DESIGN SHOWROOM

Wood • Luxury Vinyl Carpet • Tile

From Top Designer Names and Brands







An eggsellent morning | Page 7

Vol. 8, Issue 16

Canada's most-awarded community newspaper

April 24, 2025

Land tribunal dismisses Solmar appeal of Rand ruling

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Ontario Land Tribunal has issued a final order dismissing a developer's appeals for the Randwood Estate, one of Niagaraon-the-Lake's cherished historic sites.

Developer Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.'s appeal for the properties at 200 John St. E and 588 Charlotte St. has been officially rejected, according to an April 17 news release by the Town.

To date, no planning approvals or heritage permits have been granted to develop the estate or alter its heritage features.

But Solmar could submit a new application, or if Solmar sold the property, another developer could, said the town's director of community and development services Kirsten Mc-Cauley, in an email to The Lake Report.

McCauley confirmed that the town accepted the decision issued by the tribunal.

On April 11, Solmar informed the tribunal that it was not ready to proceed

Continued on Page 12

Glencairn Hall 'a total loss'

Photos show scope of destruction. Fire deemed suspicious, under investigation



The historic Glencairn home is destroyed, with about half of the house already taken down for the safety of investigators. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Paige Seburn | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

iagara police and provincial fire officials are investigating the cause of the "suspicious" fire that destroyed Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Glencairn Hall last week.

The blaze began in the early hours of Wednesday, April 16 and resulted in the total loss of the Queenston home.

"The fire is believed to be suspicious," Const. Philip Gavin of the Niagara Regional Police said in an email to The Lake Report.

A photo by neighbour Doug

Munkley, published last week on
the front page of The Lake Report

the front page of The Lake Report, is now part of the investigation because it depicts what appears to be a red gas can at the scene.

"The gas can in the photo you have provided is an element of that suspicion," said Gavin.

The investigation is being led by the Office of the Fire

Continued on Page 2

Opinion: Signs of times as election race comes down to wire

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

Sign, sign, everywhere a

As the late, great musician Les Emmerson wrote more than half a century ago, signs are a crucial way to get messages to the masses. It's a tradition, especially if you're selling a political candidate or their message.

And even in the digital era, when people have so many other ways to draw

attention to themselves, old-school political signs remain ubiquitous.

They're everywhere at election time.

And, as a few denizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake have observed, a lot of those "vote more me" placards are erected in areas where no signs are supposed to be.

In fact, almost every sign I've seen has been put in a spot that is verboten under Niagara-on-the-Lake's sign bylaw, which has very specific restrictions for federal and provincial elections.

Personally, I could care less. (And my wife just rolls her eyes whenever I broach the subject.)

Continued on Page 17





Support Local Businesses

Niagara Region

NEWS

Treadwell Cuisine Winemakers Dinner Reserve Now **Upcoming Winemaker Dining Events:** April 26 - Grimsby Hillside, Mason, 2027, Leaning Post

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids 905-262-5242

May 10 - Five Rows Winery

May 31 - Stratus Vineyard

www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Also online Visit our website

Apparent gas can at scene draws suspicion

Continued from Front Page

Marshal, with support from Niagara police.

The Town of NOTL is not in charge of investigating the fire scene, according to an April 18 news release from the municipality.

Detectives and fire marshals are working to determine what caused the fire and where in the home it started, but due to extensive structural damage, they're taking precautions.

Heavy equipment, including a backhoe, was brought to remove some of the damaged home over fears it was unsafe and could collapse.

"It is a total loss," said Jim Kettles, operations manager for the fire marshal.

"If you were just to look at the front, you would think, 'Oh, they might be able to save it.' Everything else behind it is gone," he said in an interview.

Nothing was removed from the site and all the parts of the building that were dismantled have been left there.

At this time, no damage estimate is available, officials said.



Property records show the nearly three-acre Glencairn Hall was purchased for \$6 million on Oct. 15, 2024.

The ownership of the property was registered to a numbered company, 1001021589 Ontario Corp., which was incorporated on Sept. 30, 2024.

Provincial records show the sole director of that numbered company is Scott Cameron Corbett.

The head office of the business is registered as 62 Marine Parade Dr., Unit 4, Toronto.

Gavin confirmed the

owner is aware of the fire at the property, which received heritage designation in April 2024.

The investigation could take anywhere from several days to several months, Kettles said.

"There's all kinds of hazards right now," he said, adding that the structure is "basically in a dangerous state."

"We're just dealing with some issues regarding possible structural collapse," said Jill Carter, another official from the fire marshal's office.

"That's common, just be-



Left: An excavator was brought in to take a portion of the house down to make it safe for investigators. DAVE VAN DE LAAR Right: What appears to be an empty gas can near the destroyed home is one part of the ongoing investigation, police say. DOUG MUNKLEY

cause the structure is compromised," Kettles added.

Police and firefighters responded to the blaze at the unoccupied 1832 home on April 16 at 4:39 a.m. The building, at 14795 Niagara River Pkwy., was already fully engulfed in flames, police said.

Firefighters had the fire under control by just before 7 a.m.

Anyone with information about the fire is asked to contact investigators at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009524.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



1292 CONCESSION 1 ROAD \$1,600,000 Thomas Filtoft



12 STONERIDGE CRESCENT \$1,759,000 Randall Armstrong





109 Queen Street 905-468-3205

\$1,275,000



15906 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY

\$1,895,000

Thomas Elltoft

OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM

6-25 SORENSEN COURT \$1,049,000

Thomas Elltoft & Weston Miller



\$2,250,000

Viviane Elltoft



7 WYCKLIFFE AVENUE

\$649,000

Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

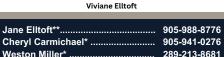
OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM

22-443 NASSAU STREET

\$673,500

Thomas Elltoft & Ricky Watson

129 VICTORIA STREET \$2,699,000





1-57 OUEEN STREET

\$845,000

Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM

134 LORETTA DRIVE

\$975,000

Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983



www.notlrealty.com



246 Four Mile Creek Road 905-262-6996

Read more online at niagaranow.com

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

Page 3 April 24, 2025



Volunteers leave Earth Day mark



Terry MacTaggart and Joyce Loewen were two of the six volunteers from Niagara-on-the-Lake's walking group who spent hours picking up litter and trash for Earth Day. Volunteers covered a stretch of Niagara Stone Road near the community centre, filling up multiple garbage bags. The group has been doing the cleanup annually for around four years now, Loewen told The Lake Report. JULIA SACCO

Applications open for \$90K in town grants

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Town of Niagaraon-the-Lake is now accepting applications for its 2025 discretionary grant program, with \$90,600 in funding available this year for registered not-for-profit organizations and volunteer groups based in town.

Eligible applicants can apply for a share of the funding between April 22 and May 26, according to an April 21 news release by the town.

The municipal program is funded by revenue from the town's parking program and will consider events that benefit NOTL residents and major capital improvements. Events that require an admission fee or ticket cost are not eligible to apply.

It aims to support programs and volunteer efforts that improve life in NOTL



The Town of NOTL awarded \$21,000 in 2024 for expansion and upgrades to the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. FILE

through cultural, social, environmental or economic means.

Recipients can use the grants for community events, small infrastructure upgrades or purchasing equipment that benefits the public.

The program had been paused for a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and funding issues, according to the town's website.

When the town announced it would be relaunching the program, it initially expected a higher budget for 2025, up to \$106,000.

However, the most recent announcement on April 21 specifies \$90,600 in funding will be available.

The program still made an impact in 2024 when the Upper Canada Heritage Trail was approved for \$21,000 of the town's remaining discretionary grant funds to complete another kilometre of groundwork before winter, helping move phase two of the trail closer

to completion.

In the release, chief administrator Bruce Zvaniga stated that the program will help NOTL groups meet new needs and opportunities, while also showing the town's commitment to supporting the community.

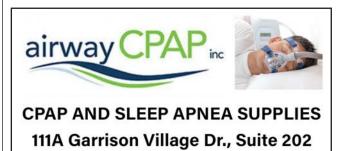
By backing NOTL projects, the town is empowering its residents to bring ideas to life and make a difference in the community, stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

Applicants must provide financial statements from the previous year and a budget. If it's your first time applying, organizations should include multiple sets of past financial statements to show it is financially stable.

To start the application process, visit the town's website at notl.com/council-government/budget-finance/discretionary-grant-program.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

Open For FARMHOUSE Lunch Daily Online booking railable! Or give us a call to book 905-468-8814 Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in April! CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR Open 7 days a week Wine tastings offered daily Walk-ins Welcome for Wine Tasting! Reservations available for group bookings 1010 Line 2, NOTL, 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com



For appointment call 289-868-9212.







Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

NOTL seeks help with special events permits

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Town of Niagaraon-the-Lake is asking for qualified and experienced bidders to submit proposals for consultancy services to conduct a review of special events in town.

The initiative, which opened for bidding on April 14, aims to help the town modernize how special events are managed to improve efficiency for both

event organizers and town staff, according to the profile for bid number CAO-2025-004 on the town's bid opportunities website, notl.bidsandtenders.ca/module/tenders/en.

The chosen bidder will review the types, frequency and effects of events held on both public and private lands. They will also create a document outlining what counts as a special event, which will help the town make future decisions and develop

future policies.

"This project presents an exciting opportunity to support the town," states the website.

The bidder will assess the current application and approval process to find any inefficiencies and will use Lean Six Sigma methods to suggest improvements to streamline operations and develop a fee structure for cost recovery.

The work will include comparing NOTL's ap-

proaches with other municipalities, talking to key stakeholders, and creating a final report with "actionable recommendations."

The bid's closing date is May 5 at 4 p.m.

