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



Parents blindsided by school boundary change

Paige Seburn

Local Journalism Initiative

The Lake Report

A boundary change approved by Niagara's school board last night will shift about 125 St. Davids Public School students to Crossroads Public School next year — a move some Niagara-on-the-Lake parents argue was rushed and poorly communicated.

The District School Board of Niagara's board of trustees approved the change at its Oct. 28 meeting, despite a petition and pleas from parents who said they learned of the proposal less than two weeks earlier.

Trustees granted initial approval at a program and planning committee meeting on Oct. 20, but final approval was required for the change to take effect.

The change moves Niagara on the Green and nearby rural properties, known as Zone A, from the St. Davids Public School catchment to

Continued on Page 2

NOTL catches Blue Jays fever

Fans across town cheer on Toronto as team competes in World Series



NOTL's Paul Jacot and his daughter Melissa got to take in Game 1 of the World Series last Friday. Tickets were scarce — and expensive — but Jacot managed to get seats from a friend who works for a World Series sponsor. It was a memorable night as the Jays won 11-4. SUPPLIED

Andrew Hawlitzky | The Lake Report

Toronto Blue Jays fans filled Niagara-on-the-Lake pubs Friday night as Toronto opened the World Series with an 11-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers, Canada's first appearance in the championship since 1993.

Across town, residents and visitors gathered at the Sandtrap, the Irish Harp and the Olde Angel Inn. What started as a sports event felt more like a national moment. With the Jays being the only Canadian team in a year marked by political tension and trade disputes, fans in Niagara-on-the-Lake described last Saturday what the win meant for them.

At the Sandtrap Pub & Grill, Luke Skubel, a lifelong fan from Virgil, said he has waited his whole life for this.

"I've been a Jays fan since I was born. I'm really happy to see this happening," said Skubel. "As a Toronto fan, it's nice to see these young guys that they've developed come up."

Continued on Page 4

NOTL Residents Association elects board of directors, talks town issues

Dan Smeenk

Local Journalism Initiative

The Lake Report

The newly formed Niagara-on-the-Lake Residents Association is continuing its efforts to grow its influence

in the community.

It hosted its first annual general meeting of the year on Wednesday night, which drew 103 people, and led discussions on a bevy of hot-button local topics, including renewed development efforts at the historic Rand Estate, the future of the old Wellington Street hospital, the town's latest official plan draft and more.

Alongside these conversations, the members chose a board of seven directors, who were made directors by acclamation (running unopposed).

The seven directors are Ron Simkus, Stuart McCormack, Steve Hardakar, Norm Arsenault, Bette Ann James, Andrea Leja and Peter A. Neame.

Simkus, McCormack, Hardakar and Arsenault were already leading the association as its founders before being made directors, while James, Leja and Neame are newcomers. Colin Patey, the fifth founding member, did not run.

"(The) AGM went very well," said Arsenault via email. "Good attendance, people engaged and lots

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Change will separate students, parents lose after-school care

Continued from Front Page

Crossroads Public School
starting next fall.

Board projections show St. Davids — operating with 462 students and five portables — will drop to about 324 students after the move, while Crossroads will rise to 551. New housing developments in the transfer area would add roughly 150 more students by 2034, if realized.

“A decision needs to be made to address enrollment pressures at St. Davids,” said board spokesperson Milica Petkovic in an email.

St. Davids has a capacity of 317 students and a projected enrollment of 462, with five portables on site. Crossroads is operating at 75 per cent capacity with no portables.

Transferring students would “help avoid additional capacity pressures at St. Davids” and make “effective use of space” at Crossroads, the board said in its Oct. 20 report.

A petition launched Oct. 24, put together by St. Davids parents Lynette Wang and Wenjie Li, who live in Niagara on the Green, gath-



Parent Mohsin Kamran with his child, Ibraheem, on their way to St. Davids school.

ered more than 100 verified signatures in four days.

It called on the board to delay the vote, hold a public meeting and release the data used to justify the change.

On Oct. 7, St. Davids principal Carl Glauser sent an email, which parents forwarded to The Lake Report, telling families the school's population was "steadily growing" and that a report on enrollment and school space would be shared at an Oct. 20 meeting.

A link in the email directed families to check the board's website for more information on Oct. 16. Parents who downloaded the agenda posted that afternoon would have learned

of the proposed boundary change.

“We never heard about the boundary change until Oct. 17,” said Wang, who has a child in junior kindergarten at St. Davids. “I got (an) email.”

The email, sent Oct. 17 by Glauser, mentioned the boundary proposal briefly at the end of a routine school update.

Petkovic said "additional communication followed" and that "families transitioning to another school will receive further communication."

The Oct. 17 email told families about the Oct. 20 meeting — but noted it was “not a public forum for input” — something confirmed by Wang, who said parents were allowed to listen but not speak.

Glauser did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

St. Davids parent Katherine Kivlichan said that from her understanding, "this has been in the works for a while."

"They didn't include the parents of Niagara on the Green in any of this development," she said. "They ne-

glected to tell us until the final moment and it was too late for us to actually speak up.”

"That's a problem," added Kivlichan, who has a child in Grade 3 and one going into junior kindergarten.

Parents question whether the fix will last.

"It seems like they relocated the capacity issue from one school to another school," said Wang, citing board projections showing Crossroads exceeding its capacity by 2029.

It also affects child care for working families.

Kivlichan said she will lose her guaranteed after-school care for her kids at St. Davids.

"To find after-school care is like winning the lottery," she said.

"Now, it's just like, 'Oh, well, you're going to lose that and you've got to figure it out,'" she added. "Like, whoa, whoa, whoa. You haven't even listened to us or our concerns."

Mohsin Kamran, another St. Davids parent, said he and his wife both work full time and share one car, making it impossible to be home when school lets out. He has two children, one in

senior kindergarten and a 10-month-old.

“That’s not just disrupting the kids’ mental well-being, their stability — but it’s also having an impact on parents, where we’re trying to provide them with the best opportunities out there,” he said.

Niagara on the Green parent Priya Litt said families with older students feel the change comes too late in their children's school years to adjust.

For her daughter, now in Grade 7 and preparing to graduate in 2026-27, “starting at a new school for the last year before graduation is just simply not an option,” she said.

At Tuesday's meeting, St. Davids parents Nancy and Jim Pakeman, who have children in grades 2 and 5 and live on Queenston Road between Concession 7 and Airport Road, asked trustees to adjust the map slightly "to include our small rural area" or to let those students finish elementary school at St. Davids "without interruption, or for the need of transportation."

The Pakemans registered in advance to speak as delegates.

Families can apply individually to remain at the school, but transportation would not be provided, said Kelly Pisek, the board's director of education.

When it came time to vote, trustee Mike Brousseau, also representing St. Catharines and NOTL, said he believes there is a lack of trust between parents and the board and since he did not see that being resolved during the meeting, he voted against the motion.

Trustee Helga Campbell, representing Niagara Falls, said she, too, was “really concerned about the issue of trust” and the “sense of miscommunication,” and said the school board should learn and listen going forward.

Petkovic said the board remains "committed to ongoing communication with families," who, she said, "have been and continue to be encouraged to reach out to their school principal with any questions."

"The board has successfully implemented similar boundary changes in several areas over the past three years," she added.

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Rand, official plan, old hospital hot topics

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of good comments on the direction that that we have taken so far.”

“I had not (sic) target for how many sign-ups we would get. The more the better and we will be looking at marketing campaigns once the new board meets.”

The directors will be responsible for managing the association’s affairs and representing the opinions of the residents discussed during its meetings to the public.

McCormack chaired the meeting and presented the association’s financial report: it has received \$7,195 in donations so far and is reporting \$3,500 in expenses.

In an email to The Lake Report, Arsenault said that as of Oct. 24, the organization estimates it has 655 total members, according to the number of sign-ups to its email list and the number of Facebook members who aren’t also signed up to the email list.

The group officially got off to a start this year when it held its inaugural open house on May 15, which drew more than 300 people to the NOTL Community Centre.

During the Oct. 22 meeting, also held at the community centre, participants spoke on a range of town matters. Bob Bader led the discussion on the town’s updated official plan, the second draft of which was released earlier this month, and the development of the Rand Estate, which came back before the town in an open house and public meeting in early September.

The latter comes after the Ontario Land Tribunal sent developer Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. back to the drawing board a year ago



Bob Bader talks about the official plan at the NOTL Residents Association’s annual general meeting last Wednesday. DAN SMEENK

to re-evaluate its plan for a 172-unit subdivision on the estate. Solmar appealed this decision, which the tribunal dismissed.

Bader said he opposes Solmar’s effort to build a private road as part of the Rand Estate development, which would connect to John Street, just east of Rand Estate, with an emergency access point at Charlotte Street.

