

The
Lake
Report

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Election 2025

Tony Baldinelli says he will be **champion** for wine industry

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Tony Baldinelli, Conservative Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake, is seeking a third term in the upcoming federal election, a seat he has held since 2019.

He's urging Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to vote Conservative to protect the region's wine industry, which he says is at risk because of tax changes by the Liberal government.

"The wine sector support program is a result of this government putting in place an escalator clause on the excise tax," Baldinelli said.

"That's why the wine sector, which was excise-free beforehand, now has to pay the excise tax. That's why the government has to create a one-sector support program."

In 2006, under Conservative finance minister Jim Flaherty, Canada introduced an excise tax exemption for wine made only from 100 per cent Canadian-grown products — a policy ad-

Continued on Page 4

Tories pledge \$35M for Shaw

Money will help with \$80M renovation of the Royal George Theatre



Ontario's tourism minister Stan Cho announces \$35 million in funding for the 110-year-old Royal George Theatre. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Paige Seburn | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

The Ontario government has committed funding for the restoration of the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre to elevate Niagara-on-the-Lake's standing as a tourism destination.

The province will provide \$35 million in funding, being paid over three years to support the rebuild, which is expected to create 550 new jobs and generate \$29 million in government revenues during construction, ac-

cording to an April 1 provincial news release.

The rebuild will cost between \$75-85 million in total, with exact details still being finalized, the Shaw's executive director and CEO Tim Jennings

told The Lake Report. The existing Royal George Theatre will close at the end of the year, with completion of the rebuild — part of the Shaw's

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Bikes for Farmworkers gets 45 donations

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Dozens of bikes rolled into the Old Virgil public school Saturday during Bikes For Farmworkers'

drive, helping replenish its shrinking supply for migrant farmworkers in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And after several calls from residents with bikes but no way to drop them off, the volunteer group is ar-

ranging pickups this week.

"We were really happy to get as many bikes as we did," said volunteer Dave Cox. "It was a great day, we're really thankful for the support of the community."


One generous donor from

Toronto, who has contributed in the past, delivered a whopping 15 bikes from an organization that repairs bikes for public use but had a surplus needing major

Continued on Page 3



Bike donations flooded in after last week's paper.




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Residents offer input on official plan update

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is undergoing one of its most significant policy updates, and it's been busy collecting the public's feedback and informing them of what's to come.

The municipality is updating its official plan, which guides community growth and future priorities. The process includes resident engagement via two public forums held in late March and early April.

A draft plan is expected to be presented to council in June, with public release and consultations over the summer.

Steve Burke, the town's manager of policy and heritage planning, told the crowd during the Old Town presentation that the City of Niagara Falls, along with other municipalities in the region, is following the same process on a similar timeline as NOTL.

"Planning processes are never-ending," Burke says. "When the province does one, the region has to catch up."



David Snelgrove discusses with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa how the urban design committee can contribute to the town's official plan update during the public information centre. PAIGE SEBURN

March 27's forum in St. Davids saw five residents over the two time periods attend, but April 1's forum in Old Town saw around 30 for the earlier session and close to 50 for the later one, said Christie New, the lord mayor's communications and executive assistant.

Urban design was a key issue raised during the two forums.

At the Old Town meeting, resident Peter Neame, vice chair of the urban design committee, voiced his concerns about the absence of urban design as a key theme in the town's list of priorities.

"Urban design is about the look and feel of the

town, how it works for people, how new developments fit into the existing framework," Neame said.

"(It) integrates the other themes, but I think it's important enough that it should be one of your themes on its own."

Burke responded and said that while it wasn't a planned theme, Neame's engagement shows it can and should be.

Neame said he was happy with Burke's response to his question, "because I'm concerned about the attitude of the town to urban design in general," he said.

"Many of the councillors say that they value our input, and right now, we aren't

making any input. And that's a frustration for us."

New NOTL residents Elaine and Jeff Sonoda attended the St. Davids forum to learn about the process and how to connect with town staff on local development.

"There's a lot of excitement happening in the town right now, with regards to certain developments, and I just want to stay informed," Elaine Sonoda said.

Many residents only recognize the official plan's impact when a nearby development affects them, so it's important to stay informed early, Burke said.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa agreed.

"We have a lot of residents who come from professional backgrounds, who have tons of experience in their professional world," he said.

"They're retired now, but they can maybe bring some of that to some of these topics."

Residents can still have their say until April 16 via an online survey, available at jointheconversationnotl.org.

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Willowbank hopes to win \$50K contest

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts is on the list of finalists up for a \$50,000 prize in a national competition taking place this spring — the prize money could help the school open up a third floor and take in more students, says its executive director.

Voting is open every single day to help Willowbank win the National Trust for Canada's Next Great Save competition.

On Monday, Willowbank was announced as a finalist along with 11 other historic community groups across Canada.

Willowbank, located at



You can vote for Willowbank every day until April 17. If declared winner, the school will receive a \$50K prize.

the Willowbank National Historic Site in Queenston, is the only finalist in Southern Ontario and one of only two in Ontario as a whole.

"The change this would afford us is huge," Katie Houghton, Willowbank's executive director, said.

Funds would go toward opening the restoration

school's third floor, allowing for a fire escape and ultimately allowing for more students at Willowbank.

"Really, the vote is an investment in not only our students but in heritage conservation, because our students go on to work in this field and protect Canada's heritage," Houghton said.

If enough students enroll, Willowbank will be able to apply and get approval to allow students to fund their tuition through OSAP, making the school more accessible to a wider range of students, she said.

"What makes Willowbank especially interesting is what goes on there," said Patricia Kell, executive director of the National Trust.

"The success of Willowbank is an indication of interest and commitment to making sure that this place and many other places are around many generations from now."

Those interested can vote for Willowbank online at nextgreatsave.nationaltrust-canada.ca/2025.

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Dozens of donations pour in after public appeal

Continued from Front Page

work, Cox said. In total, the group has received 45 new bikes this spring.

The donations will keep the program stocked for at least the next month or two, but Cox says the volunteer group will "see what happens after that."

But with increased awareness and signage around town, Cox said he expects donations to keep coming.

"Hopefully, people keep us in mind and as they uncover a bike that they have or decide they don't want to ride a bike anymore, that they'll think of us and give us a call."

Some donations also included nearly new bikes, which Cox says will help



Dave Cox repairs a donated bike at the old Virgil public school, which will go to a seasonal farm worker. The organization always accepts donations. PAIGE SEBURN

the volunteers save time and resources on repairs.

While the program focuses on refurbishing donated bikes, volunteers have explored other ways to increase supply, such as approaching Canadian Tire for help.

"When people come in (to Canadian Tire) to buy a bike, if they have an old bike, they could drop it off there and we would come and pick it up," said Cox. "But we haven't got any traction on that just yet."

Cox has high hopes for

the next bike drive, being held on Saturday, April 5, at the Old Virgil public school at 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"I think we'll get some more (bikes) for sure this week," he said.

For those unable to attend the drive, volunteers are also picking up bikes from locations across Niagara, just call 289-547-7442.

The shop sells bikes from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays and then on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while drop-offs and repairs run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday hours extend to 7 p.m. in May.

Bike drop-offs are welcome anytime at the Old Virgil Public School, any day of the week.

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Rebuild will modernize theatre and improve accessibility

Continued from Front Page

larger transformation — targeted for spring 2029.

Built during the First World War with clay "speed" tile designed to last only 25 years, the theatre now urgently needs repairs, as it welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually.

The goal of the new, bigger rebuild is to modernize the space while preserving its historic charm, adding 20 per cent more seating, improved accessibility and expanded rehearsal and workspaces. Currently, patrons needing accessible washrooms must exit the building and go down an alley.