To take part in the bid, an annual fee of \$439.90 or a per-bid fee of \$132.04 must be paid. A preview of bid documents, bid opportunities and award notices are available on the town's bid opportunities website for free.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com















Walking for water

Crossroads students march to advocate for clean drinking water for all

Richard Harley The Lake Report

Hundreds of students at Crossroads Public School took to the streets on Tuesday, walking around the block with homemade signs to raise awareness about the importance of clean drinking water for all communities.

Led by teacher Roz Pagendam, the walk was part of a broader initiative to support Water First and teach students about water conservation, gratitude, and the ongoing challenges some Indigenous communities face in accessing safe water.

Before the walk began, Indigenous elder Jackie Labonté spoke to the students, sharing cultural teachings about the sacredness of water. She encouraged students to express gratitude each time they drink — whether it's water, milk or juice — and reminded them that

water connects all living things.

"We start our day using water, and sometimes we don't even realize how often we use it," she said.

"Try saying thank you in your mind every time you take a sip."

Labonté also noted that the community where she was raised, Six Nations of the Grand River, just over an hour away, continues to struggle with water quality — a reality faced by many First Nations across the country

The event served both as an act of solidarity and a call to action for environmental stewardship and water justice. It drew on the legacy of water walks organized by Anishinaabe elder Josephine Mandamin, who helped bring national attention to water protection through journeys around the Great Lakes.

It was the third year Crossroads students have been raising awareness for water issues, and the first year they've done a walk.

"It has become a school-wide initiative focused on raising awareness and advocating for change," said Pagendam, who helped champion the cause after learning about Indigenous water issues in a professional development course five years ago.

As part of the ceremony, students observed the tradition of carrying water in a copper cup — a natural element believed to purify and honour water in Indigenous cultures. Labonté gifted the copper vessel to the school as a reminder of the day's teachings and a call for students to carry those messages forward into adulthood.

Labonté encouraged students to walk and remember that we are made of water, too. And we have a responsibility to treat it — and each other — with kindness.



Residents association wants town to preserve Chautauqua's character

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

As the town continues its review of the 2019 official plan and plans for updates, the Chautauqua Residents Association is adamant about preserving the character of the small Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

The association's president, Weston Miller, submitted a letter this spring to town staff with input from Chautauqua residents advocating for its preservation.

The summary submitted to the town included resident input submitted over several years, Miller wrote.

Miller cited Chautauqua as a unique part of NOTL — one that is worth preserving as it is.

"This uniqueness is increasingly at risk," the letter said

Miller cited walkable streets and a strong sense of community as some of the neighbourhood's greatest strengths.

For these reasons, the residents association is requesting that Chautauqua

be recognized as a distinct planning area within the town's official plan.

Along with the designation, the association outlined five key policy goals for the town to follow, including contextual design, tree canopy protection, preservation of the streetscape, reinforcement of residential character and environmental stewardship.

If the goals are not achievable, the letter suggests seeking additional tools, like a secondary plan or heritage designation.

"We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the town planning staff," Miller said.

In an interview, Miller said the Chautauqua Residents Association has a meeting planned with town staff on April 30.

"We are very grateful that we've had the opportunity to comment on (the draft plan)," Miller said.

Thus far, he has only heard feedback from Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

Miller said he hopes staff had had the opportunity to read the letter and provide comment during the meeting.

"These are longstanding requests that the neighbourhood has had," Miller said.

"I'm hoping we can build off of that and actually produce something meaningful for the community."

While the town is undergoing one of its most significant policy updates with the incoming official plan, staff accepted feedback from residents.

The town's key focus areas within the revised plan are growth management, increasing development in already-developed areas, natural heritage and agriculture policies, employment area designations, secondary planning, housing policies and watershed planning.

Two public forums for feedback were held in March and early April and online feedback was accepted until April 16.

A draft official plan is expected in June, with public consultations over the summer and adoption targeted for fall, followed by pending provincial approval.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Niagara Lions Club feeds Newark Neighbours with Easter food drive

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

Former Niagara-on-the-Lake lord mayor Art Viola traded council debates for canned goods last weekend as the NOTL Lions Club rallied donations for local food bank Newark Neighbours.

The Lions Club hosted its annual Easter weekend food drive outside Hendrik's and Phil's Independent stores, collecting nonperishables and cash for Newark Neighbours, which supports food-insecure residents.

"My way of saying thank you to Canada is volunteering — this country gave me a home," said Viola, 86, a Lions member since 1976 and former lord mayor from 1997 to 2000.

Viola was the first Filipino-born elected mayor in Canada and has been honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee, Diamond Jubilee and King Charles III coronation medals.

Viola, among the club's longest-serving members,



Lions club volunteers Coun. Erwin Wiens, Dorothy Soo-Wiens and former lord mayor Art Viola collect food and funds to help food-insecure residents. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

recalled his early interactions with its founders.

"I'm now the oldest surviving member — humbling, considering how much this town has given me," he said.

Lions Club membership has been waning in recent years, and Viola expressed his desire to see new volunteers join to continue the club's legacy of service.

Coun. Erwin Wiens and his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, also Lions Club members, relieved Viola at the Hendrik's booth and emphasized the drive's impact.

"We've amassed a ton of food over the years thanks to Tony and Phil's support — they're amazing partners," said Wiens.

"Doing this reminds us neighbours here need help too."

Newark Neighbours is the only food bank in NOTL that provides emergency food and clothing to residents in need.

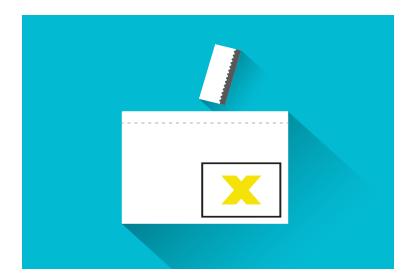
andrew@niagaranow.com

FEDERAL MONDAY, APRIL 28



Are you planning to vote?

You can register and vote at your assigned polling station on election day if you:



- are a Canadian citizen
- are at least 18 years old
- prove your identity and address



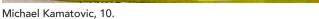
Check your voter information card or visit elections.ca to find out where and when you can vote.













Molly Wiens, 7.

A few more Easter colouring contest submissions came in after our print deadline last week. We heard from parents who wondered why their childrens' drawings weren't featured, so we decided to print a few more entries this week so nobody gets left out.

We are also adding another two lucky winners to our contest this week! Congratulations to Michael Kamatovic, 10, from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, and to Molly Wiens, 7, from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School.

These submissions bring our total to 35 submissions this year! Next year we'll make sure to include a deadline for submissions to avoid any confusion.

Winners will be contacted directly to pick up their prizes — a \$25 gift certificate to Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe in Old Town.

Easter submissions keep coming!



Sophie Wiens, 9



Arianna Clifton, 6.



Angus Happer, 6.



Jordan Alves, 7.



Lucy Vollmer, 11.

Your Niagara-on-the-Lake Real Estate Professionals

1 Tottenham Court, Niagara-on-the-Lake \$949,000



AMBER LOFORTI, REALTOR Amber@McGarrRealty.com 905.359.5780

Please join us...



Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre

> **Monday April 28th** 10:30 AM-12 PM

27 Arbourvale Common, St. Catharines \$1,825,000



CINDI LOFORTI, REALTOR Cindi@McGarrRealty.com 905.329.0353

1 Elvira Way Thorold \$1,199,000

OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4PM

IMELESS

2203 Niagara Stone Road Niagara-on-the-Lake \$2,750,000



JOY MIELE, REALTOR Joy@McGarrRealty.com 905.347.3728

187 Queen Street, Nigara-on-the-Lake \$2,500,000



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

1439 Niagara Stone Road #23, Virgil \$799,000



ANGELA BACHERT, REALTOR Angela@McGarrRealty.com 905.687.2117

1507 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, LOS 1JO 905.468.9229







Families hop to Bunny Trail on Easter weekend

Andrew Hawlitzky The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake families hopped into Easter festivities Saturday with a lightning-fast egg hunt where hundreds of kids scooped up 10,000 chocolate eggs in minutes.

The Bunny Trail, hosted in partnership by the Niagara Nursery School and Childcare Centre and the NOTL Kinsmen Club, drew in parents and their children for a morning of egg hunts, touch-a-truck visits and petting zoos while raising funds for nursery school playground upgrades and classroom technology.

Admission fees and local business sponsorships aim to support the non-profit school's \$15,000 fundraising goal.

Geoff Quigley, attending with his wife and daughter, who explored a fire truck during the touch-a-truck session, said the event has become a staple for his family.

"It's a really cool thing to bring the community together and explore what Niagara-on-the-Lake has offering," Quigley said.

"Everyone can participate - even latecomers get eggs slipped into their baskets."







Top: Kids get ready to race for chocolate eggs at the annual Kinsmen egg hunt on Saturday. RICHARD HARLEY Bottom left: Bruce Happer, 3, collects some of the 10,000 eggs strewn across the lawn. Right top: Brooks, 18 months old, plays drums with mom Kristen Wall during the Bunny Trail event held by Niagara Nursery School. Right bottom: Lake Van de Laar, 4, and father Tanner Van de Laar learn to play the horn. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Quigley commended the long-time annual event for its smooth organization.

"They've had decades to perfect this — it shows in the details," he said.

New activities included a Lego station by RoboThink and a beading booth hosted by Penfield Academy.

"We've had second and third-generation families attend this event," said Laura Townsend, Niagara Nursery School's president.

"The funds directly support resources our teachers and students rely on daily whether it's outdoor climbers or iPads for lesson plans."

The Kinsmen Club, which has been involved in the egg hunt for 55 years, handled logistics alongside nursery school volunteers.