As the tribunal has already ruled against building the road there, he said it should not go forward and said he believes no more time should be wasted on Solmar’s proposal.

“If they took it back to the (Ontario) Land Tribunal, they would laugh in his face,” he said, referring to Solmar’s owner, Benny Marotta.

On the official plan, Bader said it needs to be “stronger, clearer and more community-driven.”

He called for the town to include language that is more certain, with more “shall” in the document,

stronger and more accurate data for population growth and health and more careful development guidelines.

On the Royal George Theatre, which is set to be demolished early next year to make way for a considerably larger theatre, McCormack said the organization supports efforts to rebuild the theatre, while preserving heritage.

He said there have been welcome changes to the original design of the new theatre, such as making the theatre smaller and introducing a ghost façade, which happened in August. The ghost façade attempts to preserve the current face of the theatre while building the new theatre behind it.

He credits the association with influencing those changes.

“As a result of our input from our association and other groups, the façade has been changed,” he said.

The official plan draft was the subject of two open houses last Wednesday and Thursday — alongside that, the town hosted two open houses on the future of the former hospital at 176 Wellington St.

On that local issue, Arsenault said there’s a consensus among residents that the land should be used for a community purpose, not a commercial one.

“It’s one of the very few institutional sites we have left in town,” he said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said he is not involved with the residents’ association other than having signed up to be a member.

But he attended the annual general meeting and said that while they are doing great things, the range of issues they are taking on could be a downside.

“They seem to be taking

on an awful lot of different tasks, which is great, but they’ve got to be careful not to be taking on too much,” he said.

He said they would also benefit by working with Nick Ruller, the town’s chief administrative officer. He also said they are doing a great job at representing issues across the entire town.

Another attendee, Weston Miller, president of the Chautauqua Residents Association, said he’s a “member at large” of the NOTL Residents’ Association and keeps an “open line of dialogue” with them as part of his role in Chautauqua.

He said the meeting was “well-attended and informative.”

“Establishing and maintaining a town-wide residents association is no small feat,” he said. “I think the NOTL Residents Association executive has been handling that challenge thoughtfully.”

Simkus, who didn’t attend the meeting itself due to illness, said the goal of the meeting was to reflect concerns across all NOTL communities, not just Old Town.

Smaller groups in NOTL gain a stronger voice when united under the residents’ association, he said.

“What some of the smaller groups have voiced is the fact that when they go to council, they are treated with less attention than they feel they deserve,” he said.

McCormack told The Lake Report after the event that he was pleased with the annual general meeting and the progress of the NOTL Residents Association.

“I am pleased that the group continues to grow and will hopefully continue to grow further,” he said.

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Headstones vandalized at St. Andrew’s church

Dan Smeenik
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Another headstone vandalism incident at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Old Town has left the church community angry, confused and unsure what to do next.

Church members discovered the damage Friday, about a month after another headstone was knocked over in the same cemetery.

“The families from the stones that were damaged asked us to reach out to the paper that we are get-



The vandalized headstone.

ting damage,” said Julie Hunter, chair of the church’s property committee. “It’s a historical cemetery.”

Hunter said she believes a “kid” likely toppled the stones, adding the church had a professional examine

the damage and confirm it was vandalism.

“I can’t imagine an adult would go and push the stone over just for fun,” she said, adding that the vandalism probably happens “after hours.”

“During the day, no one is reporting anything like this,” she said. “Unless you’re in the graveyard every day, you wouldn’t know the exact timing of when this happens.”

She urged parents in the area to keep an eye on their children and monitor where they’ve been.

Hunter said the church

is looking into installing surveillance cameras to help catch whoever is responsible for the vandalism.

She said it costs about \$495 to repair a toppled headstone, but the emotional toll on affected families is far greater.

“It is the disrespect that has been shown to the historical legacy of our town,” she said. “This is very disrespectful to the families.”

The origins of St. Andrew’s church date back to 1794, and burials on the church grounds began in 1833.

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Above: Silks employees and friends at a Blue Jays game in 2024. With the Jays in the World Series, the TVs at Silks Country Kitchen are tuned in whenever there's a game. SUPPLIED

Left: Across Niagara-on-the-Lake, people are getting into the spirit, cheering on the Jays in their own ways — like Scott Davidson, who dyed his hair blue to show support for the team. SUPPLIED/LAUREN DAVIDSON

From Silks to the stands: NOTLers reflects on years of Blue Jays fandom as team returns to World Series

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

When the Blue Jays are on, the TVs at Silks Country Kitchen in Niagara-on-the-Lake are, too.

For sibling owners Jennifer Phelan and Joel Dempsey, who've spent nearly 20 years sharing Blue Jays season tickets, baseball isn't just a pastime — it's a way of life that's followed them from behind the bar to behind home plate.

The two have shared season tickets for about 20 years, part of a group of eight fans who've held the ticket block since the Blue Jays' inaugural season in 1977.

Their two seats — section 124, row 5 — sit just behind home plate and have given them years of memories following the team through highs and lows.

Phelan said some of the best moments were being there for Game 7 of the American League Championship Series — averaging six million viewers on Sportsnet and peaking at 8.3 million — seeing award-winning pitcher Roy Halladay pitch and watching their young son refuse to leave, even as the Jays trailed by double digits by the fourth inning.



Jenn's godson Landon shows his Blue Jays pride during a day at the ballpark back in 2015. SUPPLIED

"There might only have been 10,000 fans to start the game," Phelan said. It was a Monday night, likely around 2010 — a period when the team was struggling.

"I looked at my son, I'm like, 'Anytime you want to go, we can go.'"

"He was like, 'No, it's OK,'" she said.

It may not have been a game for the record books, "but I will never forget it," said Phelan.

Each season, the pair donates a set of their tickets to the Red Roof Pasta Dinner and often gives another to charity. They also bring Silks staff or friends to games — last year, organiz-

ing a 20-person staff appreciation trip to the ballpark.

Now, with the Jays back in the World Series for the first time since 1993, that same excitement fills their restaurant.

"The energy — like, we've seen so many people coming in wearing their Blue Jays stuff," Phelan said. "One in five people have something on."

Her group's ticket rotation means she won't be in the stands for the World Series. But Phelan said no matter what happens, she's just grateful to see them play.

"Every extra game we get is a blessing," she said.

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Blue Jays fans fill NOTL bars for World Series kickoff



Blue Jays fans fill the bar at the Sandtrap Pub & Grill in Niagara-on-the-Lake during Friday's World Series opener against the Dodgers. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

Continued from Front Page

Skubel said he's drawn to players like David Shatter, a quiet contributor off the bench, because they reflect the kind of steady work that Canadians take pride in.

"It feels good to have something to celebrate again," said Skubel.

Sitting next to him was Jays fan Anthony Nicoletti, visiting from New York, who said the atmosphere in Niagara-on-the-Lake showed how much the series means to fans on both sides of the border.

He joked that seeing Toronto beat a powerhouse like the Dodgers gave Ca-

nadians "something fun to hold over America."

"Coming from the state-side perspective, I think it means a lot to this area right now," said Nicoletti.

"If I were Canadian, I'd love to rub a little salt in America, just a little banter back and forth, not serious."

The good-natured rivalry comes at a time of strained Canada-U.S. relations, as President Donald Trump imposed a new 10 per cent tariff on Canada on Saturday due to an Ontario-sponsored ad, which aired during the World Series.

Across NOTL, the night carried the tone of cautious confidence rather than spectacle.

At the Irish Harp Pub, local resident Thomas Comrie said the evening wasn't only about rivalry or patriotism, but about seeing people come together again.

"It's been a rough few years for the Jays," said Comrie. "I think people just wanted a reason to sit beside each other again and feel good about something that isn't politics or news."

He said watching Addison Barger hit a pinch-hit grand slam, the first in World Series history, was "a moment you don't forget."

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Niagara District Airport details master plan to attract 600,000 fliers a year

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara District Airport is looking to reach new heights and become a regional gateway for commercial air travel as part of a new 20-year master plan released this week.

The 2025–2045 plan, published on Tuesday, lays out a roadmap to transform the airport from a general aviation facility into a modern regional hub capable of handling scheduled passenger service.

It projects the redevelopment could generate more than \$1 billion in economic output and attract over seven million passengers through the region over the next two decades.

To achieve that growth, the airport would need a series of infrastructure upgrades, including extending the main runway, expanding the terminal building and parking areas, and adding facilities for both the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority and the Canada Border Services Agency.

If all phases of the plan are completed, the airport says it would be capable of accommodating about 600,000 passengers each year. The redevelopment is also expected to support local employment and increase spending at nearby businesses.

