 6.

905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

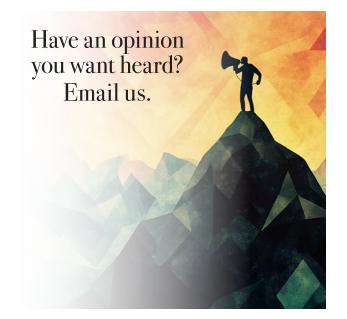


St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids 905-262-5242

www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Also online Visit our website



Firefighters quickly extinguish St. Davids house fire

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A fire that likely began in the kitchen caused extensive damage to a St. Davids home on Monday afternoon, though the cause is still unknown.

Firefighters received the call at 2:28 p.m. and were on scene in less than 10 minutes, said NOTL Fire Chief Jay Plato.

The blaze was extinguished in just over an hour, with the help all five of NOTL's fire stations. About 50 firefighters were on scene.

Everyone in the home was outside by the time fire crews arrived and nobody was injured.

Plato said crews arrived to find flames coming through the roof at the back of the house, located at 172 Four Mile Creek Rd.

The fire, which crews arrived to at 2:37 p.m., was



Firefighters from all five Niagara-on-the-Lake stations respond to a structure fire at 172 Four Mile Creek Rd. on Monday afternoon. PAIGE SEBURN

under control by 3:51 p.m, said NOTL's communications co-ordinator Marah Minor in an email.

The onsite investigation is complete, but it could take several weeks to finalize reports and investigate the cause of the fire, which appears to have started in the kitchen, said Minor.

Plato praised the response time of his team.

"Within about 10 min-

utes of the call, we already had water on the fire," said Plato, speaking from the scene to The Lake Report.

"We did a really good job of getting it knocked out pretty quickly."

Firefighters remained on scene until 8:11 p.m., Minor said, making sure there was no further risk of the fire reigniting.

Minor said the blaze caused significant damage to all three levels of the house.

Plato said the insurers will assess whether the home is salvageable. A cost estimate for the damage was unavailable by press time.

"We won't have that (information) for a while," said Plato.

While the cause of the fire is unknown, investigators aren't considering it suspicious, said Minor.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com







Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com





Left: Artist Tanya Markvart. Right: Her painting, "The Blue Spot," is one of the art pieces that will be on display.

Pumphouse hosts 'Spring Shoreline' exhibit

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre will present "The Spring Shoreline," a debut solo exhibition by artist Tanya Markvart, on display from May 27 to June 22 in the Joyner Gallery.

An opening reception will be held Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 4 p.m., with artist remarks at 2:30 p.m.

Markvart, a self-taught

artist living in the north Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, has a background in film production and environmental studies, with degrees from Concordia University and the University of Waterloo. Her path from film to conservation and then visual art informs her creative approach, combining storytelling, ecological awareness and psychological themes.

The exhibition includes 12 paintings inspired by pho-

tographs taken during solo walks along the Niagara Escarpment landscape in the Bruce Peninsula. The works explore the connection between spiritual, emotional and physical experiences, with rock formations of dolostone and limestone transformed into abstract compositions.

Markvart works with acrylic ink on birch wood panels, allowing the wood grain to remain visible and add texture to each piece. Her compositions are created from a bird's-eye view and each painting is titled to suggest her interpretation, while encouraging personal reflection.

The exhibition aims to provide visitors with a contemplative experience through colour, form and abstract representation.

The paintings are available to purchase at niagarapumphouse.ca.

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

WITH OLDE TOWNE BUILDING CO.



Whether it's a stunning **kitchen**, a spa-like **bathroom**, or a functional, stylish **basement**, we will bring your vision to life.

Quality craftsmanship, modern designs, and a hassle-free experience. Let us make your dream space a reality!

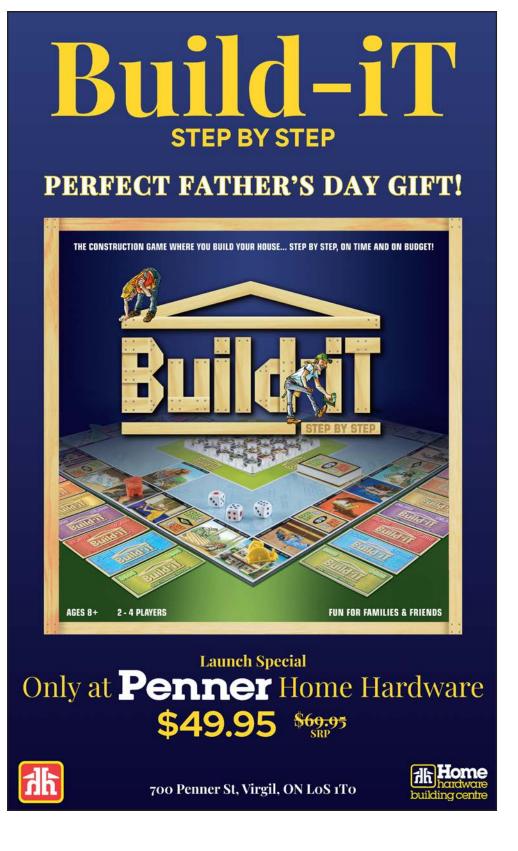


CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION



Brandon Noel 905 - 325 - 2766 www.oldetownebuildingcompany.com

Olde Towne Building



NEWS



Native Centre gets \$73K boost from province

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Niagara Regional Native Centre in Niagaraon-the-Lake announced last week it received a \$73,100 seed grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a human resources manager.

Halley Irwin, the centre's director of development and community engagement, said the funding will support a human resources manager, who will be a part of recruitment and strengthen the centre's capacity to serve the Indigenous community

Cynthia Whyte was hired for the position on a one-year contract in February and works closely with the executive director to create an internal system for human resources at the centre and strengthening its team of staff — a "strictly internal" role, said Irwin.

"To help us put some structure in place to support our staff," Irwin told The Lake Report. "Which, in turn, will help us better run our programming," she said.

Serving about 2,000 Indigenous people annually,



A moment of cultural sharing and connection at the Niagara Regional Native Centre as participants join hands in a circle. The centre received a \$73,100 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. PAIGE SEBURN

the centre hopes the funding will help it reach more of the estimated 14,000 Indigenous residents in Niagara, said Irwin.

"Having Cynthia (will) help us cast a little bit of a wider net to secure talent," she said. "A key piece of what she is here for."

To Irwin, having a dedicated HR manager "is a signal of the growth" of the centre and a "sign of the good things" it's doing, she said.

The grant isn't going to all be used for salary

— Irwin says it will also support updating policies, performance reviews, staff onboarding and supporting

existing employees to better

"I'm very excited. I'm honoured," said Whyte.

run programs.

Whyte, who works in the office two days a week, said her top priority is building a strong HR foundation through her policies, procedures, internal training, recruiting and long-term plans to develop the workforce.

"It's really building the HR structure," she said. "It's actually been a need in First Nation communities for years."

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates attended the announcement to recognize Ontario's support.