"We are so grateful to the province," Jennings

said, adding that this move doesn't just invest in the theatre — it's a major boost for the cultural tourism industry.

The festival, as a whole, drives almost \$300 million in tourism activity each year and the theatre generates more than \$70 million in economic impact annually, Jennings said.

Premier Doug Ford first announced the idea of funding the rebuild during a campaign stop at Niagara District Airport on Feb. 8, though details were unclear at the time. He later confirmed that, if re-elected, the province will fund the rebuild.

"A successful Shaw festival theater goes hand in hand with a successful

Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa in an interview.

"The Shaw's been a big player here since the early '70s, which has really built the reputation of this town to be the center of cultural significance in wine country."

It's especially nice to witness, he said, after he and Coun. Erwin Wiens relentlessly made calls, wrote letters, held meetings, attended Queen's Park — and did whatever it took to secure this funding.

"Every time I saw the minister of tourism, or the premier, I reminded them how important the Royal George was to town," Zalepa said. "It was a full-court press. It was all hands on deck."

Minister of tourism Stan Cho agrees about the Shaw's legacy, calling it a "cultural icon" in the release.

Conservative candidate for Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake, Tony Baldinelli, said this is a move he has always been in support of.

"And I'll continue to do that," he said. "The Shaw is an economic engine and driver for the tourism community and for Niagara-on-the-Lake."

With additional space and new features, the Shaw plans to add new performances, learning and outreach programs and visitor experiences — like tours — to further encourage tourism in the Niagara region.

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Incumbent **Baldinelli** focused on wine taxes

Continued from Front Page

vocated by Niagara West's Member of Parliament, Dean Allison, in 2005.

Baldinelli says this move helped the wine industry grow — until 2017, when the Liberal federal government made it so that excise taxes on alcohol, including wine, go up every year automatically based on inflation.

Australia then challenged Canada's exemptions for Canadian wines at the World Trade Organization in 2018, leading to the two countries reaching a deal in 2020, where Canada agreed to end the exemption by June 30, 2022.

The wine sector support program was then introduced by the Liberal government in June 2022, launching in July 2022, to help wineries deal with these tax changes.

The program was extended in March 2024 with an added \$177 million over three years until March 31, 2027.

Baldinelli says these tax changes are bad for the wine industry.

"It's a huge impact not only on the grape and wine



Conservative candidate (incumbent) Tony Baldinelli.

sector, on the growers and the wineries," he said.

"That's all put at risk because of this government's failed taxation policies."

The removal of the excise tax exemption and the yearly tax increases have made things more expensive for wine producers, which could hurt an industry with already small profits, he said.

Baldinelli, who started his political career in 1988 as a legislative assistant to then-MP Rob Nicholson, says he's not against the idea of a snap election. He believes it could actually help him.

"The advantage of incumbency is that you know the riding a bit better," he said.

Baldinelli first ran for federal office in 2000 as a candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party and came in third.

Then, he won in 2019 for the Conservative Party and was re-elected in 2021 with 37.9 per cent of the vote, defeating Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser, who got 33.5 per cent.

His political experience goes beyond elections. After working for Nicholson, he spent two and a half years with a Conservative cabinet minister during the

Mike Harris government at Queen's Park, then five and a half years in political consulting with Hill and Knowlton Strategies in Toronto.

Baldinelli then returned home to Niagara Falls, where he spent 18 years with the Niagara Parks Commission, where he became senior manager of communications and stakeholder relations, before being elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2021.

Conservative leader Erin O'Toole also appointed him as special advisor on tourism recovery in September 2020.

Currently, Baldinelli serves as the shadow minister for tourism under Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre.

"My hope is that we elect a majority conservative government," he said.

"And restore that promise of Canada, so that Canadians can begin working again and earning powerful pay checks, living in safe neighbourhoods. And more importantly, see that their kids have that opportunity as well."

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Andrea Kaiser readies to fight for Canada's sovereignty

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After the 2021 federal election, Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser said the only thing that would entice her to run again was if Mark Carney were the Liberal leader and Pierre Poilievre were the opposition.

That day has finally come: Kaiser is the face of the Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake Liberals in this April's election.

She said she wasn't planning to run in a federal election for the third time, but the final push came as the current U.S. administration was beginning to challenge Canada's sovereignty.

"When I looked around and saw the threat Canadians are under — with our economy and our sovereignty — I just knew I couldn't stand by. I had to step up," Kaiser told The Lake Report.

This snap election was certainly required, Kaiser said, and she was excited to take the lead for the Liberals in this riding.

"We're not negotiating our sovereignty and we're going to build a strong Canada," she said.

"This is a critical moment



Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser.

in time that none of us have experienced."

She's no stranger to the economic side of Canadian politics.

Kaiser has run as the Liberal candidate for NOTL's riding twice before, once in 2019 and again in 2021.

In 2019, Kaiser received the most votes ever for a Liberal candidate in the history of what was then the Niagara Falls riding.

Two years later, Kaiser took home 33.5 per cent of the vote.

Kaiser currently holds the position of NOTL regional councillor, representing the municipality at the Niagara Region, winning the elec-

tion in 2022 with 44 per cent of votes.

She is ready to put up a fight again.

"For this election, for this moment in time, I feel like it was made for me," she said.

"All of my experience over the last 30 years in business has put me in the front as really the only choice for our riding."

Kaiser is well-known in NOTL for her involvement in the wine community as the daughter of Inniskillin co-founder Karl Kaiser and proprietor of her brand, Drea's Wine Co.

In the past, Kaiser has been chair of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake and

retail manager at Reif Estate Winery.

"My dad was a pioneer for the Canadian wine industry and modern Canadian winemaking transformed our community and Canada, so I want to make sure that Niagara takes center stage in Canada in terms of our prosperity," she said.

"Everything that this riding needs, I have touched — and I am ready to lead and take action."

In the last two years, Kaiser worked in regional government to stop wasteful giveaways from taxpayers to developers and asked for help reopening Lakeshore public lands to access Lakeshore park, she said.

"I have been delivering for our community for many years," she said.

"Quite frankly, I look across the table at the (Conservative MP) and I can't think of one thing that Tony (Baldinelli) has taken for the betterment of our community and economy."

Going forward, Kaiser's focus will be on Canada's economy and sovereignty, she said.

"I'm going to, when elected, help unite Canada and we're going to make Canada stronger than ever."

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NDP candidate Shannon Mitchell prioritizes workers' rights

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Shannon Mitchell, a two-term trustee with the District School Board of Niagara, is running for Member of Parliament in the Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake riding as the New Democratic Party candidate, with a platform focused on workers' rights and affordable housing in NOTL.

Mitchell has worked in politics for more than two decades: She has worked with NDP MPP Wayne Gates since 2004, holding a directorial role in all his campaigns since 2014.

"I've talked, already, over the last year, to thousands of voters," she said. "I have a good understanding of our community."

Elected to the school board in 2018 and re-elected in 2022, Mitchell says her role helped her understand what it's like to be a candidate in an election while also deepening her knowl-



New Democratic Party candidate Shannon Mitchell.

edge of the region's education issues and community needs.

She says her experience in both education and campaigning will help her connect with voters.

"I have that experience both as a candidate and as a campaign manager," she said. "But this is my first time running for higher

office."

Mitchell supports the strengthening of social programs such as universal healthcare, public dental care, pharmacare and more accessible childcare.

But a key focus for her is affordable housing, an issue she says is often overlooked in NOTL.

"The NDP is the only

party that wants the government to get back in the business of building deeply affordable housing," she said, adding that this could mean senior housing in NOTL or housing for young families.

She also emphasized the importance of preserving the town's heritage while adapting to change.

"I've worked alongside Wayne (Gates) when we fought to save Parliament Oak and when we fought against inappropriate development projects in the community."