"Ordering 10,000 eggs takes planning - and praying for good weather," said Ken Slingerland, the club's egg hunt chair.

Local businesses like the Fine Estates Team sponsored activity stations, with CEO Andrew Perrie calling youth support a priority.

"Seeing clients bring grandchildren from out of town proves how much this matters," Perrie said.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa noted the turnout reflects NOTL's intergenerational community spirit.

"When our kids were oung, we volunteered here too, it's awesome to see new families keeping that tradition alive," Zalepa said.

andrew@niagaranow.com

NOTL fire first volunteer group in Canada to earn safety excellence certificate

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services has made history as the first volunteer fire department in Canada to receive a certificate of achievement by the Center for Public Safety Excellence, under the community risk assessment and standards of cover certificate of excellence program.

An April 21 news release by the town states that the process that granted the certificate uses a data-driven approach to assess community risks and improve how resources are used.

"I am incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication it takes to be recognized by the Center for Public Safety Excellence," stated Fire Chief Jay Plato in the release.

Plato added that the

department will continue to improve to make sure emergency services stay quick and effective in responding to emergencies for the community.

The release states that receiving this certificate from the same group that recognizes major urban fire departments like Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg shows the "excellence and professionalism" of NOTL's volunteer-based fire service.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa added that the recognition is a testament to the success of the volunteer-based model. which "thrives due to the training and ongoing support from staff."

Chief administrator Bruce Zvaniga applauded the department's regular assessments, ongoing pursuit of growth opportunities and commitment to maintaining high service standards.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services has been awarded for safety excellence by a U.S. organization. FILE





Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Find out how much your art collection is worth at RiverBrink's appraisal event

Staff
The Lake Report

Art collectors and curious homeowners alike are invited to uncover the hidden value of their artworks when Cowley Abbott brings its cross-country valuation tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake this Friday.

Specialists from the Toronto-based auction house will be at the RiverBrink Art Museum on April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., offering verbal appraisals of paintings, prints and sculptures.

The event is part of a 12-city Canadian tour aimed at discovering artworks that may have been forgotten in basements, tucked in attics or passed down through generations.

The cost is \$10 per artwork or \$25 for up to three pieces, with all proceeds supporting RiverBrink.



You can get your art appraised at RiverBrink on Friday for \$10 per piece. FILE

Appointments are required.

Following the valuations, Cowley Abbott's senior international art specialist Perry Tung will present a public talk at 4 p.m. titled "The Story of a Painting."

The lecture will explore how an artwork's provenance (its ownership history) can impact value. Tickets are free for museum members and \$15 for the public. Reservations can be made at riverbrink.org/ events.

President and co-founder Rob Cowley said the tour has led to some remarkable discoveries, including Group of Seven pieces and even a painting by music icon David Bowie found at a town dump donation centre.

"Some of the most surprising finds come from works people inherited but knew little about," said Cowley. "We've seen forgotten treasures worth tens of thousands of dollars."

Stops on this year's tour have included Charlotte-town, Halifax, Vancouver, Calgary and Hamilton, with upcoming visits to Ottawa and Owen Sound.

To book an appraisal, contact 1-866-931-8415 or email eryn@cowleyabbott.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
Company

Discretionary Grant Program Applications Now Open

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Discretionary Grant Program provides funding to organizations, groups, and events that enhance the cultural, social, environmental, and economic well-being of our community.

- Applications open April 22 and close May 26, 2025
- Eligible to not-for-profits and volunteer groups
- Funds community events, small projects, and equipment that benefit the public
- Apply today at www.notl.com/councilgovernment/budget-finance/discretionarygrant-program



1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil ON, L0S 1T0 905-468-3266 | www.notl.com

Museum's spring walking tours return May 2

Staff
The Lake Report

With warmer weather finally here, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is welcoming back its annual Neighbourhood Walks series, with the first walk set to take place the first week of May in the historic village of Queenston.

Held on Fridays throughout May, these tours offer locals and visitors a chance to discover distinctive corners of Niagara-on-the-Lake, guided by storytellers who bring each area's unique history and character to life.

This year's walks begin on May 2, with historian and Queenston resident Linda Fritz exploring the nooks and crannies of the historic village of Queenston.

On May 9, Friends of Fort George president Tony Chisholm will again bring the once-industrial heartland of Niagara to life, as he explores the ever-changing



Rick Meloen will lead a neighbourhood walk in Chautauqua on May 16. SUPPLIED

waterfront area.

The following week, on May 16, Rick Meloen, chair of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee, will lead a tour through the Chautauqua area, with stories that capture the early settlement and development of the Old Town community.

Then on May 23, St. Davids resident Megan Gilchrist will illustrate the growth of St. Davids with tales of its most colourful characters, from "butchers and bakers to candlestick makers."

Ending off the series on May 30, Ted Rumble, a member of the museum's board, will lead a neighbourhood bike ride tour to discover many of the ordnance boundary stones placed in the mid-19th century around the perimeter of the four military reserves in the town of Niagara.

Rumble has been involved in efforts to restore and educate residents about the historic significance of these boundary stones, which were restored last fall.

Tickets are \$15 for those who aren't members of the Niagara Historic Society, \$12 for members and \$10 for enhanced members.

All tours begin at 6 p.m., with a limited number of participants allowed for each tour. The NOTL Museum points out that tickets for these tours tend to sell out quickly and encourages early registration.

To register online, visit notlmuseum.ca.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



BOOK NOW FOR: Spring cleanups, garden renewals & lawn care.

> www.treeamigoslandscaping.com 905-468-9557 | info@treeamigos.ca

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

CELEBRATE WITH US: BACK THROUGH THE YELLOW DOOR & INTO THE FUTURE



301N US

APRIL

27 =

2-7PM

DRINKS

APP

PRIZES

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE 14 ANDERSON LANE, NOTL, ON LOS 1J0







YOU'RE INVITED TO A MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Bring your appetite (and your mom, grandmother, or someone special to you!) for an exciting Mother's Day event.

We'll toast to the hard-working moms as you enjoy a chef-prepared lunch, beverages and dessert—a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your loved one while mingling with others.

Wednesday, May 7 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP at 905-664-8444.

Visit us to experience a taste of Amica. We look forward to seeing you.

AMICA

135 KING STREET EAST AMICA.CA/STONEY-CREEK





Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Grace United spreads sweetness with jam sale

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

People lined up on Saturday to stock up on homemade jams while helping Grace United Church preserve its budget for crucial repairs.

The annual spring jam sale raised funds through preserves crafted by volunteers David Greaves and Heinz Probst, with proceeds going to a "berry" good cause: A new roof and boiler.

"It's a 170-year-old building. Things wear out. The roof is nearly 20 years old, and boilers don't last forever," said Pauline Miller, Grace United's council chair.

The sale coincided with NOTL's Easter weekend festivities, drawing steady foot traffic.

Customers scooped up jams, sugar-reduced spreads, squash soup, and Greaves' famed Seville orange marmalade, with empty jars donated for future batches.



Heinz Probst with one of the jams for sale. The proceeds from the jam sale will go toward a new roof and boiler for Grace United Church. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

"We have lots of repeat customers—people know our jams and keep coming back," said Miller.

The event typically nets over \$1,000, which is vital for maintaining the heritage building amid a sticky situation of declining Sunday attendance.

"Since COVID, many churches have seen declines,

but we're gaining new members too," said Miller.

Miller emphasized the church's role beyond worship, such as hosting community events like a Labour Day festival market and December's Rotary Holiday House Tour lunch.

Upcoming plans for the church include hosting Music Niagara concerts,

whose proceeds will help support the church's budgetary needs.

Grace United is also planning its Jolly June Jamboree to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, founded in 1925. More details will be provided in the coming months.

andrew@niagaranow.com



Ontario 😽





Together, Andrea Kaiser and Mark Carney will build Canada Strong and deliver real results for Niagara.



Authorized by the Official Agent for Andrea Kaiser





Afternoon Tea

Make your day extra special with Afternoon Tea, where you can linger over delicious sweets, savoury bites, and expertly brewed teas.

SUNDAY SPECIAL

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY

\$45* per person 12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

\$55* per person

12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!



niagarasfinest.com | 905-468-4588 | 209 Queen St, Niagara-on-the-Lake



Happy Earth Day! Many of your favorite eyewear brands now offer eco-friendly frames made from recycled materials, biodegradable plastics and sustainably sourced wood. Not only do these frames help reduce waste, but they're also incredibly stylish and durable. Stop by our office to explore our collection of sustainable frames.



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



Have an opinion you want heard? Email us.



A friendly face at Penner's looks forward to retirement after 32 years

Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The employees of Penner's Home Hardware in Niagara-on-the-Lake said goodbye to a dear coworker of theirs the day of her final shift this spring — while sporting some unusually funky footwear.

Judy Doerksen, who worked more than 30 years in various departments, acquired a collection of novelty socks during her time as an employee at Penner's.

"People noticed that, so I guess the managers decided to ask all the staff to wear novelty socks on my last day," Doerksen told The Lake Report.

Along with festive footwear, Doerksen was greeted with cake and a personalized apron from colleagues as a parting gift on April 11.

Throughout her final shift in the paint department, where Doerksen worked for the last few years, customers and NOTLers stopped by to say goodbye and wish her well.

With a constant inflow of people coming in just to share words with Doerksen, her impact on the community was on display all day long.

After more than three decades at the iconic hardware



Judy Doerksen's last day at Penner's was made special with coworkers dressed in their best novelty socks, along with visits from lifelong customers. JULIA SACCO

store, a lot has changed in the time Doerksen has been working in town.