"We invited Wayne to

join us today," said Irwin, who called Gates "a great ally" and a consistent supporter of the centre's work.

"The indigenous community is extremely important," said Gates. "In particular, the Native Centre."

Gates called the funding a great step made possible by the Trillium grant process and said it will help support a new position "which can now work really hard on different programs," he said.

"Every once in a while, you need help and that's where the Trillium Fund comes in," he said.

Irwin described the provincial grant as a "great show of support and a good step in the right direction," she said.

"It's a good opportunity for Indigenous organizations to apply for support from the provincial government," she said.

The centre plans to seek additional grants to extend Whyte's contract beyond next February.

"Even in the few months Cynthia has been here, it has been life-changing," said Irwin.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Pruning Planting Removals Plant Health Care



Levi Harper 905-324-8609

harpertreecare@outlook.com www.harpertreecare.com ISA Certified Arborist ON-3141A Ontario 444A Certified Arborist

Have an opinion you want heard?

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



DAVIDS&DeLAAT

DAVIDSDELAAT.COM

Real Honest. Real Friendly. Real Estate







30 Raspberry Trail, Thorold
Three Plus One Bedrooms | Three Bathrooms
\$899,999



300 Richmond Street #16, Thorold Two Bedrooms | Two Bathrooms \$989,900



7955 Harvest Crescent, Niagara Falls Three Bedrooms | Four Bathrooms \$929,900



8809 Kudlac Street, Niagara Falls Four Bedrooms | Three Bathrooms \$849,900



4 Golf Woods Drive, Grimsby Four Bedrooms | Three Bathrooms \$1,299,900

GET YOUR FREE HOME EVALUATION AND MARKET ANALYSIS!

Contact us today! 289-272-5329 | info@davidsdelaat.com





Soccer club kicks off summer season

Maddy Gordon The Lake Report

First there was rain, then there was shine, but regardless, the opening day festival for the Niagaraon-the-Lake Soccer Club's summer season went off without a hitch.

On Saturday, the NOTL Soccer Club kicked off the season with matches in all age groups, ranging from the four and five-year-old Timbits up to the U15 players.

Club president Carrie

Plaskett said she can tell people are excited to be back for the summer.

The opening day festival is all about players meeting their teammates, receiving their uniforms and getting comfortable dribbling the ball again, Plaskett said.

But instead of running official games, teams play scrimmage rounds on opening day to adjust to the soccer pitch and their new teammates.

Returning families and kids were eager to get back

on the field.

Andrew Perry has three boys playing in the NOTL Soccer Club this summer. Nine-year-old Hudson is back for his fourth year and five-year-old Kade for his second, while four-year-old Jagger is gearing up for his first year.

The excitement for the upcoming season could be felt even as the rain poured. Luckily, by the afternoon, the skies cleared enough for some of the teams to play on a dry field.

Green wins Hunter Cup, Robitaille sizzles with 79

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

After bringing unseasonably wet weather with daily deluges of rain, Mother Nature finally relented this week and golfers hit the links in Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club league play.

On Tuesday morning, there was no wind off Lake Ontario and the sun was shining brightly, leading to a flock of birdies.

In competitive play, Ginny Green was declared the winner of the Hunter Cup, with a nine-hole net score of 33.

Barbara Hastings and Yolanda Henry matched her 33, but Green was declared the winner by retrogression.

In the day's 18-hole league, Louise Robitaille continued her stellar play of late, carding a 7-over 79. She was followed by Martha Cruikshank (89) and Green (92).

Green's 18-hole net was 70, followed by Cruikshank and Hastings with 73.



Ginny Green won the Hunter Cup on Tuesday at the NOTL Golf Club, with a net score of 33 over nine holes. FILE

Henry was closest to the pin on #4. She, Cruikshank and Robitaille also had the fewest putts, with just 31 over 18 holes.

Birdies were recorded by Carroll Baker (#2), Cathy Murray (#3), Christine Earl (#4), Hastings (#7) and Robitaille (#10).

In the Tuesday morning nine-hole league, Julie Smethurst was low net with 34. Cathy Saytar also netted 34 and Catherine Novick was third with 37.

Heather Buchanan was the top shooter in the Monday Business Ladies league, with an 8-over 44 gross score.

Other winners were: Christine Merza (longest drive on #1), Sharon Allen (closest to the 150 marker), Penny Green (closest to the pin on #4), Janet Lamb (longest putt on #7) and Susan DiFruscio (closest to the pin in two on #9).

Jim Meszaros was top dog in the men's Woofs league on Tuesday, shooting a 1-over 37. Neville da Silva was low net with 31 and Rob Chubey was closest to the pin on #4, where he carded a birdie.





What are the key benefits of joining and maintaining your membership with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce?

Networking Opportunities

Access to local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals. Regular events like mixers, luncheons, and business expos to build relationships. Opportunities to collaborate with fellow members on joint initiatives or promotions.

Marketing and Visibility

Business directory listing on the NOTL Chamber website, which is visited by locals and tourists. Promotion through the Chamber's social media, newsletters, and visitor guides. Sponsorship opportunities and exposure at Chamber events.

Advocacy and Representation

The Chamber advocates for business interests at the municipal and regional levels. Participation in committees or consultations that influence local economic development or tourism policy.

Business Resources and Support

Access to workshops, training, and educational sessions on topics like marketing, HR, and business development. Referrals and recommendations from the Chamber to potential customers or partners. Insight into local trends, tourism statistics, and economic updates.

Credibility and Trust

Being a member signals that your business is reputable and engaged in the community. Chamber affiliation can influence potential customers or clients to choose your business over a non-member.

Affinity Partner Programs

Gain exclusive access to a wide range of benefits through our partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, such as Chamber Group Insurance, Meridian Credit Union, Gales Gas savings, Grand & Toy, Purolator and more.

For more information regarding membership, please reach out to Stacey Mulholland, membership officer at stacey@niagaraonthelake.com or call 289-547-7556.



SPORTS (%)



NOTL takes home gold at memorial lacrosse tournament

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

The Niagara Thunderhawks hosted its annual minor lacrosse tournament last weekend, and all four NOTL teams made it to the finals, but only one took home the gold.

From May 23 to 25, 23 teams played at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil — the same community where Mike Jones played, coached and volunteered for over 40 years.

His son, Eryn Jones, coaches the Halton Hills Bulldogs and returned to the tournament last weekend. He said each game is played in Mike's spirit and honours his father's commitment to the sport.

Eryn's son played for Halton Hills in the tournament, making the weekend especially meaningful for Eryn.

"It's pretty full-circle for me, having my son play in it ... myself coaching it. (Mike) would have loved it so much," he said.

Mary Sticca, a member of the Ontario Lacrosse Association board of directors, met Mike in high school and said his dedication to



Niagara Thunderhawks U13 lacrosse team members with their first-place medals and banner. The team won their age division after beating the St. Catharines Athletics 10-4 in the final round of the memorial tournament. MADDY GORDON

the sport never wavered.

Sticca said his work played a significant role in the lacrosse community's ongoing place in Niagaraon-the-Lake.