Greg Wight, chair of the



The Niagara District Airport, seen here ahead of the Niagara 5000 car show. The airport estimates its redevelopment could generate more than \$1 billion in economic output. FILE/DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Niagara District Airport Commission, said the plan’s vision reflects Niagara’s place as one of the country’s top tourist destinations.

“As one of Canada’s top tourism regions, Niagara deserves an airport that makes it convenient for national and international visitors to enjoy our region’s wineries, restaurants and attractions,” Wight said in a media release.

“The vision outlined in our master plan demonstrates how strategic, sustainable investments in air access to Niagara will boost tourism, strengthen our regional economy and position the airport as an indispensable gateway to our region and beyond.”

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa called the master plan an important step for shaping the airport’s future and

called it a regional asset.

“The Niagara District Airport continues to play a key role in fostering local connectivity and economic growth, and the town is committed to continued collaboration with our municipal partners to review the plan and

identify opportunities that best serve our residents, businesses, and the broader community,” he said in the media release.

The airport, located between Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, is within a 12-minute drive of all three destinations. That central location, combined with Niagara’s population of about half a million residents and its 12 million annual visitors, positions the airport as a potential hub for regional air travel, according to the

plan. Tourism in Niagara has seen little growth since 2013, outside of pandemic-related declines, the airport states. The master plan identifies improved air access — including direct commercial service — as a key opportunity to attract more overnight visitors and expand the region’s tourism economy.

The master plan was developed with input from residents, local businesses, tourism and industry representatives, municipal officials, airport staff, user groups and government agencies. Feedback was gathered through interviews, public information sessions and an online engagement portal.

With approval from the airport commission, officials are now preparing to begin the next steps, which include developing funding strategies, engaging with potential airline partners and launching further public engagement initiatives to keep residents informed as the project progresses.

People are invited to attend the public information session for the master plan on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m., to learn more about the plan, ask questions and provide feedback.

A copy of the full master plan is available on the airport’s website, niagara-districtairport.com.

Developer plans to build 29 homes in St. Davids

Dan Smeenck
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

With the David Secord House now severed from the rest of the land at 46 Paxton Ln., thanks to plans coming down the pike to rescue the derelict historic home, a developer is asking to tweak its plans to build 29 housing units on the remaining open land.

The development calls for 12 single-detached houses and four townhouse blocks made up of 17 townhouse units. The Ontario Land Tribunal, at the time the Ontario Municipal Board, approved the original proposal for this site in August 2013.

The registered owner, 2233497 Ontario Limited, based in Toronto, held an open house on Monday regarding its request to exclude the land on which the David Secord House sits

from its approved draft plan.

The committee of adjustment voted in September to sever the house from the rest of 46 Paxton Ln.

Rainer Hummel, founder of Hummel Properties Inc., is undertaking a \$1.2-million to \$1.4-million restoration of the David Secord House, a more than 200-year-old heritage property, currently in serious disrepair.

Resident Libby Bullock questioned the project’s impact on the existing stormwater system.

“Is there any plans for these homes to use the existing stormwater management pond?” she asked.

Jennifer Vida of Vida Consulting, representing the developer, said the pond will be used and that it was “sized” to handle this development. She said the original design dated back to 2010.

Bullock said there are already problems with the system and called for a new study.

“The pond has turned into a lake with the last two storms,” she said. “I think it will have the same problem the St. Davids pond is experiencing with overuse. It fills up pretty fast.”

She referred to Sandalwood Pond in St. Davids, which the town acknowledged earlier this month needs upgrades to manage stormwater properly.

Bullock also expressed concern about a “very old, large” maple tree on the property.

“There’s hardly any trees on the property,” she said. “It’s pretty level. But that one tree would be a shame to lose.”

Vida said the project’s engineering has already been approved. While the tree may have to be removed,

she said, efforts will be made to preserve it.

There were worries raised by multiple residents about road design and emergency access to the development.

Vida said that entrances and emergency access on Paxton Lane will remain the same, except access to the David Secord House, which will come from the north end of Paxton Lane rather than through the development area.

An archaeological dig is underway on the site, and Vida said there are “no changes” planned for the nearby St. Davids Golf Course.

She estimated construction on the subdivision would not begin for “at least another year” and said restoration of the David Secord House is expected to start as soon as possible.

daniel@niagaranow.com

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The haunting of heritage house

Spooky, scary, skeletons and shivers down your spine: visitors and locals alike are sure to stop and stare at this ghoulish display at 167 Regent St., featuring a gothic centrepiece at its front steps and this several-foot-tall skeleton with glowing red eyes emerging out of the front lawn. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Halloween spirit possesses NOTL

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's that time of year again — when the paranormal takes centre stage across North America, and the macabre, spooky and downright terrifying become part of family fun.

That spirit has arrived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where residents have filled front lawns with elaborate Halloween displays. Skeletons, cobwebs, ghouls and grim reapers share space with creative, personal touches unique to each home.

J.P. and Corri Konik, who live on Sentry Circle near Garrison Village, have been decorating for Halloween for more than 10 years.

J.P. Konik and his wife Corri, who live at 8 Sentry Circle, consider Halloween their "birthday and Christmas" and have decorated their house for 10-plus years. DAN SMEENK

J.P. said they usually welcome 50 to 100 trick-or-treaters, though last year's turnout dropped because of bad weather.

Their display includes tombstones featuring contemporary celebrity figures such as U.S. President Donald Trump and the Undertaker, a dead, skeletal Maple Leafs fan waiting for a Stanley Cup win, and an elaborate pergola entrance with severed hands (obviously fake), bats and chains (also all obviously fake).

When The Lake Report visited on Monday, the couple said the setup was only about 40 per cent complete.

"I still have animatronics that need to come out, I have fog machines, black lights, strobe lights — I still have a lot of stuff as far as that goes," J.P. said.

He and Corri treat Halloween like their "birthday and Christmas," putting in extra effort each year to get into the spirit.

"I love the whole thought

of the one day of the year that you can scare kids, kind of have a good time with it as far as that goes, and you're not going to get in trouble for it," he said.

The most popular features among trick-or-treaters are a werewolf and several clowns that greet visitors on the front step. J.P.'s favourite, Hugs, jumps out when people get too close.

Come Halloween night, Konik says he hopes his lawn decorations offer the community a frightfully good time.

"I think everybody should have a good scare, said Konik. "It gives you that little jump of energy, that little heart flutter that you need in your day-to-day life."

Other Garrison Village-area residents agree, though everyone has their own spin on it.

Gordon Stratford and his wife, Lyn, have lived in Garrison Village since 2016, but Gordon said they have been doing these

Halloween displays since 1981, when they were first married.

Their display features a series of small pumpkins ascending up both sides of their stairs plus, yes, some skeletons and ghouls.

But the standout feature of their Halloween display are the white sheets that flutter like ghosts over both sides of their front porch.

"If you came 10 years ago, there weren't as many scary creatures as we have right now," he said. "This year, we tried to put in the spooky curtains, which is something Lyn came up with."

He also said that each year the display changes "a little bit."

Gordon also said the flapping sheets look really good in a strong breeze or a storm: "It looked like one of those dark Halloween nights."

For the Stratfords, there's a strong element of costume and set design that inspires the display every year. For Lyn, doing something like

this comes naturally to her.

"(Lyn) has a theatre background," said Gordon. "So, putting together a Halloween spread like this is just part of what she does."

The candy is also a favourite feature of the holiday. Not unlike the Koniks, they said they had 35 kids last year and 80 the year before, and they are giving out Ferrero Rochers, potato chips and Reese's Pieces.

But ultimately, the goal of these displays for both the Koniks and the Stratfords is to make people happy. Gordon said he knows he sometimes gets the intended response, which is why they keep doing it year after year, decade after decade.

"I think we've have some positive response so far," he said. "People are asking, 'What are you going to do next year?' They thank us because some of them come quite a distance to find places that their kids are going to enjoy."

daniel@niagaranow.com

Check out these **spooky spots** around town

Photos by Dan Smeenk



211 Wright Cres. in Niagara on the Green has turned into a spooky graveyard. It's one of several houses getting into the holiday spirit in the neighbourhood.



J.P. Konik and his wife Corri, owners of 8 Sentry Circle, are avid Halloweeners said this picture represents "40 per cent" of their yard display.



Gordon Stratford and his wife Lyn populate their front porch at 53 Garrison Village Dr. with an array of Halloween staples.



416 Line 2 Rd. is another display to check out if you're driving around town. Then head into Homestead subdivision for some trick or treating on Friday.



672 East & West Line has done some interesting decorations with old skids — a fun and creative use that won't cost you \$500 at Home Depot.



The people living at 610 Charlotte St. house seem to have some living dead rising up out of their yard. That's gotta be against some sort of town bylaw, right?



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At 81, Marlene Penner **clocks out** — and the family legacy continues

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After more than four decades of keeping Penner Home Hardware running smoothly, Marlene Penner has decided it's finally time to log off.