Mitchell says her commitment to workers' rights stems from personal experience: "It really founded who I am as a person."

"I'm a worker and I grew up working class," she said. "My dad was a strong trade unionist my entire life. He was one of the people in our community, when there was a manufacturing crisis here, who lost his job to overseas investment."

This background, she says, shaped her values

and her determination to advocate for working people and led her to support the NDP — "the only party that has ever really stepped up to protect workers and to fight for workers," she said.

Mitchell, 39, said she is also proud to be a young woman stepping into this space and said representation matters in politics.

"There are not enough women involved in politics, especially not younger women. So, to kind of, have this opportunity, it feels really special."

Mitchell sees the snap election as an advantage for non-incumbents, leveling the playing field and offering a chance to discuss pressing issues, like job protection and the rising cost of living — and, top of mind for many, tariffs.

"Our closest ally, longest trading partner, (the U.S.) is no longer reliable," she said. "We need to be prepared for these changes, to build a more reliable, resilient economy that puts working people first, rather than the

wealthiest in our country." Mitchell draws on her role as a parent to fuel her policy priorities.

"As a parent, I want my son to have a future here in Niagara," she said.

If elected, Mitchell's first priority is community engagement — speaking with residents and organizations to further understand their needs.

"I'd just like to make sure that we're doing a good job representing our community and being a strong local voice," she said.

In her first year, if elected, she aims to establish a permanent, accessible constituency office in NOTL and develop a strategic plan based on residents' priorities gathered through community engagement.

"(NOTL residents) want someone who's going to be there for them when they have a big community issue or a personal issue. Someone who picks up their phone and someone who's present in the community."

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Welland Thorold Power Line Notice of preferred route and invitation to community open house #2

March 2025

Hydro One has selected the preferred route for the proposed Welland Thorold Power Line, a new project that once built, will help meet electricity demands and support future growth in the Niagara region.

Route selection

Since November 2024, we have been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* to build a new 230-kilovolt, double-circuit transmission line. This proposed transmission line will extend from our existing Hydro One corridor in Thorold and connect into the Crowland Transformer Station (TS) in Welland.

As part of the Class EA process, we evaluated several route alternatives. These included using portions of an existing transmission corridor near Crowland TS, upgrading an existing transmission line between Crowland TS and Allanburg TS in Thorold, and building a new corridor north of Schisler Road in Welland. During our evaluation, we gathered environmental and technical data along with input from Indigenous communities, community members, elected officials, interest groups and businesses.

Based on this information and the feedback we received, route segments A1, B2 and C1/C2 have been selected and together make up the preferred route for the new transmission line (see map).

Planning process

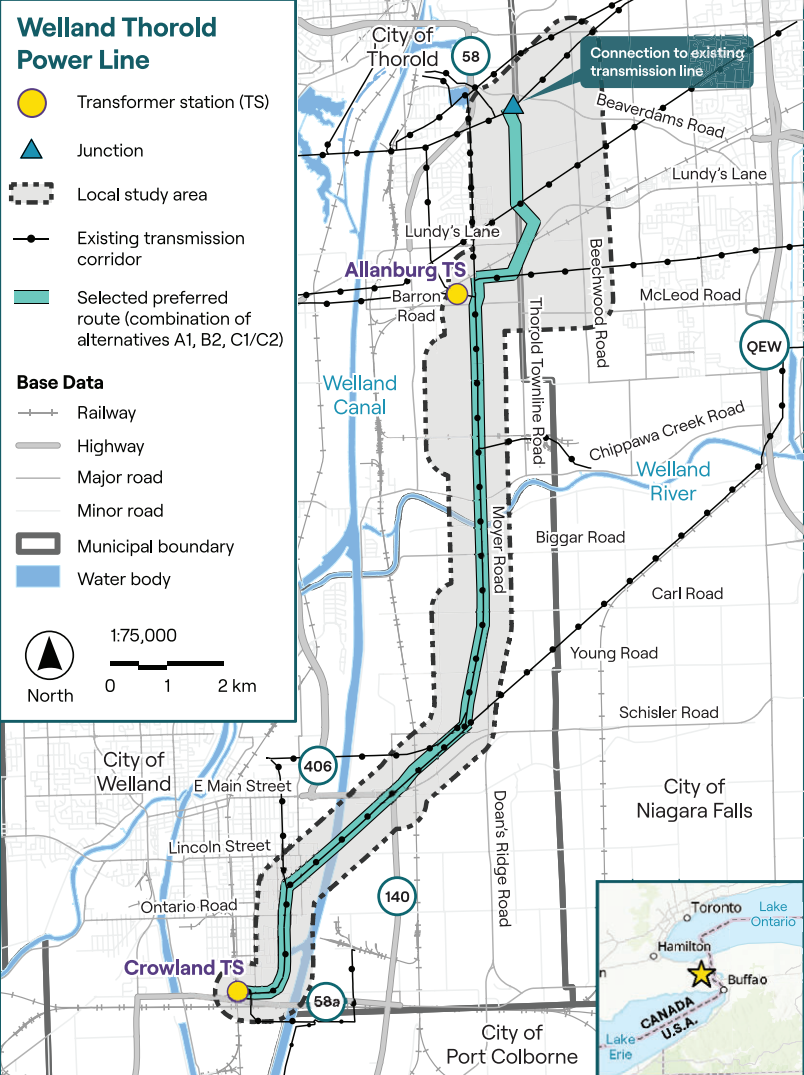
The Class EA is expected to be complete at the end of 2025. The project will also require approval from the Ontario Energy Board under Section 92 (Leave to Construct).

We invite you to attend our upcoming community open house to learn more about the project, speak with our project team and share your feedback.

Visit our project website, www.HydroOne.com/WTPL.

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). Personal information you submit will become part of the available public record unless you request that your personal information remain confidential.

Community open house #2
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Royal Canadian Legion,
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Skilled figure skaters perform with pre-juniors

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

The NOTL Skating Club showcased its provincial qualifiers, Ophelia Xie and Samantha Frydryk, during its Pre-Junior Challenge and Star Showcase on Sunday at Meridian Credit Union Arena.

The event celebrated the work and talent of Xie and Frydryk, giving younger skaters a glimpse of what competition looks like. Attendees packed the stands to watch 27 pre-junior skaters perform routines developed over three months alongside intermediate and senior athletes.

“When they step onto that ice with a crowd watching, it’s transformative. It’s not just skating — it’s building confidence they’ll carry into hockey, ringette, or whatever life takes them,” said coach Judi Boyle-Krzczkowski.

Xie and Frydryk opened the showcase with their provincial championship routines after returning from Stratford’s 2025 Skate



Intermediate skaters spent three months developing spring routines. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Ontario Provincial Championships, but came short of becoming medalists.

Both narrowly missed medals but achieved top 12 placements in fields exceeding 100 competitors.

“They skated beautifully and ended their season strong,” said Boyle-Krzczkowski.

The pair’s performance set the tone for pre-junior skaters like Brooklyn Thwaites and Emily Jardine, who demonstrated STAR 1–2 level skills to the Skate Canada judge in attendance.

Intermediate and senior divisions followed, featuring competitors who started at the Skating Club during COVID-19, which disrupted

some of their early training.

Awards recognized achievements across skill levels, including Most Improved, Sportsmanlike and Skater of the Year honours.

The club has grown exponentially since 2022, adding 10 skaters per recreational program and expanding its coaching staff. Its pre-junior division now includes 27 athletes, with spring registration inquiries surging.

“After the showcase, parents flooded us with questions about off-season programs. That’s the best feedback — when families want to keep skating because their child loved the experience,” said Boyle-Krzczkowski.

The club collaborates closely with local hockey teams and arena staff, fostering what Boyle-Krzczkowski called “a special, team-oriented environment.”