"Mike grew up playing lacrosse here and he played through when he was on the junior B team," Sticca said. "After he finished playing ... he and a group of other people bought the junior B team and kept it in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Before Mike helped buy

the junior B team, it was at risk of moving out of NOTL, which inspired him to step up to keep lacrosse in town. In 2003, he helped the team officially become the Niagara Thunderhawks.

But Mike's dedication to empowering community sports didn't stop there.

Sticca said he worked with the provincial group of junior B teams to carry his love for the sport beyond the borders of NOTL.

Last weekend's tourna-

ment was hosted in the Meridian Credit Union Arena, the same venue where Mike led the NOTL Juvenile team to victory at the All Ontario 'C' Championship in 1973.

Despite these accomplishments, Sticca and Eryn Jones agree that Mike wouldn't have cared about publicity or praise.

"He probably would've thought, 'I don't care about my name being out there. Just do the right thing for the kids," Sticca said.

"He didn't do things for recognition and did a lot of things behind the scenes," Eryn said. "He did believe in showing up for the community."

"My dad loved lacrosse and he believed it was more than just a sport for kids. It taught character, perseverance, teamwork."

Those feelings of teamwork were present throughout the tournament, said volunteer Allison Cwiertniewski.

She called the tournament a "true community event" and said she was happy to see so many returning families and more local teams this year.

After the final games on Sunday, the following teams came out victorious:

The Lincoln Redcoats beat the NOTL Thunderhawks 10-1 in the U9 division.

The Owen Sound North Stars beat the NOTL Thunderhawks 6-5 in the U11 division.

The NOTL Thunder-hawks beat the St. Catharines Athletics 10-4 in the U13 division.

And the Gloucester Griffins beat the NOTL Thunderhawks 8-3 in the U15 division.

Jay Thorimbert, the coach for the Thunderhawks U13 team, said the boys were excited about their victory because it's "always great to win your home tournament."

This group of players also won when they were in the U11 division — the first year of many of which the tournament will be held in Mike Jones' name.



NOTL STUDIO TOUR

June 7 to 8 | 10 am to 5 pm

30 Artists, 19 Studios and it's all FREE!

The NOTL Studio Tour is a free self-drive tour through the beautiful historic town surrounded by vineyards, wine tastings and culinary delights with luxurious places to stay overnight and charming B&B's.





Scan the QR code for more details or visit us at: www.notlstudiotour.com



The Lake Report

OPINION



Publisher: Richard Harley Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley Managing Editor: Zahraa Hmood Editor Emeritus: Kevin MacLean Design & Layout: Richard Harley **Advertising:** Megan Vanderlee Contributors: Denise Ascenzo, Dr. William Brown, Penny-Lynn Cookson,

Linda Fritz, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Andrew Hawlitzky, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Paige Seburn, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White, Joanne Young and many more members of the community

Canada

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



Médias d'Info Canada



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 131 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



#29: If someone has hurt or disappointed you, forgive them and let go of the negative energy. It's beneficial for your own well-being.

This tiny column gives tips to help promote kindness in our lives and spread joy and happiness.



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Springs work is going on with joyful enthusiasm." - John Muir

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:

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

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, L0S1J0

Have a lead on a story?

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

Stop and smell the flowers

NOTL crews have been out planting summer flowers along Queen Street, preparing the streets for another busy tourism season. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Opinion

Tourists first in a town without pity



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner Columnist

She's a single mom with a cute little kid and a cute little store on Queen Street.

"Do you know of any place to live, that I can rent, around here?" she asked one morning. And I did not. "I'm really desperate. There is, like, nothing."

Absolutely right. If you want a place to stay for a night, or a weekend or a week, there are 400 choices. Plus hotels. Lots of them with three more on the way.

But if you wish to live here for months and months, full-time, it's another story. This week there are seven rentals in the Old Town, ranging from \$3.100 to \$9,900 a month. Plus one in Virgil at \$3,800. And a couple around Glendale, at three grand to sixty-five hundred.

So where do the 7,500 local retail and hospitality workers live?

Not our problem, say the political leaders. NOTL housing is too precious, expensive and income-producing to be used for affordable digs. Airbnbs, on the other



NOTL is home to 400 unhosted vacation rentals, 120 of which are jammed in Old Town. Activist Norm Arsenault calls it "an invasion." GARTH TURNER

hand, are not only welcome, but effectively subsidized.

So while most other towns and cities have banned short-term vacation rentals where nobody lives full-time, making them essentially mini-hotels, in this 'hood they're still big business.

More than 120 of these are packed into the few blocks of Old Town itself. On some streets the quickie-rental houses outnumber those of residents.

Often they're the smaller, cottage-type places that might be affordable to renters or young families, now in the hands of others who run them as enterprises.

No real wonder, then, that this place sprouts few kids. Or that the demographics skew older, whiter and wealthier. Or that most new listings this spring are in the \$2-million range.

But wait. Is change on the

After years of study and community recommendations (mostly rejected) NOTL staff has suggested changes to the way shortterm rentals are run including making people wait eight years (up from four) to register a new-build as an Airbnb. Better, but not enough, says Norm Arsenault.

The former local politi-

cian this week beseeched the current ones to follow the lead of most places and punt unhosted rentals - those places that stand empty most of the winter and turn into party-central during summer weekends - from urban areas.

Arsenault calls it an invasion, saying, "Noise, traffic, never-ending parties during the high tourist season are just some of the issues that residents in the urban areas have had to contend with for the past 12 years in NOTL."

That's just the start of the war against the B&B property barons. Arsenault also wants the owners of unhosted operations to pay business taxes (not cheaper residential ones) because, after all, that's what they are - businesses. Only individuals, not corporations, should be allowed to own these properties, he says.

There's more. Apartment units should be reserved for long-term tenants, not thrown into the online tourist pool. And no place with a pool or a hot tub should be granted a short-term rental licence, since that's just a recipe for neighbourhood noise, disruption and mayhem.

"This is ruining our neighborhoods," he tells me. "And I'm going to try and shame councillors into change because at some point they have to step up."

This week, "baby steps." Council froze (at 231) licences for cottages and villas. But no ban on the unhosted.

Well, we'll see.

By the way, after last week's big meeting of the new residents' rebel group, council member Maria Mavridis reached out. She was there. And she did not like "the political tone."

"I will admit it's disheartening to see familiar faces at public meetings," she says, "people I've known for years — who have never once reached out to share their concerns or perspectives, yet are quick to suggest that I'm not listening."

Here's a good chance to change that.

Garth Turner is a NOTL resident, journalist, author, wealth manager and former federal MP and minister.

garth@garth.ca





Enjoy a seasonal wine flight, including a Sparkling Rosé Lemonade cocktail, paired with a gourmet tasting board. ONLY \$30/PERSON

Visit konzelmann.ca for details.





Bill 5 means 'rolling the dice' with our ecosystem



Special to/The Lake Report

Over the past weeks, I've heard from hundreds of constituents about their concerns on the Ford government's new legislation, Bill 5.