Doerksen recalled her first days working in the receiving department, in the days before barcodes on items, when goods had to be checked off a packing slip.

"And we made our own price stickers," Doerken said.

What never changed, though, was Doerksen's commitment to customer service.

Doerksen cited advice from her husband, John her longtime manager.

"He taught me that retail isn't so much about selling, it's about helping people buy and helping them fulfil their dreams," she said.

Doerksen recalled a specific time a customer came in looking for a toaster, with her husband at home bedridden and not a lot of time to spend looking for the perfect appliance.

"I popped over to the grocery store and picked up a loaf of bread. We tested some toasters right there on the spot. She was so thrilled with that," Doerksen said.

The woman remained a lifelong customer after that, she said.

Looking back at her time working at a town staple, Doerksen is most thankful for these community connections, she said.

"People come in with all kinds of problems," she

"We don't always have all the answers individually, but we work as a team, and together we help find solutions. That's what I'll remember most."

Now, at 69, Doerksen is excited to spend more time at home with family, watching her grandchildren play and baking — something she really enjoys.

Doerksen said just how thankful she was to work with the Penner family for all these years, and through a leave of absence after her husband contracted CO-VID-19 in 2020.

"The Penner family were just absolutely wonderful in their support of us. They were just unwavering."

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Solmar will not proceed with current Rand plans

Continued from Front Page

with the necessary studies and revisions for its proposed subdivision.

As a result, the tribunal issued the final order, dismissing the appeal.

On Oct. 11, the tribunal ruled that Solmar's proposal for a 172-unit subdivision on the Randwood Estate required significant revisions before approval could be granted.

The proposal raised concerns for the tribunal about public interest, planning, cultural heritage and tree protection.

While the site was zoned for residential development in the town's official plan and the approved official plan amendment, the tribunal argued Solmar still needed to revise its plan.

The tribunal also identified issues with the development's vehicle access, stormwater management



An entrance to Randwood Estate, where development plans for a 172-unit subdivision have been officially rejected by the Ontario Land Tribunal. FILE

and environment and infra-

It instructed the developer to conduct further studies and revisions, including complying with requirements under Section 2 of the Ontario Planning Act and better preserving key

heritage features, like the estate's pool garden and bath pavilion.

The Randwood Estate is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, says McCauley.

The tribunal gave Solmar two months to confirm

whether it would complete the required studies and revisions based on its October 2024 decision. Solmar challenged the order, requesting a reconsideration of certain aspects of the ruling.

On Jan. 28, the tribu nal dismissed Solmar's challenge and stated that Solmar's arguments were without merit.

Dismissing it later, on Jan. 28, gave Solmar additional time, from the issuance of the dismissal, to make the necessary changes.

The tribunal informed Solmar that to move forward, a revised plan would be required, developed in consultation with the town, the Save Our Rand Estate group and nearby residents.

While the Jan. 28 decision was a denial of the appeal, this decision marks the final ruling, now that Solmar has officially decided not to move forward with the requirements.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

TEN YEARS OF JUSTIN TRUDEAU, HIS ADVISOR MARK CARNEY AND THE LIBERAL PARTY HAVE HURT CANADA:

- 40 year high inflation and tax increases making life less affordable.
- Housing price escalation making the dream of home ownership out of reach.
- Y Porous borders causing rise in gun, drug and human smuggling.
- Catch and release policies leading to 50% increase in violent crime; transferring violent killers to medium security prisons.
- The worst performing economy in the OECD over the last decade.

COMMON SENSE CONSERVATIVES WILL RESTORE THE PROMISE OF CANADA:

- 15% income tax cut saving families approximately \$1,800 a year.
- Restore the dream of home ownership by cutting the GST from new home sales.
- Hire 2000 additional CBSA officers to protect
 our borders and to keep illegal guns and drugs out of Canada.
- End failed catch and release policies and
 return criminals like Paul Bernardo back to a maximum security prison where he belongs.
- Unleash the economic and job creation
 potential of our natural resources and finally establish true free trade within Canada.



Canada First. For a Change. TonyBaldinelli.ca

Authorized by the Official Agent for Tony Baldinelli campaign.



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.



News Media Canada Médias d'Info Canada



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



#25: If a friend is going through a tough time, fill a jar with jellybeans (or their favourite candy) and label it as a "prescription" of love.

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Spring is when life's alive in everything." - Christina Rossetti.

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

All dolled up for Easter

Photographer Dave Van de Laar captured a burst of Easter cheer outside 167 Regent St., where a whimsical display of colourful eggs, spring flowers and a charming bunny sets the scene for the season. Even the front lawn joins the fun, dotted with eggs that seem ready for an impromptu hunt. A festive and joyful tribute to Easter — beautifully done!



Opinion

The fire, the phone call and the choice you face



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner Columnist

The incineration of Glencairn Estate was a tragedy. The way it was first reported was not.

That initial call came from across the river. From America. New York State. Lewiston.

The 1832 white heritage Queenston gem may be lost. Damage is extensive and the fire marshal is poking around. But the fact folks opposite took quick action when they say the flames lick says much about the relationship that's existed for more than a century and

OK, they attacked and pillaged us in 1814. But we're so over it. At least, we thought, until January.

The current state of Canada-U.S. official relations sucks so much we're having an entire election about it.

Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on our auto industry, steel and aluminum, lumber and other sectors — with more to come, he says. The border is hardened and unfriendly. The stock market has lost a fifth of its value. Economists tell us to expect a recession. Interest



The initial call to report the fire that destroyed Glencairn came from across the river in the U.S. DOUG MUNKLEY

rates have stopped falling. The real estate market's frozen.

Some people have panicked, turned their paper investment losses into real ones, fled into 3 per cent GICs and think the USA is doomed. It's not, of course.

Trump will likely cause more damage to the American economy, ours and that of the world, but the guy can't last. The midterm elections in 2026 may undo his grasp on power. The Supreme Court will have to rein him in. And Republicans are finding out at vicious town hall meetings how citizens feel about Elon Musk and deportations.

America is bigger than this. Stay invested. Maybe buy more of a good ETF that holds the S&P 500, if you are feeling frisky.

Next moves for the U.S. president will likely include a massive corporate tax cut, gutting of environment protections (he just allowed commercial fishing in a marine preserve and logging in a national park), deregulation, crypto-friendly rules and protectionism meant to suck investment capital into the country. The oligarchs supporting him will love that. So will stocks. Like I said, stay invested.

But, wait. None of this is happy news for the Canadian economy, now that our exports are being whacked. That recession is a thing, for sure. Expect layoffs to be dominating headlines here for a lot of 2025.

Coming out of adversity, as usual, is some good.

We're shopping Canadian, going local and supporting neighbours. Interprovincial trade barriers are finally coming down, so we can have one economy in

Canada instead of 13.

We're spending a helluva lot less in the States travel south plunged last month. And we have an election happening in which we're all forced to think about the Trumpian threat and maybe realize it was not such a brilliant idea to sell most of our stuff to one single customer.

Advance polls were jammed last weekend. That probably means a high level of engagement as people decide who they think will be the most credible person to stand up to the orange guy with gravitas.

It's one of those times when leaders, parties and national policy dictate how most people will cast their ballot, regardless of how qualified and charismatic the local candidates may be.

Canadians usually vote to punish politicians. But this one is different.

As you do so, think about that Queenston fire and that phone call. Americans have been our friends, allies, partners and bros-in-arms for longer than any of us have been alive.

The people across the river wish us no harm. Many are apoplectic over the juvenile mockery and trolling of Canada that Donald Trump engaged in.

This election is about one guy. And our guy. Choose wisely.

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

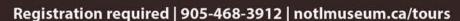
garth@garth.ca



HISTORICAL TOURS

Explore NOTL's history with specialty walking and bike tours starting in May

Niagara-on-the-Lake is Ontario's only National Historic District. Let us tell you why it is so important to Canada's story! Discover the beauty of our town with a guided tour and explore the history, architecture and events of Niagara with us.





BOOK NOW!





How are YOU pushing back against Trump?



Amid on-again, off-again trade tariffs, MAGA disinformation about the Canada-U.S. relationship and threats of annexing our nation as the 51st state, millions of Canadians are pushing back against President Donald Trump's endless stream of craziness.

It's #elbowsup time in the Great White North.

We'd like to know what you are doing here in Niagara-on-the-Lake in response to Trump's threats and actions.

Are you proudly flying the flag at home and displaying your patriotism for all to see? Have your shopping habits changed? What about travel plans?

In what other ways has your "polite Canadian" behaviour changed? Or has it?

Many people find Trump's endless jibes at Canada tiresome and are fed up with his tirades. What is your take and how do you think this all will (or should) play out?

Email us your thoughts, send us your photos and we'll publish them in an upcoming edition of The Lake Report.

Send them to editor@niagaranow.com.

Elbows up: No more shopping in the U.S.

Dear editor:

I understand your newspaper is soliciting comments from residents with regards to their cross-border trip reactions to "The Donald."

Personally, my wife and I travelled on a weekly basis across the border, specifi-

cally grocery shopping, but included other retail shopping. The USD vs. the Canadian dollar exchange was not an issue, as I lived and worked in several states for over 20 years in the U.S. and was using U.S.-banked

We have discontinued

this practice completely and now shop 100 per cent in Canada.

On our recent return, via Buffalo Airport, from our winter home in California. The absence of Canadianplated cars in California and around the Buffalo Airport was striking. The same was evident during a visit to our son in Troon North, Scottsdale, Ariz. The border crossing was empty (only two other cars).

P.S. Congratulations on the recent publication awards — well deserved.