“Even though Ophelia and Sam competed against each other at provincials, their support for one another was exemplary. That’s how we operate here: No one is just out for themselves,” Boyle-Krzczkowski said.

“We’ve had coaches from other clubs praise our sportsmanship, and that’s what I’m most proud of.”

Registration for fall programs opens in mid-August. More information can be found at notliskatingclub.ca.

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Winery celebrates Simpson's Olympics success

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Fresh off winning two bronze medals at the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Carter Simpson will be at the centre of a celebration on April 10 at Konzelmann Estate Winery.

The free celebration, running from 4 to 7 p.m., offers Niagara-on-the-Lake residents a chance to meet Simpson, congratulate him, get autographs and have a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

Simpson, 31, earned



Join Simpson April 10 at Konzelmann winery.

bronze in alpine skiing in both the Super G and Intermediate Slalom in Sestriere, Italy, earlier this month, and finished fourth in the Intermediate Giant Slalom.

His mother, AnnLiz Simpson, called the experience “emotional” and said seeing him compete on the world stage was unforgettable.

“Konzelmann has and will always celebrate what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake so special,” said Coun. Andrew Niven, director of marketing and hospitality at Konzelmann.

Niven said Carter’s unwavering dedication and passion for his sport inspired the winery to honour him.

“Qualities that inspire us all,” he said.

To view Simpson’s full race results and times, visit results.specialolympics.org/world-games-turin-2025/competition-schedule/alpine-skiing.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



The NOTL Wolves U18 rep team works on drills Monday night during a practice in Virgil. This weekend they compete in the provincial finals in Georgetown. It’s the team’s second year in a row making the provincial finals. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

U18 Wolves in OMHA finals for second straight year

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

With 40 wins and only two losses this season, the members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves U18 rep team have one more major milestone on their radar: bringing home a provincial hockey championship.

They’ll kick off that quest on Friday afternoon in Georgetown when they faceoff against the Mitchell Meteors in their first match of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship tourney.

The nucleus of this U18 team competed in the same tourney last year in Kingston and came up a bit short in three really close games.

So, with that experience under their belts and several new players on the roster this year as older players moved on, coach Adam Whyte’s Wolves are on a mission.

“These kids, they just want to win,” Whyte said in an interview. “They’re amazing.”

“They play hard and they’re having a lot of fun doing it. A lot of these kids have been friends for their whole minor hockey career.”

There’s no minor hockey in NOTL after U18, so for older kids “graduating” this season, the chance to play for an OMHA championship is the pinnacle. And win or lose, they’re going to give it their all, Whyte said.

This team has done a lot of winning this season. With a 40-2-6 record in league and tournament play (including winning two tourneys), the Wolves know how to kick it up a notch.

Whyte figures they have a solid recipe for success, with the best goaltending tandem in the league in Quinten Davis and Nick Sattarzadeh, “really strong” defence and, up front, “we score a lot of goals.”

They qualified for the Georgetown OMHA tourney by ousting Pelham in three games, with a 5-3 win, 2-2 tie and a 5-0 victory in the finale. That made them Niagara District champs, but they’re gunning for more.

“We’re not a bigger, physical team, we just work hard,” said Whyte.

“These boys are just gamers. When it becomes a tournament and there’s something on the line, they just bring their compete to another level.”

“They are just awesome kids who work hard, love to play and love to represent Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

Minor hockey association president Peter Flynn is very happy with how the NOTL program overall has improved over the past few years and he’s proud of what this U18 team has accomplished.

While several NOTL teams have won provincial titles over the years, he noted this group, some of whom have played together since they were eight or nine, has come close but just missed out on winning it all.

“They were there last year and lost, so that experience will help them,” Flynn said. “They’re looking pretty good based on their performance” all season.

Whyte said with injuries the team’s full roster of 14 skaters hasn’t been available for a lot of games so the Wolves had a short bench most of the year.

“But it’s conditioned our kids and everyone’s got a lot of ice time.”

Still, he said they’re not taking anything for granted.

A 4-3 loss to Fort Erie on March 2 during the playoff

round-robin and their 2-2 tie versus Pelham on March 22 actually helped refocus his squad, which had dominated many teams during the season.

“It just kind of woke them up and helped them realize that they’re going to have to work for this, that it’s not just going to be given to them.”

He’s confident that will serve them well in the short but intense OMHA tourney.

“It’s going to be a difficult tournament, but it’s going to be good hockey,” Whyte said.

For those NOTL players who will be wrapping up their minor hockey careers, “hopefully we can send these kids off and give them something to remember for a long time.”

The U18 rep team includes: Ethan Dulas, Nate Ditto, Eddie Friesen, Logan Rossi, Sheldon Walker, Devin Hunter, Dylan Price, Jacob Dulas, Mitch Olsen, Noah Whyte, Easton Andres, Calo Zambito, Josh Dulas, Jacob Cook, plus goaltenders Quinten Davis and Nick Sattarzadeh.

Whyte’s coaching staff includes assistants Ryan Parsons and Justin York, and trainer Glen Davis.



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Contributed by Patty Garriock

“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”
- Henri Matisse

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The big boom

With warmer weather on the way, the big thaw has begun in the Niagara Peninsula. As seen from the outlook on Niagara River Parkway in Queenston, huge chunks of ice float down the Niagara River on April 1, likely a product of ice formed during the winter at the bottom of Niagara Falls. More ice should come down the river this spring after the Lake Erie-Niagara River ice boom is removed.
DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Editorials

Wild West of Wine series aims to promote fairness

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

Last week’s first installment in our series on the “Wild West” of NOTL’s wine industry highlights a much larger issue: the town’s failure to enforce its own — possibly outdated — bylaws. Again and again, we see lawsuits against the town, from the pickleball noise fiasco to the more recent lawsuit filed by a neighbor of Konzelmann Winery over event noise. The town lost the pickleball case, and it’s likely to lose again because it’s not difficult to prove that it

routinely neglects its own laws — sometimes even granting permissions that contradict them. We found the title of our series fitting because, in many ways, the town seems to allow businesses to operate unchecked until a formal complaint is made. In other words, there’s no sheriff in town, and the saloons are getting rowdy. Then, after the damage is done, the town scrambles to clean up the mess — while our mayor insists this is the mark of a well-functioning municipality. But the people of NOTL are smarter than that. Since publishing our story

on Ferox Winery’s apparent disregard for town bylaws, we’ve already heard from dozens of concerned residents — and politicians. The winery’s owner, whose parents are seasoned industry professionals, should know better and should be operating within the guidelines of a farm winery. Plain and simple. But to be clear, the goal of this series isn’t to shut down a local business — we don’t want that. What we want is meaningful change that modernizes NOTL’s zoning bylaws and ensures they reflect the realities of 2025. That will help wineries of all sizes flourish.