Bill 5 is being sold as a way to cut red tape and speed up development. But let me say something: Not all regulation is bad. Some of it protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife that makes our communities so special.

Bill 5 isn't just trimming fat. It's hacking away at the very things that keep us healthy, fed and grounded in this province.

Let's talk about what's really at stake here.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is home to some of the richest farmland in the country. Our orchards, vineyards, and farms don't just feed our province — they fuel our economy and shape our identity.

But those crops rely on pollinators, on clean water and healthy soils. These are all things that depend on biodiversity. When you



MPP Wayne Gates says the Ford government's Bill 5 will put our ecosystems at risk to benefit developers.

start gutting protections for endangered species, as Bill 5 does, you're not just putting a few animals at risk. You're rolling the dice with the whole ecosystem. And when ecosystems collapse, farmers pay the price first.

This bill redefines "habitat" in a way that weakens protections for endangered species. Imagine saying an animal's home doesn't count anymore because it's not where it nests, even if it feeds or migrates there. That's not science — that's politics. And that's dangerous.

Even worse, Bill 5 opens the door for developers to skip the environmental assessments altogether. They can start building right away, just by registering their project themselves, with no permits, no oversight or accountability. That's like letting students mark their own homework and hoping they'll be honest about it.

And let's not forget what this means for our Greenbelt. We've fought long and hard to protect that land — not just for the trees and turtles, but for flood protection, for water quality, and

for climate resilience. Once it's paved over, we don't get it back. And yet here we are, with this government once again giving itself the power to bypass environmental laws for so-called "special economic zones." Translation? More land handed over to developers and less say for local communities.

Democracy matters. Local councils, community advocates & organizations, farmers & small businesses and scientists all deserve a seat at the table.

But Bill 5 hands too much unchecked power to ministers behind closed doors. No consultation, no transparency. That's not how you govern in a democracy. That's not how you build trust.

I've heard from folks across Niagara who are deeply worried about this bill. They are farmers, conservationists, everyday people who just want to leave behind a better world for their kids and grandkids.

One constituent put it best: "Ontario's endangered species are not red tape to be removed." I couldn't agree more.

The natural world isn't an obstacle to development. In fact, it's the foundation for it. Clean water, fertile land and climate stability are not luxuries. They are necessities. And protecting them is not some fringe issue. It's common sense.

So, I'm calling on the government to do the right thing: Scrap Bill 5 and come back with legislation that respects science, respects our environment, and respects the people of Ontario. We can build a strong economy and protect the land we love.

But only if we keep our priorities straight.

Let's not trade short-term profits for long-term damage. Let's stand up for nature, democracy and future generations. That's what leadership looks like.

Wayne Gates is the member of provincial parliament for the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-onthe-Lake.

RIDDLEMETHIS

This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style. Category: SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

This Italian scientist's legendary falling bodies experiment showed falling objects accelerate at the same rate.

Last issue: HERE BE MONSTERS

Clue: This legendary multi-armed sea monster probably was imagined from sightings of giant squid and octopi off the coast of Norway.

Answer: What is the Kraken?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bill Hamilton, Bob Wheatley, Claudia Grimwood, Katie Reimer, Lynda Collet, Becky Creager, Nancy Rocca, Ken Dewar, Jim Dandy, Sylvia Wiens, Wade Durling, Heather Hannan, Sheryl Christensen, Hedy Wiebe, Marla Percy, Margie Enns, Jeff Lake, Sheila Meloche, KC King, Tuija Johansson

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

Loss of patios will make NOTL's downtown lonely

Dear editor:

When the improvement to the ambience of Queen Street and the community support by those who use it is so great, I cannot understand why the town council would vote

against sidewalk patios for restaurants.

Naturally, restaurants that have ample exterior seating without having to extend forward would complain, but is council ruling in favour of a few

businesses to the detriment of the majority?

Why not ask the residents? With so many communities moving to outdoor patios and catching up to standards elsewhere in the world, you have to ask yourself, "Why

did it take so long?"

Once we have removed the temporary patios, you will see how lonely and small our downtown will

> Jackie Bonic **NOTL**

Annual Shred-It fundraiser cancelled for this year

It is with sincere regret that Palliative Care & Wellness Niagara-on-the-Lake announces the cancellation of this year's Shred-It event, traditionally held in August.

While we understand this may come as a disappointment to many in our community, we remain committed to our mission and are pleased to confirm that the muchloved Healing Cycle Ride

will proceed as planned.

We appreciate the continued support of our community and hope to bring back the Shred-It event in future years. We apologize for any inconvenience this change

may cause and thank you for your understanding.

Bonnie Bagnulo Executive director **NOTL Community** Palliative Care Service **NOTL**

We welcome your letters

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.



HANDYMAN HANS CAN

Junk, and bush removal, power washing (house, driveway, patio, polymeric sand, sealants, brick leveling, root removal), home installations (grab bars, railings, toilets, vents, TVs, etc.), wall hangings, furniture assembly, household cleaning and repairs (eavestroughs, windows, carpet, leaky taps), organizing, hoarding help, tree and bush cutting/trimming, weeding, planting, yard clean-up, painting, deck staining, car, truck, and boat detailing/polishing, loader and excavator services, and moving services.

905-246-1843

Classifieds

DOG SITTING

We would love to welcome your furry family member to "Emma's House." We live in Niagara-on-the-Lake and our beloved yorkie-poo Emma was part of our family for 12 years, but sadly, is no longer with us. We would love to provide a home away from home for your dog and give them the love, companionship and care that they need and want. We can provide care on a daily, nightly or weekly basis. If you are planning an extended time away, we can do that too. We will look after only one dog at a time. We live in a bungalow with a fully fenced backyard. Rate: \$40 per day. Small/medium size dogs only.

If you are interested, please contact Linden at 905-334-6715

GARAGE/CONTENT SALE

31 Balmoral Drive, NOTL Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Furniture, tools, Christmas and Halloween decor, electronics and more!

> Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com



Promises, proposals and observations on Wellness Estates



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

Much as I hate to do so, it is necessary to write the final chapter on the disgraceful clear-cutting of somewhere between 700 and 800 mature trees by a developer in Virgil – something this column visited at least twice in 2024 ("Arch-i-text: Grey Forest Homes vs. Virgil's coniferous forest," March 6) and my fellow columnist, Garth Turner, visited in his March 26 piece ("The Turner Report: More mayhem as the sap flies in Virgil").

Despite erudite delegations voicing opposition by residents, the town council majority voted to allow this clear-cut, leaving only a row or two of trees along the edge of the property. As it transpired during the destruction of the conifers, only the immediate on-site intervention of the neighbours saved the last row from being taken down.

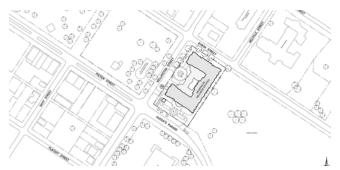
Unfortunately, as anyone with even a passing knowledge of trees would have predicted, if you cut a grove down and leave only a single row, the roots of the survivors will be insufficient to anchor the trees in strong wind. They will uproot and blow down, which is exactly what happened.