Sam Young NOTL

Correcting factual errors about Carney's record

Dear editor:

May I correct factual errors written by Nicolas Petrick in The Lake Report ("Letter: Carney's record spells trouble for Canadians, April 10) against our Liberal leader, Prime Minister Mark Carney, hoping to be elected?

1: Petrick claims that Carney is responsible for inconsistent interest rates when he was governor of the Bank of England (2013-2020) and subsequent 11 per cent inflation after COVID in the U.K. Firstly, interest rates were not inconsistent during Carney's tenure relative to global standards and the 11 per cent peak occurred two years after Carney left and was due to former Conservative prime minister Liz Truss (and Trump supporter) reckless overspending which sent markets into a frenzy. Pierre Poilievre is an admirer of Truss' failed economic policies.

2: Carney had no role in the Justin Trudeau Liberal government during the COVID-19 pandemic, as Carney was asked to be the federal economic advisor last September. By the way, the Trudeau Liberal government's support of public health (vaccines, masks, social distancing, closures and CERB pay for out-ofwork employees) helped us have less than half the deaths than the U.S. under Trump's anti-vaccines and bad medicine.

3: "Trump prefers dealing with Carney." After Carney's call, Trump dropped his predatory bad-mouthing of Canada and the worst of tariffs (for now) and abided

by the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Free Trade Agreement signed by Trump in his first term (negotiated by Chrystia Freeland, Trudeau and Trump).

4: As governor of the Bank of Canada, Carney earned praise from Conservative former prime minister Stephen Harper and finance minister Jim Flaherty, as we suffered less than many countries in the global recession of 2008 caused by U.S. banks' over-lending. "The selection of Mr. Carney as chair of financial stability board is a testament to his skills and the strength of Canada's financial system," said Harper. Flaherty praised Carney, saving he "has the technical knowledge and street smarts to deal with big complex

negotiations." When the Conservative U.K. government needed help after they voted (barely) to leave the European Union, Carney was the "voice of calm who steadied the ship," according to ex-finance minister George Osborne.

5: The claim that only Poilievre has a commitment to serve Canadians is wrong. Carney left his lucrative and not-for-profit work and put assets in a blind trust to run for prime minister because he is deeply committed to creating a better future for all Canadians. His excellent reputation, honesty, experience and expertise can unite us to prevail during the trade wars and diversify.

Let's all go out and vote.

Elizabeth Oliver-Malone
Old Town

Remembering Glencairn and its Hollywood cameo

Dear editor:

Many of us in Niagaraon-the-Lake and beyond are grieving the loss of what might be called a national treasure: Glencairn.

This grand 1830s home was

featured in a number of contemporary movies. For those readers who want a look inside this once magnificent home, check out the movie "Red" on Netflix. The house is featured at about the 58-minute mark. It starts with a postcard view of the rear of the house looking down the Niagara River and shows lovely interior shots of several rooms and the grand entrance hall.

The movie stars Helen Mir-

ren, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Bruce Willis ... who ironically arrives at the front door disguised in full firefighter bunker gear. Laura Cousens

NOTL



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style. Category: THE SUNDAY SCARIES

"His palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy" — it sounds like Eminem is describing the Sunday scaries in this song.

Last issue: ALL UP IN YOUR BUSINESS

Clue: It's the company that made the 717 for mass passengers as well as the F-22 Raptor for very, very specific passengers.

Answer: What is Boeing?

Answered first by: Lynda Collet

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Bob Wheatley, Sue Rautenberg, Terry Nord, Jim Dandy, Howard Jones, Marla Percy, Margaret Garaughty, Wade Durling, Lynda Hosty

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

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

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

Details at www.theirishharppub.com



Mother's Day Brunch

Make cherished memories with the perfect blend of warmth, luxury, and delectable cuisine.

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025



AT QUEENS LANDING

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cannery
AT PILLAR AND POST

Two seatings,
11:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

BRUNCH AT HARE WINE CO.

CATERED BY NOBLE RESTAURANT

Seatings at 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., & 1:30 p.m.

MENUS AVAILABLE ONLINE.

vintage-hotels.com | 1.888.669.5566 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

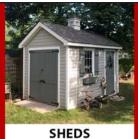








Jim Lynch | 905-788-4633 | lynchwooddesign@gmail.com Instagram: Lynchwooddesign Local builder in Niagara-on-the-Lake.







Glencairn was an irreplacable part of Canadian history



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

There are a great number of people — in Niagara-on-the-Lake, across the river and in many points beyond — who are in mourning over the tragic loss of Glencairn last Wednesday.

Destroyed by a fire the authorities are referring to as "suspicious" and "under investigation," this irreplaceable piece of our heritage has been rendered a charred ruin of its former glory.

Gone is one more, and arguably the finest, of architect John Latshaw's Greek Revival designs, with only Willowbank and Ruthven (both national historic sites) remaining.

The beautiful facade graced by a two level colonnade supported by six Doric and six Ionic columns crafted in accordance with the classical orders — as opposed to the pitiful modern columns that resemble

elongated milk bottles as recently installed on a local new build — set off with a classically simple and elegant entablature has been rendered a thing-of-the-past preserved only in photographs.

And that touches on only one, of many, special exterior architectural elements of what was enfolded in the towering achievement wrought by Latshaw in the design of Glencairn.

So too has been lost the historic and, in some cases, largely unique interior details.

Consider the main staircase, with its delicate spiral detail footing the newel post. Personally, I know of only one other example of this detail in Niagara likely by the same carpenter, John Davidson, crafted several years later — which can be found in Old Town's St. Andrew's Church.

But, this detail has been destroyed by the fire along with many other "firsts."

The loss feels like a death — not of a person, but a part of a person vested in a physical symbol of shared heritage. There's simply no excuse.

While one may suggest "requiescat in pace" for the lost one, upon those charged with the responsibility for



Columnist Brian Marshall compares the loss of Glencairn to the death of a "part of a person vested in a physical symbol" and says it's a loss for Canadian heritage. FILE

protection, I can completely understand why many may wish "fuerat auctor" on their house.

If this sounds somewhat bitter, kindly understand that it is not only my reaction but also a reflection of what has been voiced by many of my readers (including residents of Lewiston, N.Y.).

For 192 years, Glencairn stood inviolate, suffering its ups and downs, but surviving intact. Then, a mere six months after being acquired by a numbered Ontario corporation, it burns to the ground.

To be clear, absent of any evidence to the contrary, I am not suggesting any malfeasance from the numbered company or its lone director associated with the fire which consumed Glencairn. That said, this corporation had a responsibility to

protect and safeguard the heritage asset — a charge that they failed to fulfil.

In this column on Oct. 2, 2024, "Arch-i-text: The architectural legacy of the Hamilton family," I wrote:

"And now, the future of this glorious piece of Canadian history and heritage is placed in question.

"Having survived the highs and lows of nearly 200 years, what will happen to it next year?"

"It is a treasure of not only local and provincial but also national importance."

"I certainly believe that Glencairn is worthy of being recognized as a national historic site and moreover, all the protection the law can allow."

And, now we know the answer to "what will happen to it next year."

Destruction.

Now, it is true that historic buildings, particularly those constructed with heavy timber members and/or balloon framing, are more susceptible to extensive damage in the case of a fire. However, a fire must first occur before that susceptibility is exposed.

Moreover, why is it that so many historic buildings are the victims of fire in this country?

Just to list a few recent examples in southern Ontario, there was the Peter Hay Knife building in Cambridge on Boxing Day of 2024, the 130-year-old historic landmark building in downtown Orillia in January, and the 156-year-old grist mill in Smith Falls.

And in Galt, a house burned the morning of the day it was slated for heritage designation (anybody recall the Welland Hotel in St. Catharines).

Further afield, several historic buildings in Montreal were lost to fire in 2024
— including the designated

— including the designated home and studio of Charles Daudelin and, during 2023, one case of arson on an historic building cost the lives of seven people.

I could go on, but I think that is a sufficient sampling.

Perhaps contributing to this trend, at least here in Ontario, is the curious provision in the Ontario Heritage Act that fire damage to a heritage-designated building is one of the only situations wherein an owner cannot be required to restore the heritage assets.

The Ontario government website, on its page "Heritage properties and insurance," explains it this way: "The intent of designation is to preserve the historic, physical, contextual or other heritage value of a property."

"If a building on a heritage property is completely or partially destroyed, the designation bylaw does not require the owner to replicate any lost heritage attributes. A replacement building can be of a different design."

As an aside, should France have employed this argument, the Notre Dame de Paris would not have been rebuilt.

Here in Ontario, it seems that losing a piece of Canadian heritage to fire simply clears the way for a Mc-Mansion or two or three.

Just urban renewal — if one listens to the opinion of barbarians.

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







http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman

www.sunnisfacialbar.ca. 289-257-6854





247 Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario









OPINION (%)



Town has removed some signs, but education first

Continued from Front Page

It's not a big deal and I have mixed feelings about even bringing it up — but because some residents have complained about it, I decided to look into the sign situation.

Turns out NOTL has strict rules and all of the federal candidates are breaking those rules.

Well, to be fair, since orange NDP signs are few and far between, it's really a case of reds and blues that are singin' outa tune. Liberal and Conservative signs proliferate and generally are not where they are supposed

The bottom line is NOTL requires election placards to be one metre inside the residential property line. And only in rare cases is that line right near the front of your property. In most cases, your actual property starts 10 feet or more from the curb.

So, if your sign is close to the roadside — where it can be more readily seen than if it's set back behind the actual edge of your property — it probably is violating the town's bylaw.

In years gone by, election signs were everywhere along roadsides and at intersections, which is what NOTL council was trying to avoid seven years ago when it passed a new sign bylaw.