At 81, the longtime staff member officially retired last week after 43 years of full-time work and many more helping out part-time at Niagara-on-the-Lake's well-known hardware store.

Her final day at the store was two weeks ago, but with a family wedding, Thanksgiving and a manager away on holiday, the owners waited until last Friday to celebrate at Penner's — with lunch, cake and stories shared across generations.

It's the close of a long chapter that started with a helping hand that turned into a lifetime of work.

"I was home for a while with the kids when they were little," said Marlene. "I said, 'OK, the kids are okay



Marlene Penner smiles as she admires her cake and flowers — gifts from staff — during her retirement celebration at Penner Home Hardware on Friday. PAIGE SEBURN

— what am I doing here?"

She started off in the office "filing and whatever there was," she said, and after a while, she got pretty good at it.

Every so often, her husband Harry would tell her to take a break — "OK, that's it. I'm sick of pizza, go home," he'd say — and she'd stay home for a while before returning to help again.

What began as part-time help in her husband's family hardware store turned into a steady job and eventually responsibility for payroll.

"Payroll was on Monday, so I got what had to be done and then the next day or so I'd finish it off," she said. "I was happy with my system that I had — it was a standalone type of computer system."

When the store adopted

a new digital payroll and direct-deposit system to replace the punch cards she'd relied on, Marlene realized it was time to hand things off.

"I'm too old to learn all that," she said. "I do not want to learn a whole new system, not at my age."

To keep doing payroll, she would have had to learn the new system — her cue, she said, to call it a day,

after years of dedication to a place that will always be part of her family's story.

The Penner legacy began in 1950, when Peter Penner opened an independent hardware store that later joined the Home Hardware chain.

His son, Harry, carried it on, and now Harry's grandchildren, Kevin Penner and his wife, Marcia, lead the business, taking over in 2008.

A fourth generation is already preparing to take the reins. Marcia said her children "are gonna take it over when we're ready."

She said staff and customers will miss seeing Marlene around, but not to worry, "she'll still be shopping at her favourite store, Penner's."

"She's super fun," Marcia said. "Loves everybody, cares for everybody."

"Loved to share sweet treats," she added — "she would call it quality control and go and share with everybody."

Ask anyone at the store

and they'll say the same: cashier Tracey Brown said Marlene was "friendly and would do anything for anybody."

"She absolutely wears her heart on her sleeve," she added.

Looking back, Marlene said it's been a family and community affair from the start.

She said she and Harry can't go far without someone calling out, "Mr. Penner, how are you?" — a small-town reminder of the loyal customers and longtime staff who've stood by them through everything, even the pandemic, when the store remained busy.

"We feel good," she said.

Now, she's ready for rest — time to read, relax and tend to things at home.

But she'll be watching with pride as the next generations carry the Penner name forward.

"I'm hoping it's going to keep going and going," said Marlene.

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Fundraiser will support mural project

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake artist and neuroscientist Ron Clavier won his battle against the town’s sign by-law this past summer. Now, he’s focusing on bringing his large-scale art project, Thanks for the Meal, to life.

Clavier is hosting a talk and fundraiser on Nov. 5 to raise money for the project, a series of murals depicting different perspectives on agriculture in Niagara-on-the-Lake, to be installed roadside in town.

The project’s title comes from a lyric in Murray McLachlan’s 1972 hit “Farmer’s Song” and refers to the gratitude people feel toward the farmers who feed them.

“They feel appreciated,” Clavier said. “That’s what’s in it for them.”

Thanks for the Meal will see artists create paintings that will be photographed and reproduced as murals, then installed on private properties visible from the road.

The process mirrors how Clavier’s own painting



Ron Clavier, with his painting *Seine Sunrise*, is looking to raise funds for his curated art project Thanks for the Meal at an event on Nov. 5. DAN SMEENK

Day’s End — displayed on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil — was produced. This time, however, he is serving as curator rather than artist.

The first three murals are complete. Created by Indigenous artists, they pay tribute to the Three Sisters agricultural system, in which corn, beans and squash are planted together.

Clavier envisions the next phase highlighting United Empire Loyalists, Menno-nites, winery pioneers and migrant workers, though he doesn’t yet know how many murals there will be in total.

He hopes the project offers a broader view of agriculture in NOTL through

diverse cultural lenses, which he says reflects the essence of art itself.

“Every person is only able to see it from one eye,” said Clavier. “It would be very helpful for you and me to go together ... because I know you’re going to see something different ... We call that seeing eye-to-eye.”

“That should be true in all the things that we perceive.”

Although not all mural sites have been confirmed, Clavier said he has an agreement with St. Davids Hydroponics to place one on their property.

He estimates the total cost at \$19,591, covering insurance, printing, engineering,

materials and installation. So far, he has raised \$1,000 from St. Davids Hydroponics, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society has “promised” \$2,500.

Once funding is secured, Clavier said it will take about six months to install the murals, partly because “the ground becomes hard” in winter.

“We can get it up quite quickly,” he said. “It could be the spring.”

Clavier hopes the project will continue to grow.

“There’s no shortage of land, there’s no shortage of stories,” he said, adding that NOTL would need “thousands” of murals to feel crowded.

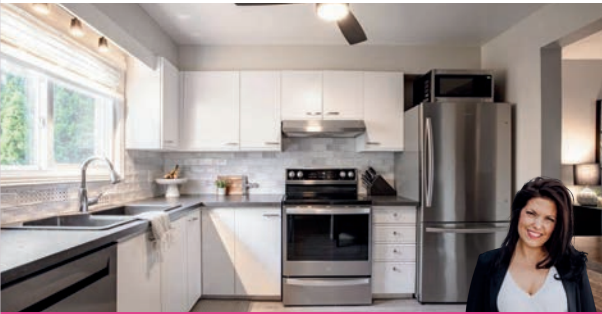
Clavier can proceed because council agreed to give him an exemption to the town’s sign law earlier this summer. This regulates how signs can be displayed in NOTL.

Clavier, a founder of the Art Gallery of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which became a not-for-profit in 2018, will host the talk and fundraiser at the NOTL Sailing Club at 7 p.m. Attendance is free, but seating is limited.

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shawfest.com/defydementia

Volunteers keep Harvest Classic hockey thriving

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

Before the first puck drops at the Meridian Credit Union Arena, months of quiet work make the Harvest Classic possible for young players and their families.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves' annual Harvest Classic Rep Tournament brought 40 teams from across Ontario last weekend, making it one of the region's biggest youth hockey tournaments of the year.

But behind every game were volunteers who spent months planning to bring the sport the community loves to life.

Tournament organizer and coach James Cadeau starts preparations in May. He books ice time, co-ordinates with hotels and secures approval from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

By autumn, hundreds of emails arrive from teams eager to join one of the region's biggest B-centre tournaments.

"It's a lot of fun watching the little kids. That's special, seeing eight-year-olds getting all excited before other priorities in life take over," said Cadeau.

Running the event depends on dozens of volunteers filling every role, mostly without compensation, from referees to concession staff.

Despite the struggle, Cadeau said it is important to deliver a well-run tournament.



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

Jack Friesen, #4, throws his arms in celebration after teammate Ike Good, #71, scores the go-ahead goal, lifting the U13 NOTL Wolves to a 2-1 victory over Ayr. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

ment so visiting teams leave with a positive impression of Niagara-on-the-Lake and local players feel proud to represent their community.

"People like coming to this area because there's a lot to do and a lot of hotels," he said. "We get a lot of demand for the tournament, but we have to deliver a good product. Otherwise, they won't come back."

Volunteer co-ordinator Tracey Hope manages sign-ups and social media for the Wolves. She said all shifts

for the weekend were filled within two days after she sent out the link to parents.

"There's nothing better than playing with your neighbours and classmates and making memories in your own community," said Hope. "That's something you carry with you as you get older."

Proceeds from the barbecue and other sales cover pay for timekeepers, many of them former Wolves players who return each year to stay involved in the

sport, and help close the gap between registration fees and the true cost of putting on community hockey tournaments.

Outside the arena, long-time NOTL Hockey Association board member and former Wolves player, Mike Cwierniewski, tended the grill, serving burgers to visitors from Windsor to Ottawa.

"I played here growing up, and now I'm helping out and giving back to what gave me so much," said

Cwierniewski.

Funds raised through the tournament, including proceeds from the barbecue and team booths, go toward covering the officiating and timekeeping costs, supporting youth development programs and keeping registration fees affordable for local families.

Parents like Marie and Dan Good, whose son plays for the U13 team, staffed a table, selling apples outside the MCU Arena to raise funds supporting the NOTL

Wolves' development costs.