So, the last of the trees are gone and the developer got exactly what they wanted - no pesky trees leaving a clear piece of land on which they can build another soulless row of townhouses — to the detriment of the environment and the neigh-

bouring residents. A fine example, in my opinion, of the distinction between the lord mayor and councillors hearing the residents but not actually listening to what they say.

Now, let's move on to consider the proposal introduced by a letter from Dr. Nick Vaccaro in the May 21 edition of The Lake Report for the redevelopment of the old hospital property in the heart of Old Town ("Letter: A health and senior care plan for the old hospital site").

At its core, the development will feature an 8,500-square-foot "wellness and healthcare facility" anchored by the RegenaLife Centre, whose mission statement in part reads,



The plans for the proposed Wellness Estates show a building that'll stand 10 metres tall, compliant with the property's current institutional zoning, writes Brian Marshall. SOURCED

"To improve healthspan and lifespan with the most innovative clinical team, the latest technology and facilities, and innovative evidence-based interventions."

The proposed facility will also include the Discseel Centre, which will provide treatment options for chronic back and joint pain and, potentially, a Healing Arts Centre. Further, the proponents suggest that some consideration be given to a community centre that might offer amenities such as a pool.

Around this core, the proposal envisions an "adult condominium" comprised of 78 dwelling units, the majority of which shall be 50 two-bedroom units, with the remainder being 19 onebedroom units, five onebedroom with den units, and four two-bedroom with den units.

Shifting our attention to the building itself and its siting on the property, there are some positive points contained within the proposal.

First, the proponents have elected to design the building with a height of 34.9 feet (10 metres), which is compliant with the property's current institutional zoning and well below the 12-metre (39.4 feet) height allowed, should a rezoning to an apartment building

Second, the building's setbacks on both Queen's Parade-Picton and Wellington streets are quite reasonable, allowing for a soft transitional space relationship along Queen's Parade between St. Vincent de Paul's grounds, the proposed building's landscaped forecourt and the parklands to the south.

The deeper setbacks on

these two streets have been complemented by the decision to treat each of the two buildings' faces as if either could be perceived as the principal façade.

It's too bad that the Byron Street setback and face were not treated similarly, since the transition from the houses on the east side to the proposed building on the west side will be quite

The scale, massing and, as mentioned earlier, the height of the proposed design are acceptable, particularly given the break-up of the building's faces into smaller staggered elements.

Finally, the decision to hide the rooftop mechanicals under a cupola is, in my opinion, an inspired choice which softens and adds interest to the otherwise severe lines of the flat roof.

That said, the tripling down of dome use on the visitor's access pavilion near the corner of Wellington and Queen's Parade carries repetition a step too far and adversely impacts the soft transitional space relationship established by the setbacks. An elegantly simple, classically inspired pavilion would, I believe, be far more appropriate.

While architect Peter Lesdow's suggestion that this is a "traditional Georgian

design" might be somewhat exaggerated - say, rather a modern interpretation of Georgian — the design is largely compatible with much of Old Town's 19thcentury architecture.

However, the selection of stone as the sole cladding material is not, and may quite easily visually transform the building into a monolithic block. I suggest a transition at the first/second-floor junction to brick appointed with stone quoins, sills, arches, etc., would be a more appropriate treatment for both the building and its location in Old Town.

Oh, and the balconies proud of the building simply have to go.

Let's end with two ques-

The proposal suggests a two-level underground garage. Is there a backup plan for parking if only a single level can be successfully achieved?

And, while 78 new units in Old Town allowing seniors to age in place is certainly desirable, how do we ensure these units are not acquired by investors who VRBO them to "healthy" tourists.

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









Warren

RENOVATIONS

905.468.2127

247 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Opening Reception: Sun, Jun 1, 2025 | 2:00 - 4:00 PM

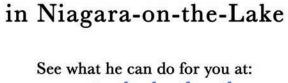
niagarapumphouse.ca











RENT MY HUSBAND

www.rentmyhusband-notl.com Or call me, **Marion (905) 321-5776**

YOU'RE INVITED! Don't miss out!

proudly presented by

BCM.
INSURANCE COMPANY

Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library

ULTIMATE Summer KickOff

Celebrating 225 Years
Saturday June 7th 10am -1pm

10 Anderson Lane, NOTL

STORYTIME WITH THE LORD MAYOR

SILENT



BOUNCY



Visit notipublicibrary.org for full event details!

SCAN HERE!



PHOTO BOOTH



FREE CAKE AND HOT DOGS









1 DAY PAINTING

YOU'LL SAY WOW!

- Big or small, we paint them all
- Friendly, professional painters
- Outstanding quality

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

EXCLUSIVE 15% OFF

when you book an estimate at the home show

PLEASE VISIT US OR CALL TODAY!
416-986-9901
WOW1DAY.COM

Page 14 May 29, 2025



NOTL Home, Garden and Craft Show returns this weekend at Crossroads

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Students can send their teachers plunging into a dunk tank this Saturday at Crossroads Public School.

The 15th annual Niagaraon-the-Lake Home, Garden and Craft Show and fun fair takes place May 31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Crossroads Public School. Admission is free.

Children aged four and up can buy a \$10 wristband at the door of the Crossroads fundraiser, for access to all fun fair activities, or purchase individual activity tickets at \$1 each for food purchases, cupcake decorating, the dunk tank and more.

And it's not just any dunk tank — for five tickets, students get the chance to send a teacher splashing into water.

Wristbands also grant entry to watch the "Wandering Magician" from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., a "Niagara Kung Fu Academy" demo from 11:30 a.m. to noon, an "interactive bubble experience" from noon to 1 p.m. and a balloon artist from



Vendors will be selling all sorts of homemade goods, as well as services, gardening supplies and more during the annual Crossroads home and garden show. FILE

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., the show's website at notlhomeshowandfunfair.ca states.

The fun fair will feature an inflatable party tent with music by student DJs, a 40-foot obstacle course, bounce houses, and a visit from the NOTL Fire Department, including a real fire truck — allowing kids to meet community firefighters and see the truck, according to the "Notl Home Show" Facebook page.

Vendors Halfx Crochet, Norwex's Linda Watson, Creations By Tiffeny, Painted Pots by Momma-Bogs, Jay's Craft Shoppe, Soy Scented Studio and BCM Insurance will be set up throughout the school.

Banners displaying the show's sponsors, including platinum sponsor Hummel Properties and gold sponsor The Fine Estates Team, were posted along Niagara Stone Road this week.

Crossroads students can pre-purchase tickets and wristbands on identity. schoolcashonline.com/Account/Login.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Peace Of Mind Starts At The Perimeter

At Proactive Perimeter Control, we don't wait for threats—we stop them before they reach your door. Serving the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, our advanced residential security systems are designed to keep your home, family, and peace of mind protected 24/7.