Mission accomplished, except for the part about keeping signs solely on private property.



Plenty of election signs around Niagara-on-the-Lake are posted where they technically aren't allowed. KEVIN MACLEAN

Pat Darte was lord mayor in 2018 when council enacted those restrictions.

"Back then we were inundated with signs everywhere," he told The Lake Report.

"It was sign pollution at its worst. The idea was to eliminate candidates putting them everywhere," Darte noted.

"The one-metre part was to give some room for error on where the property line actually was."

As for everyone "crossing the line, I don't think any of the sign volunteers know where the line actually is."

Not that anyone in authority seems to care much.

In my travels, I think I've seen a handful of signs that might have been on private property. All the rest, nope. Or questionable at best.

When I asked members of council and the Town of NOTL administration about this, spokesperson Marah Minor said the municipality had already received several complaints about election signs and removed some "from various locations."

"All electoral candidates have been informed of the permitted sign placements, which must remain on private property," she said.

"Staff are aware of instances where signs have been placed on public lands and are addressing the issue using an 'educate, engage and enforce' approach."

"This includes first contacting candidates to inform them that their signs are not in compliance and must be modified or removed. If no action is taken, signs will be removed by bylaw staff after a reasonable period."

Like the bylaw, that all seems pretty cut and dry: Except now with just a few days until the election, uh, almost every sign in town is on public land.

Don't get me wrong. This is not a big deal in the grand scheme of things.

But: we have a bylaw on the books delineating where signs can be and have tried to educate candidate representatives about complying - yet the vast majority of signs are still on public property.

Education ain't working. I get that we don't want to make mountains out of molehills, plus it's timeconsuming and costly to enforce bylaws.

When I asked our municipal leaders if they should amend or even suspend the bylaw ... crickets. A radical idea, but since nobody follows the rules, what's the point? Is it a "just in case" situation? Are we simply happy to have reduced the number of signs along major roadways and at intersections?

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa didn't seem too concerned about it all and was happy to leave it to town staff to handle, which is probably the right approach. He also suggested I could make a service request via the town's website, if I so

desired.

RE-ELECT

BALDINELLI

CONSERVATIVE

The deputy mayor, Coun. Erwin Wiens, who tends to favour a laissez-faire approach, said he reached out to the Liberal and Conservative candidates to advise them what the town bylaw

Coun. Maria Mavridis told me she also noticed errant signs and contacted the candidates. And Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she was going to suggest town staff remind the political campaigns of their signing obligations.

After I started making inquiries about the wrongly placed signs, someone associated with the Liberal candidate reached out for more information. Nothing from the Conservatives.

The good news is it's only a few days until the votes are counted — and all the signs have to come down. Within a week, according to the bylaw.

Speaking of vote counts,

this is the first federal election for our new riding of Niagara Falls—Niagara-onthe-Lake.

Fort Erie is no longer part of the equation, so it will be interesting to see who voters in the Falls and NOTL favour this time.

Last election, in September 2021, incumbent Conservative Tony Baldinelli beat Liberal Andrea Kaiser by more than 3,000 votes.

The Conservative took Fort Erie by about 1,700 votes. With the NDP fading nationally, how will the votes split this time in the Falls and NOTL? Can Kaiser easily make up the deficit or will Baldinelli compound his plurality?

With new party leaders, new platforms and the spectre of Donald Trump, past voting patterns might mean little.

And while on some streets in urban NOTL, the Kaiser signs outnumber Baldinelli signs six to one, the rural constituency seems far more blue than red.

As well, the pro-Conservative shouting and fearmongering proliferating on various social media groups around NOTL (countered occasionally by some pro-Liberal voices) could be a sign of some deep divisions among voters in the community. Or perhaps it's just all noise.

What it definitely means is this Monday night's result will be compelling and fascinating to watch unfold.

kevin@niagaranow.com

One in five Conservatives would vote to join America

Dear editor:

Letter-writer Phil Wilson "Letter: Poilievre knows how to get things done") asks how I came to the conclusion "that a large minority of Conservative voters support Donald Trump and also support annexation by the U.S."

I based my statement on data from a Leger poll conducted between March 7 and March 10, 2025, and released on March 17. Leger reported that 33 per cent of Conservative voters still supported Trump and 9 per cent of Canadians want to become the 51st state.

A recent Angus Reid poll reported that 20 per cent (one in five!) of Conservatives would vote to join the U.S., contrasting with low single digits for supporters of other major parties. I



apologize for not including this data in my original

I suspect most readers will regard these figures for Conservative supporters as pretty "large minorities."

I trust this answers Mr. Wilson's question.

We have to invest a little time to uncover the facts.

Michael Fox Old Town

Carney stands head and shoulders above Poilievre

Dear editor:

The international and domestic landscape has changed significantly, particularly with Trudeau resigning, and I now believe that Carney is best suited to deal strategically and intellectually with Canada's domestic challenges.

It's best to compare the abilities of each candidate and identify which candidate has the skillset to comprehend and deal with complex issues like free trade, tariffs, economics, business and finance. Who is best suited to provide strategic solutions to difficult problems?

Poilievre graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Calgary. Ever since 2000, he has worked for or been involved in the Conservative political movement. He has not held a job in finance, banking, economics or business in the

private sector. He is a career politician with little, if any, experience in these fields.

Carney graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University in 1988, and subsequently earned a doctorate of philosophy. He held various roles at Goldman Sachs, was the Bank of Canada's deputy governor, then its governor, senior associate deputy minister for the Department of Finance Canada, governor of the Bank of England, chair and head of impact investing at Brookfield Asset Management, chair of Bloomberg L.P.'s board of directors, the United Nations special envoy for climate action and finance and chair of the Liberal Party's economic growth taskforce.

Comparatively speaking, Carney stands heads and shoulders above Poilievre in terms of abilities.

Yes, Carney was Trudeau's

adviser, but can anyone say what Carney's advice was and if it was taken by Trudeau or ignored?

I don't believe that Poilievre has the skillset to understand or intelligently deal with Canada's complex economic and financial positions and their intertwined interactions.

Carney has those skills and is already successful in the international business community with incredible contacts that could provide insight and feedback. Poilievre yearns for success and possesses none of those important touchstones.

Carney has indicated Canada needs to decouple from the U.S. and focus on reducing internal hindrances to growth, developing Canadian strengths through infrastructure expansion and developing greater trade alliances with Europe and other countries for our valuable products in a mutually beneficial way. I

agree with this approach.

He has proposed, among other things:

- Removing barriers to internal trade, lowering prices for consumers by reducing trade costs by up to 15 per cent, expanding our economy by up to \$200 billion.
- Identifying projects of national interest that cross interprovincial boundaries, prioritizing and accelerating them, attracting investment, stimulating job creation and economic growth.

Poilievre's proposals are vague, with little strategic detail on how to make Canada more self-sufficient and prosperous. Or, how to pay for it.

You are voting for either Carney, the businessman, or Poilievre, the politician. Government should be run like a business, not for political purposes.

Gienek Ksiazkiewicz St. Davids



Canadians show true colours and reveal what's important



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson Columnist

For several weeks, I had been looking forward to watching the Canadian federal party leaders debate in the French language. In my diary, in ink, for over two weeks. Prime time on April 16, at 8 p.m.

The nature of the beast in our unique and muchadmired country demands that our prime ministers have at least a basic ability in both official languages. All indications are that the upcoming years will be dominated by trade and tariff upheavals, and almost certain geopolitical turmoil caused by Donald Trump.

Our choice of leader will be so important. Critical indeed.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has one of the most impressive resumes we have ever seen in Canada. Educationally and professionally. Can we agree on that point? Our local candidate is well qualified and hard-working, and the voting decision on election day will be difficult.

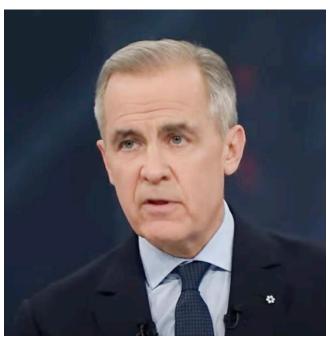
But, before I vote on April 28, I wanted to determine for myself whether the good people of Quebec would consider Carney a "bon gars" who could communicate acceptably with them in French. Had he at least made the effort to become bilingual?

It's tough to learn another language, especially as an adult. I know. Years ago, in 1976, I moved to Outremont, a delightful area of Montreal, traditionally regarded as French-speaking.

I encouraged my friends there to speak French in my presence, not to default to English. I played a lot of tennis, mostly with Quebecois, and went to functional bilingualism night school classes three evenings each week

It was tough and a real commitment. Yes, it was worth the effort.

Montrealers then and now don't expect bilingual perfection, but "If you are going to live and play here,



Ross Robinson says he was impressed with Mark Carney's French in the French leaders debate. CANADIAN PRESS

at least make an honest effort to learn French." Fair enough, in my opinion.

In the past, federal leadership candidates like Ken Dryden and Belinda Stronach face-planted by not making much of an effort to learn French. Their linguistic weakness turned the voters in Quebec against them, and their candidacies were short-circuited. (At least make an effort, eh?)

So earlier this week, I made certain that I would be able to watch the federal

leaders' French language debate. I had been convinced by the media and punsters that Mark Carney's Achilles' heel was his weakness in French.

I was determined to watch and listen, and personally decide whether frontrunner Mark Carney, the leader in the polls, could "get by" in what is obviously his second language.

Imagine our frustration as we tried to find the "debate" on television (and by the way, it wasn't a debate. Rather, a series of previously scripted questions and mostly prepared responses. Then, a bit of verbal give and take).