Ferox has supported this paper in the past, but that doesn’t matter. Our job is to report the news and push for accountability, no matter who spends ad dollars with us. While politicians like our mayor may claim the system isn’t broken, it often takes just one well-researched article to prove otherwise. That’s why we’re calling on council to take a hard look at its enforcement policies and zoning bylaws. Let’s create a level playing field for all wineries, where small and large operators alike can thrive — fairly.
editor@niagaranow.com

Oosterhoff presence was an insult to Shaw’s values

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

Is it just us, or was something deeply off about a hardline Conservative Christian seizing a photo op with the Shaw Festival? On one side, we have a diverse, progressive cultural institution that has long championed inclusion, artistic freedom and celebrated perspectives that challenge the status quo. Shaw Festival has built its reputation on bold storytelling, tackling themes that question oppressive ideologies — including the very ones Conservatives like Sam Oosterhoff cling to. Shaw himself was an atheist who openly criticized religion, and his plays regularly pushed back

against rigid moral dogma. And it’s not just history — the Shaw Festival defines itself by these values today. Its website (https://www.shawfest.com/about/edi/) proudly states its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. In 2021, it even established a diversity, equity and inclusion task force to ensure a more inclusive culture, one that “nurtures and supports everyone working here.” Shaw employs artists from diverse racial and sexual identities and stages productions that challenge right-wing ideologies that continue to create systemic barriers for marginalized groups. Then on the other side, we have Sam Oosterhoff, a politician who has spent his

career opposing LGBTQ+ rights, same-sex marriage and abortion access — aligning himself with groups that have compared abortion to the Holocaust. He has fought against gender-neutral language in legislation and has been heavily criticized by the queer community for his regressive views. And yet, here he is, grinning for the cameras at a \$35 million funding announcement for Shaw Festival, as if he has the slightest understanding of what it represents. Who from the Tories thought it was a good idea to let this theocratic lapdog stand alongside an institution that prides itself on diversity and progress? And was the Shaw Festi-

val aware he’d be there? Likely not, because his mere presence runs counter to Shaw’s values statement, which promises to cultivate an inclusive, equitable environment. We wonder what the Shaw Festival has to say about him being there. Maybe we’re reading too much into it. But you’ll never see Oosterhoff standing beside this newspaper. So yes, we’re thrilled that Shaw is receiving \$35 million in funding — arts organizations need and deserve public support. But it was disturbing to see Oosterhoff pretending to stand for Shaw. Because he doesn’t. Not for a second. It felt like a slap in the face to the very principles Shaw claims to uphold.
editor@niagaranow.com



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

What’s going on with Zalepa, bylaws and the official plan?

Dear editor:

Not only does Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa yet again trot out his time-worn blame on previous councils for what he says is an outdated official plan but, incredibly, disagrees with Maria Mavridis, Andrew Niven and Erwin Wiens that if a business isn’t operating legally it should pause any illegal operations until it addresses the concerns.

Zalepa doesn’t seem to mind the business continuing with illegal operations while working with the town to come into compliance? (“Wild West of Wine: Ferox winery case tests NOTL’s zoning rules,” March 27).

And if nobody complains to the town, I gather they can operate illegally indefinitely, and our lord mayor is okay with that? How much business tax is the town foregoing due to lax enforcement?

From the owner’s relationship with two major estate winery families, one can certainly surmise they knew and know precisely what the by-laws allow, but rather than complying, they decided to operate illegally, apparently for the past few years, according to the article.

A bylaw system which is ignored and only acted upon by complaint is simply not fair to other compliant wineries, nor the tax-paying residents of NOTL.

And, by the way, the NOTL official plan was updated in 2019 and held up by the region updating its official plan, which was passed in 2022. It is now 2025 and Zalepa is just getting around to finalizing it now?

I wonder if a salmonella outbreak occurred due to the kitchen facilities in an unregulated, uninspected farm winery, could the town be sued for negligence?

Bob Bader
NOTL

Happy to see Marotta win against public smear campaign

Dear editor:

Nice to hear some positive news about Benny Marotta. Perhaps all those that both openly as well as anonymously dragged the Marotta family name through years of mud and by an unwarranted and malicious public smear campaign can now step up and offer to pay their fair share of any compensatory damages that may be awarded by the courts in the defamation case.

They can also pony up a proportional share of my property taxes to cover the costs associated with all the town costs wasted in advancing unnecessary objections to Marotta’s King Street hotel, the gorgeous new Stone Eagle Winery, and the beautifully-designed Rand Estate — projects that all privately owned properties funded by Marotta supporting stunning new developments with significant tax base infusions that have been delayed by nimcompoops.

Marotta brings new jobs as well, which could come in handy for all those who may need a new hobby besides beating up on the Marotta family.

I truly hope that the Marotta family walks tall and keeps moving forward with more local projects, but under less hostile conditions.

I also like the humour in all of this.

Peter Rusin
St. Davids

A hardened border brings harder times



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist

That was fast.

“It’s like a light switch,” confessed the Queen Street store mom. “And it just switched off. I mean, last week.”

She echoes what others are seeing, worrying about and sometimes articulating to a wandering columnist and his fur-challenged pooch. Traffic’s thinned. The yellow and green licence plates are fewer. Sales have trailed off. Ugh.

Look at border traffic. Wait times to cross from Trumpistan into Canada last weekend were down to three minutes on the nearby bridges.

Canadians may be shunning American produce, retailers and booze — for reasons of patriotism. But why are Americans suddenly afraid to burst across?

I asked a few who did. And got answers like this ...

“It was clear sailing until we talked to the border

guy,” Jamie from Ohio told me. “He said we shouldn’t even think about bringing anything back. And that we’d need valid ID to go home. Plus, he was a miserable SOB. Never seen that before. More like some soldier or bad cop.”

Everyone says it. The border’s hardened.

The orange guy has turned the world on its noggin. Last week, big auto tariffs to match the steel and aluminum levies. This week came “Liberation Day” with reciprocity tariffs. The stock market’s been having a cow. The benchmark S&P sailed into correction territory (a drop of at least 10 per cent), and a bear market could be on the way (a 20 per cent plunge) because of, well, you know.

The policy of tariffs and protectionism was last practised leading up to the Dirty Thirties. Look how that turned out. A bad economy was forced into a global depression as the U.S. ignited a trade war.

Only the terrible stimulus of a world war got us out of it. This is failed economics, yet here we are. Worry on Queen. Lonely bridges. Anxiety over what’s next.

Here’s how one of my fav Bay Street economists, Derek Holt, put it to clients of



his bank last week: “Greater government interference in commerce is about to be unleashed and in ways that create untold consequences for the economy, for financial markets, for supply chains, for job security facing millions of workers, and for inflation. Protectionist walls of the sort that Trump is setting out to build haven’t been seen since the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Act.”

So, what comes next? What should you do?

Undoubtedly things will get worse in the next few weeks as layoffs happen, confidence wanes and the economy shrinks a little. Once the election’s over, serious talks can begin to try to resurrect Canada’s favoured trading status with the Americans. That will take time. Meanwhile financial markets

will probably sell off.

A recession is at least six months of negative growth, and it’s coming. So trim expenses and (of course) shop Canadian. Locally.

As for your retirement accounts, TFSAs, non-registered investments and kids’ RESPs, just chill. A balanced and diversified portfolio should have a third of its growth assets (hopefully all ETFs, not individual stocks) in the Canadian market, a third international and a third U.S. Keep it that way. America will not be punished if you sell American assets. But you will.

The prospects of growth in the States are large once Trump stops breaking things. Corporate and personal taxes will be cut, and the tariffs that hurt us are designed to put America First. So a good defence is to stay invested.

If you are tempted to sell because you’re scared of the next few months or years, don’t. Never, ever sell into a storm. Don’t take paper losses and make them real. And if you’ve been sitting on cash waiting for things to get cheaper, here she be.

Now, go buy something.

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

garth@garth.ca



This week’s riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: **FILM COMPOSERS**

This “Jurassic Park” composer was a studio pianist on such films as “West Side Story” & “To Kill a Mockingbird”

Last issue: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Clue: A modification of a Portuguese guitar, it became popular in Hawaii in the late 19th century.

Answer: What is a ukelele?

Answered first by: Lynda Collet

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Sue Rautenberg, Claudia Grimwood, Jane Morris, Randie Topps, Mike Gander, Jeff Lake, Jane Andersen, Bob Wheatley, Howard Jones, Alison Parsons, Catherine Clarke, Lynda Hosty, Esther VanGorder, Wade Durling, Nancy Rocca, Jim Dandy, Michelle Gallacher, Vivian Wiens, Katie Reimer, Rob Hutchison, Hedy Wiebe, Marla Percy, Sylvia Wiens, Edna Groff, David Spencer, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith

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Examining the latest heritage conservation district study



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Those who live in many parts of Old Town should have, by now, received a letter from the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake explaining the provisions of a recently passed bylaw which purports to largely “freeze” development in a large chunk of NOTL’s Old Town for a period of one year, commencing from March 27.