From mobile surveillance units and Al-powered cameras to safe rooms, bulletproof coatings, and smart perimeter systems, we customize every solution to fit your needs. Our team brings deep expertise in modern security technologies and is committed to delivering fast, reliable, and proactive protection—no compromises.

Residential/Commercial Services

- ✓ Perimeter Protection
- ✓ Security Films
- ✓ Safe Rooms & Fortified Structures
- ✓ Security & Safety Screens
- ✓ Autonomous Security Drones
- ✓ Smart Fog Cannons
- ✓ Stainless Steel Auto Bollards





BOOK YOUR FREE ON-SITE SECURITY INSPECTION TODAY!



NOTL Residents—mention this ad and get 10% off your first residential or commercial security service.

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

Rotary Club gala honours community champions

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Five residents were honoured last Thursday during the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's annual Paul Harris Fellow Awards Dinner — one of Rotary's highest honours for service to the community.

The gala dinner, a club tradition for more than 25 years, drew a full house to Navy Hall on May 15 and recognized Rotarians Betty Disero, Greg Fedoryn and Martin Quick, along with NOTL residents Dr. Richard Merritt and Julia Buxton-Cox.

"They all exemplify service above self," said Jeannie Manning, the club's social media and marketing chair.

"They have all changed lives — and I don't think they know that they have."

While the number of nominees per year can change, they are always residents of the Niagara region and demonstrate one of the club's core principles.

"What we're looking for, always, is service above self, because that's a rotary objective for all of us," said Carol Lipsett, past president and treasurer.

The award is named after



Rotary president Jamie Knight poses with the five award recipients at the Paul Harris Fellow Awards Dinner. From left, Martin Quick, Greg Fedoryn, Knight, Julia Buxton-Cox, Betty Disero and Dr. Richard Merritt. PAIGE SEBURN

the founder of the first Rotary Club, formed in Chicago in 1905.

Recipients have varying backgrounds, Lipsett said, and not all are Rotarians, such as Merritt and Buxton-Cox.

"But that's the whole point. It's to acknowledge our community — where we have people doing wonderful things," she said.

Merritt has practiced medicine in Niagara for more than 40 years, founded and chaired two non-governmental organizations and worked with the Friends of Fort George and the Niagara Historic Foundation.

He was recognized as 2017's Living Landmark by

the Niagara Foundation and co-chaired and led the construction of the Landscape of Nations with Indigenous leaders.

Buxton-Cox volunteered at Pleasant Manor and Newark Neighbours and started the Farmworker Hub in March 2021, serving more than 1,500 seasonal farm workers in 2024 with services and supplies.

Rotarian Disero joined in 2014 when she was elected to council. In 2018, she became the town's first female lord mayor and steered NOTL through the COVID-19 pandemic. During her time as lord mayor, Disero continued to help in committees and fundraisers and still does today.

Having joined the Rotary Club and the Shaw Guild in 2017, Rotarian Fedoryn was hosting chair at the Shaw and served as an executive committee member. He was the secretary and president of the Rotary club and oversaw the updating of the club's constitution, bylaws and governance policies.

Quick has been a Rotarian for more than 25 years, was club president in 2015-2016 and continues to serve as a house captain during the Holiday House Tour. Quick secured a grant of \$120,000 for Wells of Hope in Guatemala and coordinated the El Carrizal Water Project.

Among the political leaders in attendance at the awards dinner was MP Tony Baldinelli.

"It's an honour to be asked to participate," said Baldinelli. "I'm not a member of Rotary, but I participated in several of the Paul Harris Award recognition evenings and Rotary events."

Baldinelli loves the Rotary's objective, he said.

"Service above self. That encapsulates not only the commitment of these people — these individuals being recognized tonight — but of what Rotary stands for and all those who participate."

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

Carmichael is part of team that advises Bank of Canada

 $Continued \ from \ Front \ Page$

financial sector, but keen to remain a part of the debates.

"There are usually some broad areas of agreement, but also some interesting debates about the appropriate policy response that will keep inflation close to the 2 per cent target."

He comes by his participation honestly.

An undergraduate economics degree from Queen's, a master's from Carleton and post-graduate studies back at Queen's all set the stage for his early career providing policy advice to governments at all levels, on behalf of the C.D. Howe Institute.

Since then, his career has included stints at what is now BMO Nesbitt Burns, J.P. Morgan and the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. And throughout, he has helped shape the policy rate recommendations of the Monetary Policy Council to the Bank of Canada.

Quiet and unassuming, he's not one to broadcast

his role in helping direct Canada's economy, but the advice he and his fellow economists provide is crucial to the central bank's decision-making — which literally can affect the lives of every Canadian.

Both Carmichael and his wife, Kim, grew up in small southwest Ontario towns, he in Tillsonburg and she in Wallaceburg. (In fact, he attended the same grade school as Lake Report contributor, Patty Garriock.)

After stints in Kingston, Ottawa and 37 years in Toronto, the Carmichaels moved to Old Town.

"We have absolutely no regrets. She's busy in the Evergreen Choir. I'm busy with golf and other things here. Not an unusual story," he says.

"And there is nothing better than NOTL when it comes to small towns. This place has got a lot of things that cities have, without all the congestion."

And golf is never far from his mind, particularly the NOTL club's Carmichael Cup.



Ted Carmichael.

No, it's not named after him. In fact, his name is not even on the trophy, much to his chagrin. He's been in the finals three times but hasn't won. Yet.

And with a handicap of eight, he is a top-notch golfer and he might just do it this year.

"I love the course here. It is perfect for guys of our age. I call it Pebble Beach North."

And in between his

golf games, he still thinks economics. "I've lived my whole life doing economics and I enjoy it."

He admits he is not always right. He smiles: "I would say I batted over .500."

In the COVID recovery economic debate, he firmly believes the financial response was sound in the early months but went astray in the latter stages.

"It was like the heart stopped and the paddles were put on and it started up again," he says, describing both one of the deepest economic declines in history and the swiftest recovery.

"Everything the government did in the early stages, for six months, was exactly what they should have done. All of this was extreme policy that we'd never seen before."

"The 'but' is that the stimulus was very well-received. The politicians' ratings went through the roof. So, they kept on doing it. In my view, once the vaccine was available, things should have stabilized and

been dialled back."

In Carmichael's opinion the current trade dispute is more complex.

"We have a very tough job ahead of us," he says. "It is not about trade deficits. It's more about geopolitics between the U.S. and China. And about how a lot of countries have outsourced their manufacturing to China."

This has caused unprecedented debt and potential vulnerability to a perceived enemy.

"The amount of interest (the U.S.) pays on its debt is out of control. So, they need to reduce the deficit and reduce their dependence on foreign suppliers."

"Trump is using tariffs to force improvements on both of those fronts. The tariffs are to generate revenue to reduce the budget deficit. It really is just a big tax increase on the American people."

"Canada finds itself caught in the middle. And we are vulnerable because of weaknesses in our own economy and because we are so dependent on the U.S."

The solution for this wellconnected career economist is the reduction of internal trade barriers and increased exports to new markets.