During the day of the debate, I learned second-hand that this important program had been rescheduled to 6 p.m. Then, it got confusing.

Attempting to find the debate just after 6 p.m., we had to work at it, scrolling and flipping channels. Eventually phoning a few friends. The bottom line was that the time for this very important and well-promoted event had been changed late in the process—that very morning. From 8 p.m. to 6 p.m.!

First things first in Canada. And especially in Quebec. I love my country Canada, but sometimes I have to shake my head and chuckle.

Just try to imagine the serious discussions, polling and angst as everyone attempted to read the room, and make the scheduling decision that would please the most people. Or upset the least people. Especially in Quebec.

My goodness, the television people exclaimed. Would the majority of viewers rather watch a very serious debate that will affect the future of our Canadian democracy, or a Montreal Canadiens hockey game that could get the Habs into the playoffs?

This created a very major conflict in Quebec and Canada.

Finding a compromise became the order of the day, and eventually, the Canadian thing was done.

The morning of the federal leaders' debate, and now a very important hockey game, it was decided that the federal leaders' debate, in French, would be moved ahead two hours. Voila, problem solved.

Tenaciously searching, we found the politicians "debating" in French at about 6:15 p.m. I watched much more carefully than is my habit. Anxious to answer my question about Prime Minister Carney's French.

I understand the debate was made available in 15 languages.

Concluding, I now strongly believe that Prime Minister Carney proved he has made a huge effort to become functionally bilingual. As busy and highachieving as he has been, he is to be respected.

Only in Canada, you say?

Back pain: True sciatica and how you know when it's present



DR. BR®WN

Dr. William Brown Columnist

In my father's day and much of my career as a neurologist, the word "sciatica" was used to refer to pain in the lower back and leg, usually related to a disk protrusion compressing a nerve root in the lower back.

And so, it continues to this day and was the title chosen for a review article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2015 by a former colleague of mine in Boston, Allan Ropper.

Allan is a full professor in neurology at Harvard University, senior editor for neurology of the same journal and one of the most astute clinicians I've known. He is also the author of one of the best

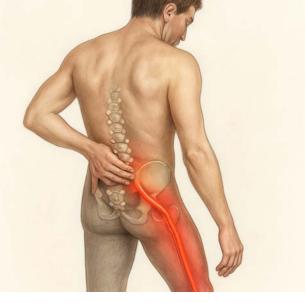
neurology textbooks, now in its umpteenth edition.

Hence, my surprise when he wrote that review article covering all causes of lower back and leg pain under the misleading general title of "sciatica."

Properly applied, the term sciatica refers to lesions which affect the sciatic nerve, not the lumbosacral nerve roots in the immediate vicinity of the lumbosacral spine or the lumbosacral plexus formed from those roots within the pelvis.

Far and away, the most common cause of lower back pain and often leg pain is age-related degenerative disease in the lumbosacral spine caused by compression of the fifth lumbar or first sacral nerve root or possibly both roots by herniation of disks, ligamentous thickening and hypertrophy of the posterior facet joints.

Much less common are symptoms related to the sciatic nerve. This nerve is formed from the lumbosacral plexus within the pelvis, where the nerve is



well beyond the lumbosacral spine.

This sciatic nerve is the largest nerve in the body and comprised of two major divisions. The lateral division innervates muscles in the anterolateral calf and sensation to the same region and the top of the foot. The medial division innervates muscles in the posterior calf and most of the muscles in the foot and sensation for the bottom of the foot and back of the calf.

Except for occasional

benign masses or tumours within the pelvis, the lumbosacral plexus is well protected as is the sciatic nerve in its course through the sciatic notch to reach the proximal leg, because of the cushioning effect of the overlying beefy buttock and posterior thigh muscles.

But despite so much muscle, compression of the nerve can still cause symptoms. For example, the nerve may be compressed within the sciatic notch by an enlarged piriformis muscle through which the nerve passes on its way through the notch.

More common is direct compression of the nerve caused by sitting too long on a hard seat with a bulky wallet, or these days, an iPhone, stuffed in the back pockets of pants. The latter is common in long-haul drivers, who often pay no notice to the growing tingling in the back of their leg and the sole of their foot.

Sometimes, the first time the driver is aware of the numb leg is when they jump down from the cab, only to stumble or even fall. Fortunately, recovery is usually quick.

Much less common is injury to the sciatic nerve by a misplaced intramuscular injection.

There is another cause related to exercise. I like to stay fit and sometimes push the limit. That happened in late November at the community centre, when I was working out on an elliptical trainer and developed pain in my left buttock and anterolateral and posterior

calf muscles — enough to make me stop.

There was no back pain, nor was there weakness, but there was tenderness for sure when I palpated the sciatic notch, the pressure of which also caused tingling down the back of my thigh and calf.

Over the next few weeks, the symptoms resolved, but I haven't used an elliptical trainer until recently and cautiously.

It was a good lesson: Be careful of exercises that produce symptoms of muscle or nerve injury.

Perhaps some of my readers have had similar experiences, not necessarily with their sciatic nerve, but overdoing some exercises or perhaps, as some trainers rightly suggest, it may be wise to get professional advice about what exercises we do and, as important, how to do them safely.

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



Public Notice From May 5 to 16 tell us what you want in the St. Davids roundabout design

Option A - Historical/Traditional



In the fall of 2024, 80 people attended a Niagara Region workshop to talk about their vision for the St. Davids roundabout. Four designs emerged from the workshop. Region staff found common elements and used them to create two roundabout options. Now, we are asking you to vote online or in person from May 5 to 16 for your preferred design and features.

Option A focuses on the history of St. Davids. It depicts the Four Mile Creek passing through the roundabout and the traditional Indigenous trail, and it includes native flowers, colours and a focal compass.

Option B highlights the agricultural importance of the St. Davids area. It includes a vertical structure with a vineyard feel and trailing grapevines on a trellis that tie the design together.

Designs for the intersection of Tanbark Avenue fit with the historical and agricultural roundabout themes while adding their own distinct gateway features.

What's next?

Keep an eye on your mailbox starting April 30. All properties and residents in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will receive an informative newsletter with artist drawings of the designs for you to consider before voting starts. You can also visit the Niagara Region website to look at larger images with more detailed information.

Please consider and familiarize yourself with each design and vote for the features you feel represent the ideals and spirit of St. Davids. After voting closes on May 16, Niagara Region will post the results on the project webpage. Niagara-on-the-Lake staff will present the preferred option, including costs, to the Town Council for consideration at a later date.

Remember, the Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the approval authority for all landscaping and streetscaping upgrades to the roundabout. Niagara Region is only responsible for the road construction portion of this project.

Option B - Agricultural/Contemporary



Voting process

Voting takes place from May 5 to May 16. Voting is limited to one vote per household and there are two ways to vote:

Online Voting:

- Go to niagararegion.ca/projects/ regional-road-81-and-100reconstruction/default.aspx, or
- Use the QR Code ———



In-Person Voting:

At St. Davids Fire Hall and Community Center (745 Warner Road, St. Davids) on the following dates/times:

Monday, May 5: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, May 9 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, May 12: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, May 16: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

At Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library (10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, May 7: 4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: 4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: 10:30 a.m. - 1p.m

and 5 - 7 p.m.

If you have questions about this project, email **Stephanie Huppunen, CET.**

Manager, Capital Projects – Transportation Engineering stdavidsroundabout@niagararegion.ca





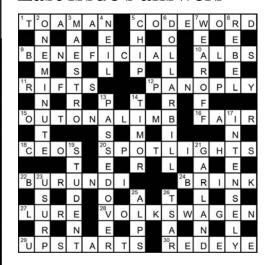
Across

- 9. Al fresco (4-3)
- 10. Deadly intestinal ailment (7)
- 11. What Rapunzel grew (5)
- 12. Collection point for passage fees (9)
- 13. Retained (4)
- 14. It might be proscribed or prescribed (4)
- 15. Winger sliced bread (5)
- 19. Furrowed (6)
- 20. Face hardship bravely (4,2)
- 23. Despise (5)
- 24. Sullen (4)
- 25. Yield (4)
- 27. Community tunes and songs (4,5)
- 29. Rock bottom (5)
- 30. Entourage (7)
- 31. John ---, tempestuous court star (7) Down
- 1. On one side of a notorious DM Z
- 2. High level of excitement (5,5)
- 3. Your personal "equator"? (5)
- 4. Rhetorical skill (7)
- 5. Greenery? (7)
- 6. Out (9)
- 7. Turn down (4)
- 8. Unwise (4)
- 16. They can mix zombies (10)
- 17. Sources of Dabinetts, for example
- 18. Gaiety (9)
- 21. Eventful trip (7)
- 22. Give in (7)
- 26. Lay to rest (5)
- 27. Grange (4)
- 28. Mandolin-like instrument (4)

Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle 10 13 18 19 23 24 30

Last issue's answers



	4					2		
	7		1					3
			2		8		6	
7	5			6				
		3				7		
				7			4	1
	1		3		5			
5					9		1	
		2					9	



MEDIUN

MAXIMIZE EXPOSUR



- NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE 124 Mary Street
 - 2 Bedroom 1 Bath \$769,000



681 Warner Road 3 Bedroom • 2 Bath • \$1,369,900



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

RE/MAX

- ***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!



"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

Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!





Losing Queenston's historic Glencairn home

Many of us are sad to hear of the damage that was done to the historic Glencairn home last week.