By way of background, last fall the town engaged the services of the Ottawa-based firm, Cultural Spaces, to conduct a study associated with the expansion of Old Town’s heritage conservation district.

Now, one of the challenges to undertaking a study such as this in Old Town is the sheer volume of properties that may represent a potential contribution to its heritage character. Moreover, the dispersal of

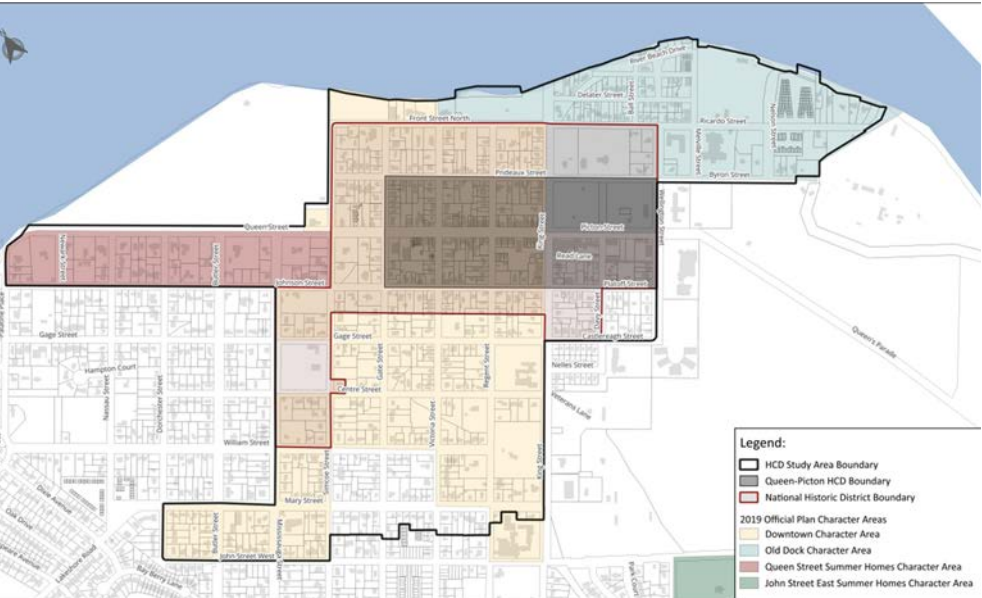
such properties ranges from clustered to isolated single “island” examples.

Where does one begin and end such a study? Some geographic limitations had to be established if it was to be properly completed.

Thus, the first order of business for the consultants, with the able assistance of town heritage staff and a number of volunteers, was to define the boundaries within which it appeared that at least 25 per cent of the properties potentially make a heritage contribution — 25 per cent being one of the fundamental criteria for a heritage conservation district.

Once these boundaries were drawn and a geographic area defined, the Cultural Spaces folks could proceed with the next phases of the study.

To ensure a study area remains static — that is all the potential heritage assets are protected for the duration of the project — section 40 of the Ontario Heritage Act provides that a municipality may pass a bylaw to prohibit or set limitations on the alteration of a property, or properties, including the removal or demolition of existing buildings/structures and the construction of new buildings/structures within



Old Town is divided up into a handful of key areas of interest for heritage conservation, with each area containing its own rules and regulations around development.

“Allow me to observe that this particular bylaw is ... remarkably flexible — almost to the point of raising the question of whether it will accomplish the protection necessary for a successful study.”

the heritage conservation district study area.

Without this protection, there is the possibility that development could adversely impact the consultant’s research and derived conclusions, thereby altering the validity of the study, potentially rendering its recommendations and the subsequent heritage district conservation plan suspect.

Let’s drill down a little further within the new bylaw.

First, if your property is already heritage designated under a Part IV individual designation, it is deemed to already be “protected” with the accompanying provisions under the Heritage Act, which requires heritage permit(s) for any proposed alteration, etc. As a result, the new bylaw does not apply to these properties.

Nor does it apply to properties that, within the three years before the March 27 passage of the new bylaw,

received an official plan amendment, zoning bylaw and/or site plan approval.

Similarly, properties that have received council settlements of Ontario Land Tribunal appeals are likewise exempt.

In the existing Part V Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District, minor alterations that fall under the delegated authority of town staff approval (bylaw 2024-022) are permissible, as is work described in pre-

existing heritage permits and permit applications that have undergone pre-consultation with town staff prior to the passage of the bylaw.

Interior alterations may be performed, emergency repairs to existing buildings or structures can be undertaken and, subject to planning approval, accessory buildings (such as a garage) and second units may be constructed.

Finally, according to part five of the new bylaw, in the event that a building permit application for a property within the study area was deemed by planning staff to be “complete” on or before March 27, the town may elect to issue the associated building permit.

Allow me to observe that this particular bylaw is, in comparison to many I have seen from other North American jurisdictions to defer development during a conservation district study, remarkably flexible — almost to the point of raising the question of whether it will accomplish the protection necessary for a successful study.

I hope it does, but we shall see.

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



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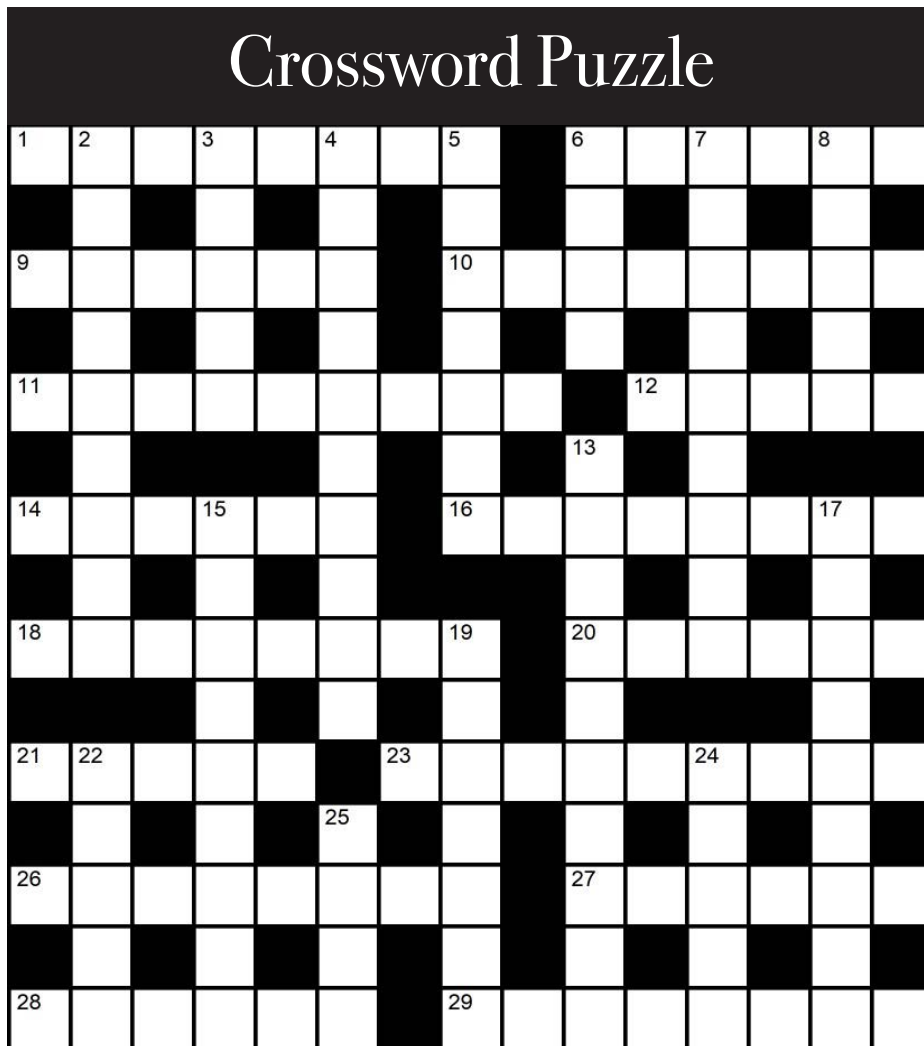