"We must negotiate the tariffs down as much as we can. Then we must find other ways to make the economy work better."

"To me, the very best thing would be to create a strong investment climate, where companies want to stay in Canada."

Carmichael expresses cautious optimism about Canada's new government:

"I have met Mark Carney on several occasions and interviewed with him for a job with the Bank of Canada not long after he became governor. He was a smart and capable central banker."

"My hope is that he will be as capable as our PM, where the issues are more complex and opinions vary on appropriate policy much more than they do on monetary policy."

But not without a great deal of debate.



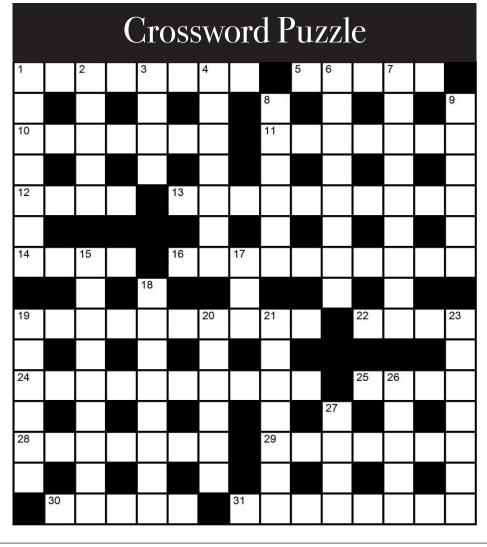
Across

- 1. Beautiful (8)
- 5. Moves through water (5)
- 10. Unconventional (7)
- 11. Pilot (7)
- 12. Pollen gatherers (4)
- 13. When the living is easy (10)
- 14. Otherwise (4)
- 16. Artificial sparkler (10)
- 19. Corridor (10)
- 22. Yorkshireman (4)
- 24. Preceding wedlock (10)
- 25. Precious stones (4)
- 28. Shining (7)
- 29. Hollowed inward (7)
- 30. Bovine mammary gland (5)
- 31. Austrian Alpine resident (8)

Down

- 1. Farewell (7)
- 2. Plunder (5)
- 3. Paradise (4)
- 4. Lie (7)
- 6. Restaurant worker (8)
- 7. Marriage (9)
- 8. Opera by Bizet (6)
- 9. Current of air (6)
- 15. Pendent (9)
- 17. Large island in the Channel (1,1,1)
- 18. Computer information store (8)
- 19. Thin and translucent (6)
- 20. Expels (6)
- 21. Disorder (7)
- 23. Oriental (7)
- 26. Fill with high spirits (5)
- 27. Untie (4)

Have some fun



Last issue's answers



					5		7	
			6	8	7	თ	5	9
			9			8	2	
		8				6		
1	9						4	5
		4				1		
	1	7			8			
8	5	2	1	4	6			
	6		5					



MAXIMIZE EXPOSUR



Born, raised and living

in Niagara and loving it!

- NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
- **681 Warner Road** 3 Bedroom • 2 Bath • \$1,299,900



2 Bedroom • 3 Bath • \$1,299,900



12 Firelane 11A Road 3+1 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$2,699,900

- ***1** Real Estate Team
- ***1** Sales in Niagara*
- ***1** on Google Trends
- **#1** in Client Service**
- **#1** RE/MAX Team Canada[†]
- ***1** on Toronto Real Estate Board
- ***3** RE/MAX Team **Worldwide**
- Million-dollar marketing system!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



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



"Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2023.

"Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews "Source: REMAY LLC Tankings for Large Team Residential, 2024. "Source: REDATUM Agents by units—listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1- June 30, 2024. REMAX Excarpment Golff Realty Inc., Exiderage, Independently owned and operated

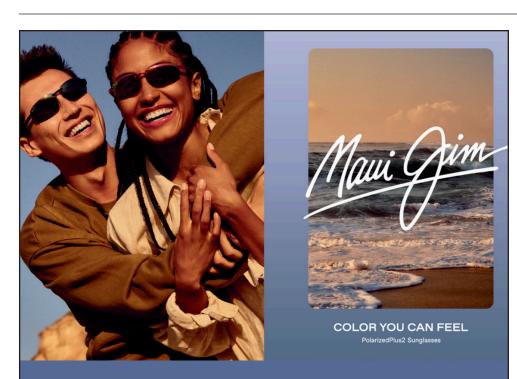
EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Fishing in the Niagara River, c. 1930s

People have been fishing Lake Ontario and the Niagara River for as long as humans have inhabited these shores. The river, lake and creeks once had an abundance of fish, which allowed humans to develop an important relationship with our waterfront. Allen, Ball, Boulton, Elliott, Reid and Sherlock are just a few of the surnames associated with the local commercial fishing industry, from its earliest days until well into the 20th century. The fishermen were up at the crack of dawn to set their nets, and then later, they would haul them back in. The men would do this day in and day out, starting after the bulk of the ice left the river until November. Here we have a photograph showing Bishop's Fish Market (formerly located in the dock area) with four men (Goring Ball with the rolled up pants) showing off a 75-pound and a 160-pound sturgeon. What a catch!





MAUI JIM TRUNK SHOW!

Thursday, June 5th 11a.m. -3 p.m.

Join us for an exclusive Maui Jim Trunk Show featuring the 2025 Sunglass Collection Bring a friend and embrace the Aloha Spirit!



358 MARY ST. NOTL



The Town is looking forward to its annual Strawberry Social event, where community members (aged 65+) are invited to gather for lunch, fun, and friendship. Admission is free for all attendees.

Who: Niagara-on-the-Lake residents (65+)

Monday, June 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00

p.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Where: NOTL Community Centre 14 Anderson Lane

Registration is required.

Please register online at www.notl.com/recreation-events/ community-initiatives-events or by calling 905-468-3266.

Please register by noon on June 6, 2025.







Harper brothers capture Trillium Regatta title



Levi, Malcolm and Jacob Harper celebrate their first Trillium Regatta victory at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club on Toronto Island. The brothers topped a 23-boat fleet over five races at the season-opening event on the Shark sailing circuit. "It was great to get this win with my brothers," said Levi. "Our teamwork and boat speed were strong throughout the weekend — a great way to start the season." SUBMITTED

Pruning evergreens as we head into summer



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young Columnist

When it comes to pruning evergreens, a more accurate term would be whacking back evergreens.

It is one of the most frustrating and misunderstood areas of gardening. We tend to wait until they become overgrown, and then we hope we can rejuvenate them somehow by cutting them back into old wood.

The longevity of a plant is partially determined by how well a plant has been pruned over the years. Most evergreens need pruning yearly to stay within the size and scale of most landscapes.

Evergreens come in all different shapes and sizes — spreading, rounded, upright, horizontal and weeping. The natural branching pattern of the plant dictates its shape.

By respecting this inherent form when pruning, it is possible to limit the size of the plant without changing its form.

Not only does this preserve the plant's true beauty, but it saves the expense of replacing an overgrown plant before its time is over.