This grand, two-storey estate that overlooked the Niagara River was an important and rare example of a Classic (Greek) Revival house in a picturesque setting in Ontario. Built in 1832, it was only seven years shy of hitting its 200-year-old anniversary. If only the walls could talk, as they say. It was built for John Hamilton, a prominent boatbuilder and member of the provincial Legislative Assembly, and was also enjoyed by prominent businessmen John D. Larkin and William A. Thomson. The Hamilton family was important to the unique history of Queenston and preserving the architectural beauty of this home helped to foster a sense of identity within the community. Like artifacts held at the museum, it was a tangible link to the past, offering insight into the families who lived there, early craftsmanship and a way of life that might otherwise be forgotten. The museum holds but a few artifacts from the original home and limited photographs in our collection. The loss of a heritage building represents a profound and often irreversible blow to a community's cultural and historical fabric. We are more than sad to see its demise. Thank you to the brave firefighters for all that they did to put the fire out.

Today's photograph is the Larkin Soap factory employees' picnic in 1904 that took place at the home during John D. Larkin's ownership. Photo courtesy of the Huggins Collection at Niagara Falls Public Library.



Your spring bulbs are almost sprung



GROWING **TOGETHER**

Joanne Young Columnist

Spring bulbs are a welcomed sight after a long, cold winter.

Jean Hersey is quoted as saying, "I love planting bulbs. It is making promises with tomorrow, believing in the next year and the future."

After the winter that we had, they have never been more beautiful than ever. There is something about seeing those fresh, green leaves start to push through the ground, only to be followed by the brilliant shades of yellows, reds, pinks and purples.

As the soil begins to warm up in the spring, the bulbs begin to emerge. It's the smaller bulbs, which are not planted as deep in the soil, that are the first to appear, such as snowdrops, crocus and winter aconite. As the sun continues to warm up the soil deeper into the ground, then the larger bulbs emerge.

When you see that the bulbs are beginning to grow, it is a good time to

feed them with an organic fertilizer that is high in phosphorus, such as bonemeal. The phosphorus helps to feed the roots and blooms. Fertilizing them at this time will also aid them in setting their flower bud for the next season.

Once the bulb has finished flowering, make sure that you remove the seed head, including the flower stalk. It takes a lot of the bulb's energy for it to produce seed. That energy, which would have gone to the seed head, is better spent elsewhere.

Let the leaves remain there until they have completely turned yellow and have gone dormant. While the leaves are still green, they are processing sunlight through photosynthesis and turning the sunlight into food for the bulb.

This food is stored in the leaves for a time. So, if you cut off the leaves while they are still green, you are robbing the bulb of muchneeded food.

Once the plant starts going dormant and the leaves start turning yellow, this is the signal that the food is now making its way back down into the bulb. Once the food has moved down to the bulb, it is at this time that the flower buds and leaves are set in the bulb for the next season.

If the leaves are cut off prematurely, it robs the bulb of the food that it needs, resulting in smaller or no flowers for the next year.

The more food that the



Tulips are about to pop, says columnist Joanne Young.

bulb receives from the leaves, the bigger the flowers will be. You can fertilize the bulbs again, with bonemeal, once the bulbs have finished blooming.

Hardy spring bulbs can be left in the same spot and will come up year after year, giving you low-maintenance, reliable flowers. But sometimes even bulbs need a little help.

How often should you divide bulbs? That really depends on the flower. As a rule, however, bulbs should be divided when they get so overcrowded that you start to notice that they are not producing as many flowers or that they don't appear to be as vigorous.

As bulbs grow, they'll put out little offshoot bulbs (baby bulbs) that cluster around them. As these offshoots get bigger, the bulbs start to get too crowded, and the flowers stop blooming as vigorously.

If a patch of flowering bulbs is still producing leaves but are producing less flowers than what it has in the past, that means it's time to divide. This tends to happen every three to five years, especially with daffodils, which are a

bit more vigorous in nature.

When dividing bulb plants, it's important to wait until the foliage dies back naturally. The bulbs need the foliage to store up energy for next year's growth.

Once the leaves have died, carefully dig up the bulbs with a shovel. Each larger parent bulb should have several smaller bulbs growing off it.

Gently pry off these bulbs with your fingers. Squeeze the parent bulb — if it's not squishy, it is still healthy and can be replanted.

Make sure that you replenish your soil with compost or composted manure before replanting your bulbs. If you are unable to replant the bulbs right away, you can also store your new bulbs in a dark cool, airy place until you're ready to plant them again.

As the days continue to get warmer, make sure that you take some time to take in the beauty of the vast array of happy, colourful spring flowers.

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.



HANDYMAN HANS CAN

Snow, 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

SWITZER'S AUCTION FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR **2025 AUCTION PROGRAM**

FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, ACCESSORIES, OR MILITARIA. COLLECTIONS, ESTATES OR SINGLE ITEMS.

For Auction or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609 Email: sales@switzersauction.com www.switzersauction.com for Auction Dates & Details





Yellow Door turns 10: Celebration at community centre this weekend

Paige Seburn Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

It's been 10 years since Yellow Door Theatre Project was established in Niagara-on-the-Lake — and the group is marking the milestone with performances, music, food and fundraising this weekend.

Running April 27 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the NOTL Community Centre, attendees can watch performances by current and alumni Yellow Door members, along with live music from the Feverish Lemons, according to an April 17 media release from the organization.

Yellow Door, founded by Andorlie Hillstrom in 2015, is a non-profit theatre project that offers Niagara youth the opportunity to learn and hone their skills in musical theatre and other performing arts.

"This has been no small accomplishment," said Hillstrom in an email to The Lake Report.

"The anniversary will give us all an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments we have made together and the impact the organization has had on the many participants



Yellow Door Theatre Project, now in its 10th year, will celebrate its anniversary at the community centre this Saturday. SUPPLIED

and families that have been a part of our theatre family," she added.

Hot and cold appetizers will be prepared by Events by Kirsten and a cash bar will be available. A silent auction, basket draw and other fundraising activities and prizes are also planned throughout the afternoon.

Shaw Festival ensemble member Travis Seetoo is scheduled to emcee.

However, the celebration goes beyond commemorating the theatre group and its members.

Yellow Door's website states

that the celebration is also to honour the community that has supported the organization throughout the years, such as parents, grandparents, friends, family, supporters, volunteers, donors and members of the audience.

Tickets are \$45, general admission, and can be purchased at zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/yellow-door-10th-anniversary-celebration. Donations are also welcome and go toward the organization. The community centre is located at 14 Anderson Ln. paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

Obituary

Mark 'Bini' Cherubini



CHERUBINI, Mark Vincent (Bini) — Passed away peacefully April 22, 2025 on his own terms, at age 64 after a debilitating battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy at the Marotta Family hospital. Survived by his wife of 40 years Karen (Riss), children Andrew (Emily), Laura (Kyle) Gendron, Sharon (Juliano) Leone. Grandpa to Maren, Aubrey and Logan. Brother to Alan, Norman (Angela) and Richard (Kym). Brother

in law to Larry Riss (Cheryl), Sandra Kingma (Rick), Linda Riss (Russ) and Dennis Riss (Claudia), Son in law to Elisabeth Riss (Lorenz 2007). Predeceased by his parents Vanny (2017) and Jeanne (2022). Many nieces and nephews are left with fond memories of life on the farm, camping at Sauble Beach and fishing trips. Remembering Mark are his cousins and Aunts from Quebec. Missing him already are his dogs Hank and Zeke. Mark was affectionately known as Bini to his closest friends. Mark owned and operated M & N Auto Service with Nick until it closed when he returned to school and received his diploma in teaching. Mark was employed by DSBN as an Automotive Tech teacher at A.N. Myer SS until his retirement in 2019. Mark was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing especially in Geraldton, Northern Ontario. He coached minor hockey and soccer and played hockey up until a few years ago. Our most memorable trip was a ten week road trip to Yukon, NWT, Alaska and Northern BC. We are most grateful for this time together and thankful that we did not delay it until retirement. Mark also dabbled in farming and could often be found in his shop tinkering with his machines or working his hayfield. Mark was a very proud member of St. Davids and District Lions Club. Cremation has been entrusted to Considerate Cremations and Burial. Friends are welcome to drop in anytime on Sunday April 27, 1-5 pm at St. Davids Lions Club, 1462 York Rd. In death Mark has given renewed health and hope to others through the selfless act of organ donation. If desired, donations to a charity close to Mark's heart can be made to the Guide Dogs Foundation supported by the Lions Club.



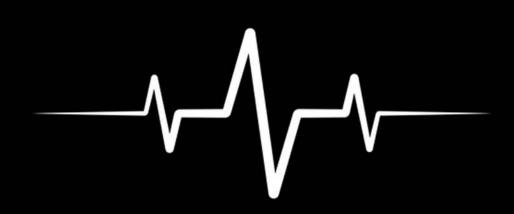






*RANKING ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD & NIAGARA THIS WEEK READERS' CHOICE AWARDS IN 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022.





WHAT'S YOUR HEALTH WORTH?

- Private medicine Same day appointments
- Early detection of cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's
 - Most advanced aesthetic centre in the region



Medicine, the way it should be.

1596 Four Mile Creek Rd. | 289.272.1294 | platinummedicine.ca

SELLING YOUR HOME?

Some things to consider.. • Timeline Planning • Market Strategy • Research & Analysis • Home Preperation • Pricing Strategy • Staying Informed About Economic Trends

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



LuxuryHomes.com™

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

> Proud member of LuxuryHomes.com

ANGELIKA ZAMMIT REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD

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











- Packing of your house / Estate cleanup / **Decluttering services**
- World class videography, photos and drone footage, high quality hard cover print brochures & advertising in print media
- Large social media presence and extensive unique marketing techniques
- Your property will be globally listed gaining world wide exposure and will be seen on 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
- Wealth of knowledge

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





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*