"It's great for the kids to learn how to play together as a team," said Marie Good. "There are families from all over Ontario here, and it's cool to see everyone come together."

For volunteers, the reward is not in medals or standings but in seeing the rink full and the community connected. As Cadeau put it, they do it "for the love of the sport."

U13 rep coach Gary Friesen, a NOTL hockey grad who had a long career in the OHL, said, "The weekend was an incredible showcase of community spirit."

He credited the work of "countless volunteers" for making the weekend a success, and singled out Cadeau, Mike and Ella Cwierniewski, Carrie Plaskett, Tracey Hope and association president Pete Flynn "for going above and beyond in organizing the tournament."

He noted Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, a former hockey referee, stopped by to volunteer at the barbecue.

Friesen said parent Elaina Wilkinson, whose family recently joined the Wolves organization, summed it up perfectly: "This was one of the best-run tournaments we've been to. The food court was open, there were healthy options, and everyone — from the Niagara Predators volunteers to the arena staff — pitched in to make it great."

andrew@niagaranow.com

NOTL Wolves teams perform well in hometown tourney

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake rep hockey teams finished near the top of their divisions in the annual Harvest Classic tournament in Virgil last weekend.

The U13 rep Wolves went undefeated during round-robin play and made it all the way to the final, where they lost to a powerful team from Ottawa.

And the U15 Wolves had two wins and a loss in the preliminary round but made it through to the semifinals, also against a squad from Ottawa.

They lost the semi 1-0 on a late third-period goal.

Two other local teams competed in the tournament, hosted by the NOTL Hockey Association, but the U11 and U18 Wolves faced some stiff competition and



U18 Wolves Goalie Corson Dick makes a sharp save against South Muskoka during third-period action. Despite his efforts, the Wolves lost 3-1. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

didn't advance to the play-off rounds.

U13 head coach Gary Friesen praised his team's effort.

"Our team did a great job this weekend," he told The Lake Report.

"I'm incredibly proud of how we came together — playing a complete, team-first game from start to

finish. It was a fun weekend of hockey and community."

The U13s opened the tournament Friday with a strong 6-1 win over Thorold, Friesen noted.

Goalie Declan MacNeil was solid between the pipes, while Jack Friesen, Ike Good and Kosta Condos each chipped in with two points to lead the

offence.

On Saturday in a 3-1 win versus West Lorne, Nathan Reid, Brendan Palka and Easton Wilkin-son led the way offensively, with William Ecker playing well in net.

They pulled off a 2-1 victory over Ayr in a tight contest, thanks to Good's game-winning goal with just 1:30

left on the clock.

That led to Sunday's 3-2 semifinal win over Almaquin. Jack Friesen led the offence with three assists and Campbell Whyte was the hero, burying the game-winner with 1:03 remaining.

In the U13 final, against Ottawa, also undefeated to that point, the Wolves fell 4-0. Good was the team's tournament MVP while teammates Condos and Friesen also contributed strong offensive performances.

Coach Rich Andres said his U15 Wolves are a young team that hasn't played together in past years.

But, "the boys have done a great job of learning and coming together as a team early in the season," he told The Lake Report.

Their first game was a hard-fought 2-1 win over Eganville thanks to goals by Cian Doyle and Jake

VanSpronsen.

The U15s followed that with a 3-1 victory over South Kent, with goals by Logan Stewart, Doyle and VanSpronsen.

They lost their final round-robin game 2-1 to the Midwest 49ers, from the Walkerton area. Dean Olsen had NOTL's lone goal.

In the semifinal on Sunday afternoon, Ottawa, the eventual champion, skated to a 1-0 win thanks to a goal scored with under six minutes to play in the third.

Andres said goaltender Tomas Nolan was the team's tournament MVP.

"He played outstanding in every game, kept us in games even when we were outshot."

"The coaches are very proud of the boys. They battled in every game, worked hard and left everything on the ice," Andres said.

MOVING WATER FORWARD

Notice to Residents – Road Closure

York Road (Regional Road 81) Watermain Upgrades

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Project Description

This project is located on a 3.4 km stretch along York Road (Regional Road 81) between Concession 7 Road and Four Mile Creek Road (Regional Road 100) in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The purpose of the project is to upgrade the existing watermain to continue providing safe and reliable drinking water, address aging infrastructure, and meet future growth demands expected in the area. Replacing this watermain is necessary to avoid future failures that would negatively impact residents and businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Upgrades include the installation of a new PVC watermain with associated valve chambers, fittings, joint restraints and other items.

For more information, please visit the project website at: niagararegion.ca/projects/york-road-watermain-replacement

Thank you for your patience as we complete these necessary upgrades.

Road Closure

Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 to Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 (weather permitting or the next business day).
Dates are subject to change.

The York Road and Four Mile Creek Road intersection will be closed to all vehicle traffic for completion of the watermain installation within the intersection.

Detours

- **Northbound traffic (Option 1):** Four Mile Creek Road > Warner Road > York Road > Concession 6 Road
- **Northbound traffic (Option 2):** Four Mile Creek Road > York Road > Concession 3 Road > Line 9 Road
- **Southbound traffic (Option 1):** Four Mile Creek Road > Line 9 Road > Concession 3 Road > York Road
- **Southbound traffic (Option 2):** Four Mile Creek Road > Line 7 Road > Concession 6 Road > York Road
- **Westbound traffic:** York Road > Concession 3 Road > Line 9 Road > Four Mile Creek Road > Line 7 Road > Concession 6 Road
- **Eastbound traffic (Option 1):** York Road > Concession 6 Road > Line 7 Road > Four Mile Creek Road
- **Eastbound traffic (Option 2):** York Road > South on Four Mile Creek Road

Businesses and residents along York Road will have access up to Four Mile Creek Road while on York Road, but will not have access through the intersection. Eastbound traffic will have the ability to proceed south on Four Mile Creek Road. Northbound traffic will have the ability to proceed east on York Road.

Businesses and schools will remain open at all times.

Information and Updates

Visit niagararegion.ca or municipal511.ca for real-time information on closures and construction updates. Municipal511 shares road information that connects to Google Maps and Waze. It helps Niagara Region, local municipalities and the Ministry of Transportation better coordinate local construction projects to minimize traffic disruption.

What to Expect

During construction, expect dust, periodic noise and road closures near construction activities with detour routes set up through nearby neighbourhoods. Advance notice will be provided if access to your property or services will be interrupted.

Working hours will typically fall between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday to Friday. Some activities may require working hours outside of these times.

Safety

This work involves heavy equipment and open trenches. Please keep away from all fenced areas and follow the posted safety signage. Always keep yourself and others a safe distance from all work areas.

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#51: If a friend or family member is starting up their own business, make sure to buy, promote and post as many accolades to help them get off to a great start.

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Home is where one starts from.”

- T.S. Eliot

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Poppies adorn NOTL Museum

Yvonne Causer reaches up to adjust poppies in the immersive Remembrance Day display at NOTL Musuem. For the past five years, a group of dedicated volunteers have been weaving together over a thousand poppies, and hanging them at a handful of spots in Old Town, which, alongside the museum, includes the old Court House and the Legion Branch 124. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Opinion

NOTL picks tourists over tenants



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist



Garth Turner says NOTL needs to crack down on Airbnbs and that there are enough hotels, with more coming.

Looking for digs to rent? Fuhgeddaboutit. This town doesn’t want ya.

As I write this there are six (seriously, just six) rentals listed with realtors in the Old Town. The average rent being asked is \$3,000 a month.

In Virgil, four places are open and the average there is \$3,700. St. Davids has six available, again averaging three grand. (However, a woman willing to move into her basement will rent you a bedroom upstairs for \$900, or two for \$1,600. And you get a parking spot.)

By the way, three grand a month in rent requires a pre-tax income of about \$108,000. Compare this to the average of \$2,400 for a one-bedder in the GTA and just over \$3,000 for a larger, two-bedroom unit downtown.

Of course, you can also say that I need to support short-term rentals because they live in New Jersey and bought a house here,” says Maria Mavridis.

“People send me emails say we’re planning in retiring in town so we bought a house and now we need to short-term rental it. Other-

wise we can’t afford it, and you can’t do this to me.”

“There are 26 short-term rentals on King Street alone. All my real estate friends are pitching homes as great Airbnb properties but, oh my God, we need families in this town.”

Mavridis is a NOTL councillor. Last week she sat with her colleagues and listened once again to people argue about the issue. It’s been years now. Despite that debate — and all the evidence of how other communities have handled vacation rentals (which jack up real estate values, blot out tenants and hollow our streets) — town staff has been tasked with preparing yet another report.

That’s due in the spring. Maybe. More consultations, debate, yakking and self-interest will take place first.

It’s no secret the pro-Airbnb, vacay rental lobby in NOTL is a powerful one. Hundreds of residential properties in prime locations have been sucked into that profit machine, feeding off a tourist economy.