Facts about evergreens

Knowing the science behind how an evergreen grows will help you under-



To keep a shrub looking more natural, make individual cuts with the secateurs and not with the shears. JOANNE YOUNG

stand the proper ways to prune them.

• Because evergreens retain their foliage year-round, they compensate for this by losing their oldest growth every year. Evergreens will usually hang on to their needles or leaves for three to five seasons. This is why you see the center growth on all evergreens turn yellow or brown in the center late summer.

• Unlike deciduous trees and shrubs, most evergreens will not rejuvenate themselves if cut back to old, bare wood. Yews are the main exception. Most evergreens grow primarily from buds set the previous year and have few, if any, latent buds. It is generally safe to prune back only to one or two-year-old growth, which still has existing buds.

• It is almost impossible to rejuvenate an old, overgrown evergreen. Therefore, it is important to prune on a yearly basis and not wait until the shrub or tree has become too large.

• The best time to prune most evergreens is after the new growth has emerged, late spring to early summer. On most evergreens, the new growth emerges a lighter colour. Once the colour has faded to the older growth would be the best time to shear.

• To keep a shrub looking more natural, make individual cuts with the secateurs and not with the shears.

To achieve a more formal, sheared, geometric look, shear up to three-quarters of the newest growth each year.

• Most evergreens will push out new growth twice in a season: Late spring and again in late summer. You could do a second pruning at this latter time, but not too late into the fall, because it will stimulate new growth that will not have time to harden off before winter.

• Always make sure that your pruners are clean and sharp, or it may cause a brown cast after shearing. Never prune your evergreens on an extremely hot, dry day, or the exposed undergrowth may burn.

When pruning any plant, it is always good to know what your goal is, which will help you determine how to best prune your shrub. Here are the two main goals of pruning evergreens:

Control the plant's size

The best way to control the size of a plant is by natural pruning. Natural

pruning means that you are making selective cuts to thin or reduce the overall size of the plant.

This cannot be done with shears, but with secateurs or loppers. This means cutting one stem at a time and not just shearing off the tips to the same length.

If you shear them continually, they will take on the form of a blob and lose its natural form.

Maintain a certain shape

One of the goals of pruning might be to maintain a certain shape, such as a hedge, a pyramidal evergreen, a globe form or specimen plants like spirals and pompons. This is best achieved by shearing.

With shearing, you are just removing new tip growth, creating a full, dense look.

Even though electric shears make the job easier, hand shears make a much nicer job of things. Electric shears just tear the plant tissue, while hand shears make a cleaner cut.

When the plant tissue is torn, there is more dieback at the tips, giving the sheared shrub a brownish tinge.

Always make sure that any pruning tool is sharp and clean before use to prevent this from happening.

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society is hosting a series of Saturday morning gardening classes, available to the public. They will be facilitated by Joanne Young and will run until May 31. For all the details and to pre-register for the classes, visit notlhortsociety.com/ classes.

Obituary

Elizabeth Spence



SPENCE, Elizabeth — It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Elizabeth Spence, at the age of 64 years of Niagara-on-the-Lake left us on May 21, 2025, at Hospice Niagara in St. Catharines, peacefully, surrounded by her immediate family. Elizabeth shone her

beautiful light on everyone she met and left a calming, inspiring and fun loving attitude in all her roles as a life partner and best friend to Duncan Spence for more than 40 years, mother to their children, Madeleine (Matthew) and Martin (Laura), a dedicated volunteer to countless school and community programs and as a much beloved Yoga teacher and class instructor.

She began this life on April 13, 1961, born to Marta Videla de Braga (1936-1981) and Rodrigo Braga (1933-2011) in Mendoza, Argentina.

Elizabeth and her family emigrated from Argentina to Toronto in 1975. Spanish being her mother tongue, she quickly learned English at Bloor Collegiate in Toronto's west end. After another year back in Argentina they returned to Canada in 1981, and she began an 11-year career working at the International Money Market division of the Royal Bank in downtown Toronto. In 1983, she married Duncan, and after living in Scarborough and Mississauga they settled in Oakville in 1991 where they welcomed their two children, Madeleine and Martin.

While Elizabeth was getting involved in many school and community activities, she graduated from Sheridan Colleges' Yoga Instructors course in 1996. A passion for yoga & spirituality, she taught across communities in Oakville & Mississauga, even returning as a teacher at Sheridan College, guiding students through Yoga Fundamentals.

Teaching, learning and building relationships came easy to Elizabeth. Whether as a Spanish teacher, a volunteer in her children's music programs & in the community orchestra, she always served her community with a smile or a joke. Helping others was second nature to Elizabeth, as she eventually volunteered with the 'Next Step' program in Mississauga supporting those recovering from neurological and physical trauma.

Elizabeth enjoyed new connections made since her move to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2020 through teaching Yoga at the NOTL community Centre, NOTL Town Hall and joining the Evergreen Singers and volunteering at the HUB supporting Mexican and Jamaican people working in the surrounding vineyards and fruit orchards.

In keeping with Elizabeth's wishes, cremation has taken place. The family will receive friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Monday June 2, 2025, between 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. A service to celebrate Elizabeth's life, for close family and friends, will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday June 3, 2025, at 12 p.m. Following the service, friends and family are invited to remain at the funeral home for a time of fellowship, refreshments, and continued sharing of Elizabeth's memory. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to Hospice Niagara. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com







905.380.1158 NOTL@REVELREALTY.CA

JOIN US AT THE 15TH ANNUAL

NOTL HOME SHOW

THIS SATURDAY

MAY 31 9AM-3PM

Crossroads Public School 1350 Niagara Stone Road



Support our NOTL community & check out amazing local vendors!

- Real Estate
- Jewellery
- Painting
- Home Renovation Experts
- KIDS FUN ZONE
- Baked goods
- Niagara Inflatables
- Locally made slime Homemade stickers
 - And more!



\$939,900







FONTHILL





\$1,749,900

LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &

CRYSTAL SIMONS

2378 NORTH SHORE DR

50 ACRES

\$788,888

LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE



\$1,989,900

LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &





8 KENT STREET

QUEENSTON

SELLING YOUR HOME?



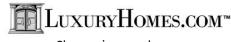
CALL ANGELIKA (289) 214-4394
FREE HOME EVALUATION - GET YOUR HOME SOLD!!!

Cornerstone

Association of REALTORS®

TOP 1% AGENT IN SALES IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE!*

ANGELIKA ZAMMIT
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD



Showcasing your luxury home world-wide while working with top brokers in the industry! Proud member of LuxuryHomes.com





- 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 all 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
- 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)

PROFIT

- 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
- Your property is seen on all 23 Real Estate boards in Ontario plus globally listed in over 200 countries



SHAW GUILD GARDEN TOUR
SATURDAY JUNE 14TH

TICKETS: SHAWGUILD.CA

PROUD LEAD SPONSOR:



FEATURED LISTINGS



235 VICTORIA STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$1,849,950

611 SIMCOE STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE \$1,779,000

507 MISSISSAGUA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

HOT NEW LISTING!
\$1,499,000

269 REGENT STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



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*