Have some fun

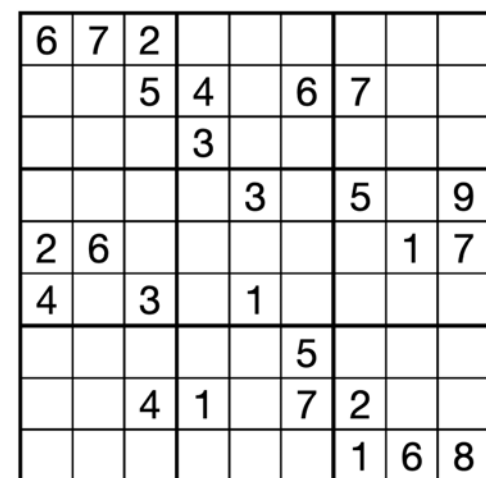
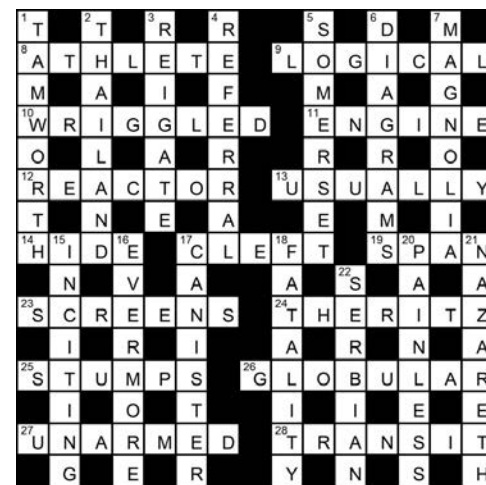
1. Pulled a face (8)
6. Deeply felt (6)
9. Business combination (6)
10. Rain gently (8)
11. Orts (9)
12. Hangs around (5)
14. Undiluted (6)
16. Units of sound intensity (8)
18. Weird things (8)
20. Charge with a crime (6)
21. Expect (5)
23. Stopped (6,3)
26. Fighting axe (8)
27. Scheduled (6)
28. Public address (6)
29. Rule out in advance (8)

2. Returned to office (2-7)
3. Power (5)
4. Murderous painter of "The Supper at Emmaus" (10)
5. Craved (7)
6. Calvary inscription (1,1,1,1)
7. Retired (4,2,3)
8. Team race (5)
13. Providing grounds for a lawsuit (10)
15. Bring into being (9)
17. Midlands cathedral city (9)
19. Conceited and snobbish (5-2)
22. Shout with joy (5)
24. Whimsically funny (5)
25. Sprint (4)

Crossword Puzzle

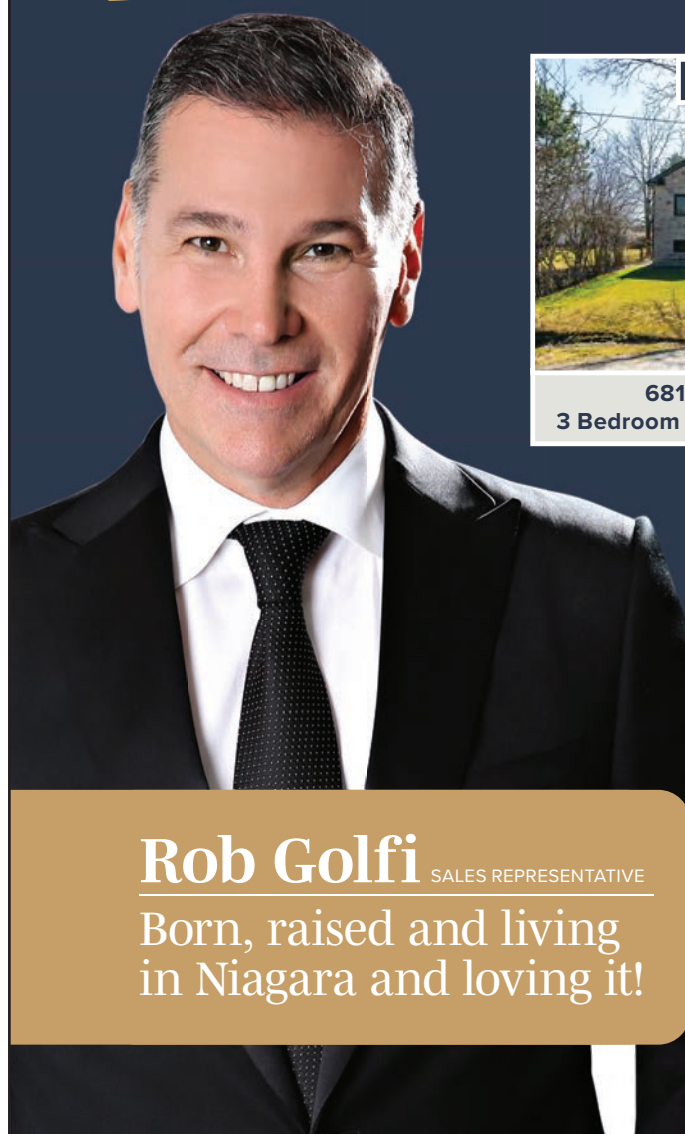


Last issue's answers



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The joys of spring, in sights and sounds



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

Spring is here! With all the gloomy skies recently, you may not be feeling the joy of spring yet, but as the old Tony Bennett song says, “Grey skies are gonna clear up. Put on a happy face.”

No matter how many winters you have experienced, the coming of spring always quickens the heart. After a long winter of grey skies, snowfall after snowfall, and slushy parking lots, the thought of a warm spring day is a welcome relief.

The joy of spring isn’t just about the change in weather; it’s about the profound sense of rebirth that touches everything around us.

It is a season that appeals to all our senses. From the blossoming flowers to the songs of birds returning from migration, spring reminds us of the beauty of fresh beginnings.

Growing up on a farm, northwest of Stratford, the thought of spring brings many memories to mind of the things that I enjoy



One of Joanne Young’s favourite signs of the start of spring is the scent of all the spring flowers as they begin to open.

the most about spring. It amazes me how those simple reminders of spring still mean so much.

Of course, the first sign that we all look forward to is the return of the robins. Spotting your first robin of the season has a way of cheering the heart, letting you know that warmer days are ahead. With the robin’s return, you know that the first warm spring rain, the rain that brings the earthworms to the surface, is not too far off. A day that will bring much joy to any robin.

Another sound of spring that transports me back to my childhood is the distinct “conk-la-ree” sound of the red-winged blackbird. As my five siblings and I would stand at the end of the lane, waiting for the school bus to pick us up, we would hear the trill of the returning red-winged blackbird and know that spring had truly arrived.

When it comes to a different sense of spring from childhood, and still is to this day, is the sweet scent of soil being cultivated. It is that same scent you get when you walk into a greenhouse early spring. You wouldn’t think that the smell of the soil would be something that stands out, but it does.

Every spring we would plant a huge vegetable garden that would provide much of our food each year for my family of eight.

Early spring we would start preparing the soil for planting. I always enjoyed tilling the soil. I don’t think that I realized at that time

that soil had a certain scent in the spring, but every year now, as I start working the soil in my garden, it brings me right back to my childhood.