But there are costs. The very authenticity of a heritage destination — which visitors come to absorb — is frayed when every second house is a little hotel. The community hollows out. Families vanish. Schools close. Over time, dry cleaners and hardware stores become souvenir shoppes and gelato palaces.

Surely there are enough hotels in this little place to bed most of Toledo and Toronto. Parliament Oak is being built. Q124 wants to expand. Hummel’s 81-bedder grows closer. The Garrison Village Terminal 4 hotel is coming, with its 42-unit tourist motel wing.

And then we have the Prince of Wales, Harbour House, Queen’s Landing, Pillar & Post, Best Western, Shaw Club plus the Oban, Charles, Moffat and a clutch of other inns.

“My end goal,” says Mavridis, “is to ensure we don’t have homes sitting in neighbourhoods like the one down the street from me that’s empty eight months of the year. They’re running a commercial business in a residential area. It shouldn’t be there.”

“We need neighbourhoods. Otherwise we’re just a tourist town. Yes, the guy owning the rental house across the street may be making \$10,000 a month, but wouldn’t you love to have a family living there?”

You bet.

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

garth@garth.ca



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The lion, the witch and the **weight of representation**

Dear editor:

When my family and I attended the Shaw Festival's production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," we were transported.

The set sparkled with magic, the costumes shimmered with imagination, and every performer delivered their role with remarkable talent and energy. My children were captivated from the opening moments, and we were all swept up in the artistry of the production.

And yet, as the story unfolded, we felt an increasing sense of discomfort.

It wasn't the acting — which was uniformly excellent — but the way race intersected with the casting choices. By the time the curtain fell, that unease had crystallized into the first comment my child made on the way home: "How come the only Black kid was the one who turned bad?"

As a parent of two mixed-race children, that question was devastating. My kids weren't parsing redemption arcs or moral complexity; they were noticing a pattern.

In this production, three white siblings were loyal and steadfast, while the lone Black sibling was the betrayer — seduced by the Witch, captured and imprisoned. The child who looked most like mine was the one punished and needing to be rescued.

Decades of research show that children notice race early and form associations quickly. They may not yet understand redemption, but they internalize repeated images: who is good, who betrays, who is punished. Representation matters — not in theory, but in the ways it shapes how children see themselves and others.

When I raised this concern with the Shaw Festival, I hoped for dialogue and accountability.

Instead, the responses I received — while carefully polite — felt dismissive. I was told Edmund's role is redemptive, that casting came from a diverse pool, and that audience responses are "unpredictable." The tone was



Letter writer Yakira Mukendi says her children left the Shaw's production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" wondering why they cast white people as heroes and a Black person as the one who turned bad.

courteous, but the substance avoided responsibility.

As Robin DiAngelo observes in "Nice Racism," politeness often functions as a shield, protecting institutions from discomfort while giving the appearance of engagement. In this case, civility replaced real reflection. Intent was emphasized, impact was minimized, and my children's reactions were brushed aside.

That is not good enough.

Intent does not erase impact. And this impact was not unpredictable — my children's reaction was immediate and painfully logical. To suggest otherwise ignores how children interpret racialized patterns.

From a critical race perspective, this is how systemic bias perpetuates itself: harmful associations — Blackness linked with betrayal, whiteness with loyalty — dismissed as oversights rather than confronted as predictable harms.

What makes this harder to accept is that even the festival's own program notes underscore how children see themselves in characters, how quickly they spot patterns, and how central Edmund's betrayal and imprisonment are to the story.

They frame the production as an opportunity for reflection and learning. Yet when confronted with a parent's concern about the racial implications of those very patterns, the response turned defensive. In print, there was awareness; in practice, no accountability.

A five-year-old doesn't leave the theatre reflecting on Edmund's redemption. They leave remembering who betrayed, who was loyal, and who was imprisoned.

When the only Black child on stage is the one who betrays and is punished, that imprint lands hard. For children of colour, it risks reinforcing mistrust or inferiority. For white children, it normalizes the idea that betrayal looks like the Black kid.

These are not minor details. They are the building blocks of bias — subtle, unintentional, but powerful. And when repeated across media, the weight becomes crushing.

I raise this not to nitpick one production, but because Shaw Festival is a leader in Canadian theatre. Leaders have responsibilities. In family programming especially, casting choices carry enormous weight.

Inclusive casting cannot be reduced to "who seemed right for the role." It must also consider what the ensemble communicates to young audiences.

Imagine if two siblings were Black and two were white. Imagine if all four were portrayed by actors of colour. Instantly, the burden of representation shifts: loyalty, bravery, betrayal and redemption are spread across all children. No one group is singled out. The message becomes richer, fuller, and truer to the world we live in.

The artistic director, Tim Carroll, wrote in his reply

to me: "We cannot control impact, we can only make sure that we feel we can put our name to the work." That response perfectly illustrates the problem. It centres the institution's comfort and reputation while sidestepping accountability for harm.

In the very same program, Carroll warned of a "crisis of communication" marked by "the avoidance of opinions or even facts that contradict our position." Yet that is exactly what he modelled in his response to me.

Right from the start, he told me, "I don't think we will agree on this," shutting down the conversation before it began. Instead of dialogue, I was met with dismissal.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are not about perfection. They are about listening, learning, and adapting when concerns are raised. When the stakes are how children come to understand their own worth and belonging, "we tried" is not enough.

Theatre is about imagination — and about responsibility. Shaw Festival, and arts institutions like it, must do better. They must acknowledge that intent does not erase impact, and that predictable harm should never be brushed aside as audience "unpredictability."

Representation is most powerful when children of all backgrounds see themselves across the full spectrum of roles: as heroes, caretakers, leaders, and yes, sometimes as those who falter. What matters is that no group is consistently cast as the betrayer, the one imprisoned and punished.

The Shaw Festival has the influence, the platform and the responsibility to ensure its stages reflect the world as it is — in all its diversity and complexity.

For children of colour across Canada, the stakes are too high, and the time for meaningful action is now. Their worth and belonging cannot wait.

Yakira Mukendi
Fonthill



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: HELLO AND GOODBYE

**She greeted listeners
with the 2015 song "Hello"
and got a monster hit.**

Last issue category: BE WITCHED

Clue: Long used by witches as a symbol of protection, it has points representing earth, air, fire, water and spirit.

Answer: What is a pentagram/pentacle?

Answered first by: Sue Rautenberg

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Bob Wheatley, Margie Enns, Jane Morris,
Lynda Collet, Jeff Lake, Becky Creager, Jim Dandy,
Esther VanGorder, Katie Reimer, Catherine Clarke,
Nancy Rocca, Kimberly Amaral, Claudia Grimwood,
Wade Durling, Susan Dewar, Edna Groff, KC King,
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Political tripe won't save Niagara-on-the-Lake's character



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Rarely does a day go by that I don't receive one or more communications from an individual living in our town regarding the "state of our union."

Whether it is the debacle of Parliament Oak, the proposed Royal George behemoth, the proliferation of developments in St. Davids or a litany of other egregious overtures, a common thread runs through these conversations.

Namely, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake that we know and love is dying the death of a thousand cuts and very few — if any — residents believe that the scarred and mutilated carcass left in the aftermath will be anything more than a carnival sideshow exhibit combined with a little slice of Mississauga's blighted urban landscape.

Growth and change in

any town may be inevitable. However, those forces must be thoughtfully and consistently managed in order to preserve its unique character and cultural landscapes while evolving into a greater version of itself.

Of course, this requires a central authority which unwaveringly and, without exception, focuses on managing decision-making based on what is best for the preservation of the community's character.

Not what is convenient in the moment or serves the behest of special interests.

It is all well and fine to publish a new official plan chock full of highfalutin general philosophical statements and objectives, but without hard-defined guidelines (which are purported to be coming later in the form of secondary plans) and, moreover, a willingness to unwaveringly adhere to — enforce — said guidelines, one simply has 400-plus pages of very expensive political tripe.

We will not revisit all the reasons why this council's decision to allow a hotel to be built in the middle of a residential neighbourhood was fundamentally injurious to the preservation of Old Town's unique character — that particular decision is "water under the bridge."



"Only a little" surface excavation at Parliament Oak. BRIAN MARSHALL

Nor will we circle on the seemingly inexplicable events that saw the developer defy a stop-work order; the miraculous issuance of a surface excavation permit by the town to allow work to proceed; then a second stop-work order for exceeding the parameters of said permit.

I'd opine this would fall under construction activities without a work permit (a Building Code violation subject to a fine of \$500,000) — which was subsequently revoked. And, all without fines to the maximum extent of the law ... just the ludicrous \$500-per-day fine contained in the local bylaw.

Most recently, the developer provided the town with an addendum letter to their

hydrogeological assessment — it is assumed that the letter was provided to support the developer's application for site plan approval (which has still not been issued despite all the work which has been conducted on the property). According to an engineering expert, this letter "is completely devoid of proper engineering standards and protocols."

Furthermore, the entire wastewater management issue from the property remains unresolved and the town has received a legal missive on behalf of property owners "downstream" from the site, which clearly outlines the probability of lawsuits against the town in the future event(s) of flooding along One Mile Creek.

In other words, the town

will be held liable and the taxpayers on the hook.

How very strange from a council which continually bemoans legal charges from past questionable decisions.

Moving on, as my colleague, Garth Turner, wrote last week (Oct. 23, "The Turner Report: NOTL rebels target 'worst council ever'"), the "heavy equipment in the Shaw's mega-project" was recently dropped onto Victoria Street in preparation for the demolition of three historic buildings in the Queen-Picton heritage district.

The demo permits have been issued with little fanfare and nearly non-existent dissent. Another fine example of completely ignoring a valid set of guidelines

(embedded in the designation of the heritage district itself) at the expense of Old Town's historic character.

Since the site plan has not yet been approved, council and staff still have the opportunity to, at least partially, mitigate the potential damage that will result from a leviathan building with a design completely devoid of any place identity — imagine the Festival Theatre fronting on Queen and Victoria.

Will council have the integrity to insist the building be scaled down and rendered with a contextually sympathetic design as the only route to site plan approval?

Oh, and please, do not seek to justify a bad decision predicated on the Shaw's loose claim of how much revenue devolves upon the town from theatre patrons.

That suggestion could be easily reversed to demonstrate how much revenue devolves upon the Shaw from tourists who visit Old Town primarily for its historic flavour.

Do the right thing right — it would be a nice change.

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



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Good news from a very crowded Blue Jays bandwagon



ROSS'S RAMBLINGS

Ross Robinson
Columnist

The World Series is back in Toronto, and the bandwagon is crowded from the Atlantic to the Pacific. And almost all points in between.

Around NOTL, so many residents and visitors proudly wearing Blue Jays merchandise. People smiling and saying hello to strangers. In our world today, any positive news is welcome, and this World Series run is definitely good news.

Let me get into this Ramblings by saying, "Thank goodness for the new pitch clock." The average game duration has been reduced by about 24 minutes by forcing pitchers to do their incredibly talented business at an expedited pace. Not staring at the baseball and wandering around the mound before every pitch.

To be clear, I don't purport to be a baseball expert. Even though I went to many Expos games way back in the 1970s in the Big Owe. Yes, the Olympic Stadium: tens of thousands of Quebecois having way too much fun watching

Gary Carter and Andre Dawson and the lads. A good ticket cost about five bucks, and those were the days, mes amis.

Another star was Youppi, the relentlessly optimistic longtime Expos mascot. After the Expos called it a day, he led the cheering for les Canadiens.

And in 1992, a business colleague of mine got me two tickets for the first-ever World Series game to be played in Canada. Against the Atlanta Braves, and let's remember the infamous flag flap.

My dad and I sat in the first row of the 500 level out in right field, and each ticket set me back \$26, plus tax, for a total of \$30. Today, the same seats would be purchased online from some quasi-legal platform for about \$600. I don't understand it all, but it must be a scam.

How quickly things change.

Back in the day, there was only one colour of Blue Jays cap. Now, it's all a ploy — a clever marketing strategy to encourage people to purchase more stuff. And not at bargain prices.

This week, I have seen so many blue Blue Jays caps. And white, and red, and green. What's it all about?

More merchandise sales, more excited fans on the bandwagon.

And our Blue Jays players are such great athletes, enjoying this postseason run with us. Now, do me a favour, and tell potty-mouth Blue Jays manager John Schneider to



Patrons at the Irish Harp Pub in Niagara-on-the-Lake watch Game 1 of the World Series, where the Blue Jays returned to championship play for the first time since 1993. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

clean up his language.

I worked 3,200 feet underground in a nickel mine for six months, and have been in many a hockey dressing room, but really, how can he think his profane language is acceptable?

The networks condone his behaviour, and tacitly, so do we. Or am I being a bit of a rambling prude?

The excellent close-up television images of Blue Jays and Dodgers expose them as world-class spitters.

Continually, and the floors of the dugouts must be awash in saliva, sunflower seed and chewing gum liquids. Ah, well, I suppose it's better than

the disgusting bulbous chewing tobacco chaws of yesteryear.

I hope you joined me in loving the opening ceremony before Game 1. Well over 100 singers in the choir, totally reflecting the diversity of the great city of Toronto. Dressed so elegantly, and all in such good voice. Smiling. So joyful.

The optics were indescribably fabulous, and the drone scenes of Toronto by night were so world-class.

In our unsettled world today, we need good news. I refuse to mention his name in my Ramblings, because I just cannot fathom how such a great nation can

enable such a bully to be its leader. As a "small-time greaseball from the Garden City of St. Catharines," it's all beyond me.

Let me try to end these Ramblings on a positive note. I am watching the current World Series, without thinking too deeply. Knowing that it may be over before this week's issue of The Lake Report is out and being perused. The curse of deadlines.

I like to put things in historical perspective, sometimes with a bit of a stretch. As I watch the current postseason games between the Dodgers and the Blue Jays, I see players with names from

many countries. How about Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto?

Our world can change so rapidly. Only 80 years ago, we were at war with Japan, and now Japanese players are huge and highly paid stars in "America's favourite pastime."

Americans might call it their game, but I really, really hope that by the time you are reading these words, or soon thereafter, due to the World Series schedule, our Toronto Blue Jays have won the World Series for the third time.

All together now, "Go, Jays, Go!" Once more, "Go, Jays, Go!"

rossrocket9@gmail.com

Don't let sickness break your bank, purchase a health plan



BOTTOM LINE

Steve McGuinness
Columnist

Most Canadians, when asked to define a key difference between life in Canada versus the U.S., will answer "free health care."

Of course, health care is not truly free in Canada. There are just no fees charged directly to patients for basic services like

doctor visits or hospital surgeries.

That's because under the Canada Health Act, provinces are required to maintain universal health plans offering their residents medical coverage. The provinces receive significant social transfer amounts from the Feds in return.

In Ontario, wages and salaries are also subject to a payroll tax (the Employer Health Tax) to fund medical care, supplemented by general tax revenues.

If revenues from these sources are insufficient, the government plan does not become insolvent, because provincial governments can run deficits and issue debt.

Costs have been escalating as our population ages, causing some formerly

covered services to be "de-listed" from eligibility.

Those who work may receive these services as an employee benefit under a group health insurance plan arranged with a plan provider, like an insurance company. Generous employers may also extend these benefits to retirees for life or a fixed period.

The coverage under these employer group plans may include dental, pharmacare (prescription drugs), major medical (stays in upgraded private and semiprivate hospital rooms), vision, physiotherapy, chiropractic and even out-of-country travel.

If your employer doesn't offer medical benefits, you may be eligible for plans at reduced costs through other

groups, like your union, a professional body, a university alumni association or even your auto club.

Depending on your age and income, our governments may also offer other selective health benefits. Older Ontarians qualify for the Ontario Drug Benefit program. Lower-income and older Canadians may qualify to join the Canadian Dental Care Plan.

Ontario seniors are automatically enrolled in the Ontario Drug Benefit after turning 65. It covers most of the cost of 5,000 prescription drugs.

While there is a \$100 annual deductible and a co-payment of up to \$6.11 per prescription, the Seniors Co-Payment Program can waive the deductible and

reduce the co-payment to \$2 for eligible low-income seniors. Obesity management drugs, like Wegovy, are not yet covered.

Meanwhile, to qualify for the Canadian Dental Care Plan, your adjusted family net income must be less than \$90,000 on your prior year tax return. It covers most routine dentistry.

Some Ontarians also qualify for vision care coverage based on age: children and teens can undergo optometry exams annually and seniors every eighteen months. Others are generally not covered.

Most requisitioned lab tests (like blood analyses) are also covered in Ontario. One notable excluded test detects prostate cancer, despite Niagara MPP Wayne

Gates' persistent efforts to change this.

Because not all of your medical needs may be currently covered, you should consider purchasing an individual health plan from a private insurer to close any gaps.

The premiums paid and certain other medical costs you incur can be creditable against income tax when they exceed the lesser of three percent of your taxable income for the year, or \$2,833, in 2025.

Steve McGuinness was a senior adviser to major financial institutions during his Bay Street career and is now retired in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Send your personal finance questions to him at smcgfinplan@gmail.com.