Then there is the scent of all the spring flowers as they begin to open. That perfume of hyacinths and daffodils that greet you as soon as you step outside. Or, the unmistakable fragrance of primroses, lily-of-the-valley, lilacs and mockorange.

After a dreary winter, what could be more welcoming than brightly coloured flowers? From the bright red of tulips to the brilliant yellow of forsythia to the vivid purple of grape hyacinths. These cheery colours are what help us to shed off the layers of the past season and embrace spring.

What signs get you excited for spring? What do you look for every year to tell you that spring is here? Make sure you make time to get out in your gardens to experience spring.

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 pleased to be 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 notlhotsociety.com/classes.



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‘Elect Campbell for Town Rep’ 1840

Elections signs of the past were not as bright and colourful as they are today.

This 1840 election banner is made of satin and was used to show support for Edward C. Campbell during the elections for the first parliament of the province of Canada. Campbell won by one vote against Henry J. Boulton. Boulton appealed the election results, and the seat was turned over to him after a year. Interesting that Mr. Campbell then became Judge Campbell when he was appointed to the Niagara District court the following year.

Edward (1806-1860) was the son of Fort Maj. Donald Campbell (at Fort George), who died early in the War of 1812, and Elizabeth Campbell, who left a haunting account of her experience, with young children in tow, of the burning of Niagara in 1813.

Edward grew up to become a local lawyer and built the former “Plumb House,” which was torn down to build the former Parliament Oak school, which was also torn down. Campbell was known to be a horticulturalist and was instrumental in forming the local Horticultural Society in 1856. He was also the president of the Mechanics Institute, which later became the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

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EVENT DETAILS

Niagara on the Lake Horticultural Society hosts Gardening Classes Saturdays

March 1st to May 31st
10:am to 11:30am
Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre,
14 Anderson Lane, NOTL

ALL CLASS DETAILS

AND BOOKING LINKS MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

notlhort society.com/classes

Obituaries & In Memoriam

Mary Joselin

JOSELIN, Mary Liliias — 1936 - 2025

Mary slipped peacefully away to join her beloved Peter on March 30, 2025, with her family holding her hand. We will miss her forever.

Mary was born in New Orleans in 1936 to Edward and Lily. Her early years were spent as an 'army brat' in New Orleans, San Francisco, the Philippines, Japan, Puerto Rico, and Panama. She earned her degree in Physics at Newcomb College, Tulane University where she went on a blind date with Peter Joselin and the rest was history. She and Peter were married in 1957 and moved to his home in England, then Nigeria and finally Canada. They chose Niagara Falls to raise their three daughters and quickly became part of the community.

Mary was an avid reader and was rarely seen without a book. So it was appropriate that she worked at the Niagara Falls Public Library for 25 years, starting in reference and then becoming head of the Chippawa and Stamford branches. At one point it seemed like half the city knew her from the libraries and her volunteer work.

Mum was gregarious and made everyone feel seen and appreciated. She was a champion for women and girls, helping to start the Niagara Women's Shelter and raising three strong daughters. She delighted in the successes and quirks of her daughters and grandchildren. She had a wicked sense of humour and never missed the opportunity for a good one liner. Her mischievous smile lit the room. She loved music, theatre and travel and instilled the love of all three in her offspring.

She volunteered as a Brownie and Guide leader and District Commissioner, was a member of the University Women's Club, Niagara Falls Curling Club, Parkway Sailing Club, the Power and Sail Squadron, Meals on Wheels, as well as St John's Anglican Church Niagara Falls and Grace United Church, NOTL. Mary and Peter believed that if you belonged to an organization, you should take a leadership role when called on, so Mary became the first female Chair of the GNGH Hospital Board.

Mary is predeceased by her beloved husband of 65 years, Peter, her parents and sister, Margaret (Gerland) Foucha, her sister-in-law Dorothy Swanton and her niece Margaret Spedale. She is survived by Christine (Andrew) Forber, Beth (Trevor) Joselin, and Anne Joselin, grandchildren Colin (Artemis) Forber, Thomas Forber, Connor (Mariah) Charette and Sheila (Robert) McAllister and great-grandson Thorston Charette. She will be missed by all who knew her, especially her nephew Michael (Diana) Swanton, and nieces Madeline (Charlie) Peek and Sandy Swanton and her close friends in the Niagara area.

We would like to thank the staff at Monarch Memory Care and Meadows of Dorchester who took such loving care of Mary in her final years. Especially Meadows, who became like her extended family and who gave us such good belly laughs sharing stories of Mum.

Christine, Beth and Anne would love to hear your stories about Mary. We invite you to share them at the visitations in Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, at her funeral, or through the Morgan Funeral Home website (or directly to us). Visitations will be Thursday April 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake and from 6 to 8 p.m. at Morse and Sons Funeral Home, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls. Her funeral will be at Grace United Church, 222 Victoria St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, at 10:30 a.m. on Friday April 11.

In lieu of flowers, we request donations to Grace United Church, Niagara YMCA Women's Shelter or Niagara Falls Meals on Wheels. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

Bertrand 'Bert' Davesne

DAVESNE, Bertrand "Bert" —

With heavy hearts we announce that Bert passed away surrounded by his family, at Chapel Heights in Niagara Falls on Saturday 29 March 2025, where he lived with his wife of 71 years, Mimi. He would have been 94 years old on April 4. An amazing life, coming to Canada on a ship from France at the age of 19-years-old, and living what he considered his 'Canadian' dream.

Working alongside his wife Mimi, hunting, fishing, and giving back to the community through the Queenston-Lewiston Rotary Club.

Beloved husband of Mireille Davesne nee Brune, better known to everyone as Mimi (as no one could pronounce her French name anyway). Leaving behind his two children, Christine Davesne Folliguet (widow of Marc Folliguet), and Bruno Davesne (widower of Ophelia Solomon Davesne). He also leaves behind four grandchildren who will never forget his love of night-time hide and seek and love of nature, Jessica Bonilla (Kevin Trethowan), Maxime Bonilla, Natacha Folliguet, Joseph Davesne, and two great grandsons, Theo and Luca Trethowan.

A special thanks to the Chapel Heights team who helped him, and us, through his last days and were compassionate to us all.

The family will receive friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. A service to commemorate the life of Bert, will be held at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery, 1483 Lakeshore Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, April 4, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

Il restera de toi une larme tombée, Un sourire germé sur les yeux de ton cœur. Il restera de toi ce que tu as semé, Que tu as partagé aux mendiants du bonheur. Ce que tu as semé En d'autres germes. Celui qui perd sa vie Un jour la retrouvera.

Denise Lundy

Denise Lundy: a loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother.

Born January 16, 1961

Passed away April 01, 2019.

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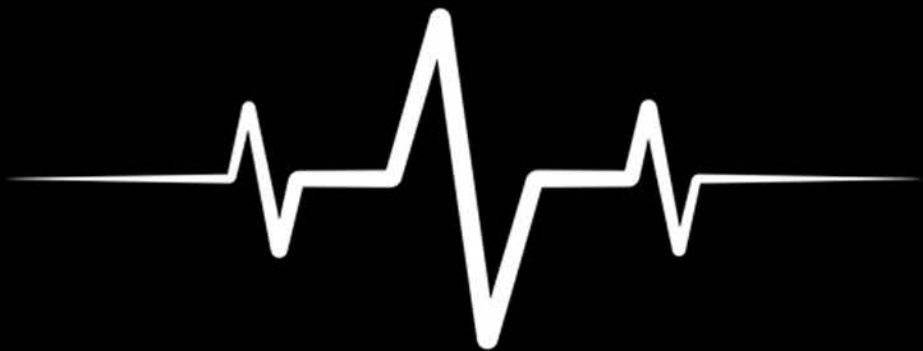
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