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Willowbank celebrated for heritage training

Staff
The Lake Report

The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts is receiving national recognition for its role in advancing heritage skills training and helping meet the sector's growing labour needs.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake school, along with Parks Canada, Algonquin College and Holland College, received a National Trust for Canada Governors' Award at a ceremony held Oct. 24 at the Halifax Convention Centre in Nova Scotia.

The award highlights the schools' collaborative work in heritage conservation, including a summer project that saw Willowbank's class of 2027 restore shutters at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site in Cape Breton, an 18th-century fortress.

The project was cited as an example of how restoration work can support sustainability, community well-being and a sense of belonging.

This year marked the first time Willowbank's second-year students attended the National Trust's annual conference. Their participation was made possible through a donation from the Estate of Jonathan Kormos,



Willowbank School of Restoration Arts students at the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. From left, Ellen Siebel-Achenbach, Malcolm Williams, Alanna Wilson, Vanessa Pottinger, Meghan Rist and John Murray. SUPPLIED

provided via the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy.

While in Halifax, the students connected with heritage professionals, explored potential placements and job opportunities, and presented summaries of key seminar themes during the conference's final plenary session, which drew more than 500 attendees.

"The conference underscored that heritage is about people, stories, and community, not just buildings or objects," read a media release from Willowbank.

Sessions emphasized inclusivity, collaboration and the preservation of marginalized histories and cultural knowledge.

Sustainability was a recurring theme, with participants advocating for approaches that minimize demolition and address climate challenges. Other discussions highlighted mentorship, education, financial sustainability and advocacy as key priorities in strengthening the heritage sector.

"Heritage was framed not as a constraint but as an opportunity to honour past stewardship, embrace creativity and build resilient, welcoming communities," the release stated.

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- When:** Open House: **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**
Public Meeting: **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**
- Where:** Open House: Electronically via the directions below
Public Meeting: In-person at the Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, or electronically via the directions below
- Regarding:** File ZBA-23-2025
224-226 Regent Street and 42 Market Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

What is this?

An application has been received for a Zoning By-law Amendment on the subject lands, which includes three (3) separate parcels (see location map).

The Application would facilitate the conversion of an existing temporary patio located at 226 Regent Street, used by the Angel Inn, to a permanent outdoor patio, in addition to permitting two (2) existing cottage rentals.

The Application proposes to rezone 226 Regent Street to “Queen Picton (QPC) Commercial Zone” to permit a permanent outdoor patio on a parcel abutting a residential zone and to permit two (2) cottage rentals, with site-specific provisions for patio size, parking and drive aisle requirements, number of cottage rentals permitted on one property and associated on-site amenity area, sight triangles and fencing. The Application further proposes to rezone 224 Regent Street to “Queen Picton (QPC) Commercial Zone” with site-specific provisions for lot frontage, rear yard setback, lot coverage and sight triangles, and to rezone 42 Market Street to “Queen Picton (QPC) Commercial Zone” with site-specific provisions for lot frontage and rear yard setback, to recognize existing conditions.



Dialogue is encouraged:

You are invited to attend the Open House and Public Meeting to gather information and provide input regarding this matter.

Town Hall is open for the public to register in advance to attend Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings, including Public Meetings, in-person. Alternatively, the public will continue to have the option to register in advance to participate electronically.

The Open House will continue to be held electronically at this time.

If you wish to participate electronically at the Open House or Public Meeting, you must register in advance with the Town Staff noted below. You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the Open House and/or Public Meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

- Open House – John Federici, Senior Planner (john.federici@notl.com or 905-468-6441)
(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025)
- Public Meeting – Clerks Department (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266)
(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025)

If you wish to attend the Public Meeting in-person, registration with the Clerk is appreciated.

If you wish to view the Open House and/or Public Meeting for information purposes, registration is not required. The meetings will be recorded and available for viewing after the meetings on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>

Please Note: Written comments on the application are encouraged and must be submitted to the Town Clerk, at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 or via email at clerks@notl.com referencing the above file numbers. Unless indicated otherwise, all submissions, including personal information, will become part of the public record.

For more information:

A copy of the applications and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall
Please contact John Federici, Senior Planner, at 905-468-6441 or via email at john.federici@notl.com if additional information is required.

If you wish to be notified of the future decision with respect to the application, you must submit a written request to the Town Clerk including your name and the address to which such notice should be sent.

If a person or public body does not share their views in writing to the Town Clerk or orally at a statutory Public Meeting before a decision is made, the person/public body:

- a) Is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Ontario Land Tribunal; and
- b) May not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Please note that third party appeals are restricted for this application as per Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024. Planning Act appeals may be filed by the applicant, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a “specified person” (as defined by the *Planning Act* 1(1)), and any “public body” (as defined by the *Planning Act* 1(1)).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 30, 2025
Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

- Across
4. Fit out (5)

9. Release (7)

10. Capital of Tibet (5)

11. Sift (5)

12. Italian little one (7)

13. Covered with water (5)

14. Thin fogs (5)

17. One or the other (6)

18. Receiving device (6)

19. Gemstone (4)

20. Separated (6)

22. Vast (6)

25. Inspires dread (4)

26. Best (6)

29. Swordsman (6)

31. Forest god (5)

34. River horse (Abbr.) (5)

35. Doctors (7)

36. Obscure road (5)

37. Chocolate ingredient (5)

38. Place in order (7)

39. Pertaining to the kidneys (5)
- Down
1. Unsustainable boom (6)

2. Curved sword (8)

3. Long-haired cat breed (8)

4. Derby venue (5)

5. Consumers (5)

6. Make happy (6)

7. Adventurous expedition (6)

8. Universal in extent (8)

15. Irreverence (7)

16. Baby powder (4)

20. Prediction (8)

21. Individual facts (4)

23. Capsize (8)

24. Tubular pasta (8)

27. Themes (6)

28. Line on a weather map (6)

30. Dared (6)

32. West Welsh seaside resort (5)

33. Saudi Arabian currency (5)

Have some fun



Crossword Puzzle

1

2

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4

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7

8

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Last issue's answers

1 J 2 G 3 C 4 M 5 A 6 B 7 O 8 U

9 E A R T H W O R M 10 O C T E T

11 W A R T H U O N T

12 E N C O R E S 13 E N S N A R E

14 L E U S B A W R

15 P R O B L E M A T I C A L

16 R D E A I O O

17 H I F I 18 A L L O T 19 M A Y O

20 N U S T H E A

21 T E M P E R A M E N T A L

22 T X E E I E D S

23 S T O M A C H 24 S U P P O R T

25 A D K A E H N A

26 R O U S E 27 S U R V E Y I N G

28 S S D H Y W S S

9

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9 4 6 5

6 5 1

3 5

2 6 9

6 3 4 1

9 2 5 4 8 3

3

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EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM

OK (OK) Blue Jays (Blue Jays), let’s play ball

In honour of our Blue Jays and their run at the World Series, this week we have local legend James “Pud” Patterson in his c. 1910 Tigers baseball uniform. Unfortunately, we can’t confirm if he could hit a Dinger like Springer or knock it out of the park like Vladdy, but we’re sure he was quite the ball player. After playing with the Tigers, Pud became a local war hero in Niagara-on-the-Lake. During the First World War, he went overseas with the 92nd Highlanders. He survived the Battle of the Somme but was later buried by a shell explosion. Fortunately, he survived the war and would become known for his work as a local fisherman in town. From catching fish to catching fly balls, something tells me this seasoned angler would have been belting out the Blue Jays chant in between the sea shanties if he were here.



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The immune system: distinguishing friends from foes

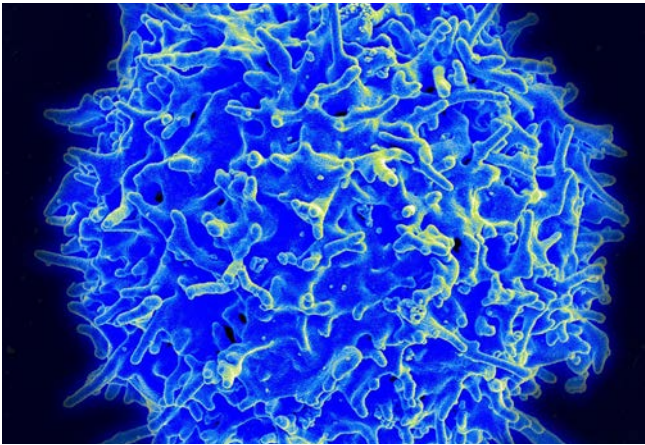


DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Tribalism, which is at the heart of so much human conflict — whether for cultural, religious, or racial reasons or simply greed and power — has been devastating for as long as modern humans have been around. Such divisions are also common in other species, where, for example, quarrels leading to violence are common enough among chimpanzees and wherever species compete for resources such as water, food and territory. Some version of tribalism plays out at the cellular level and never more so than in the immune system. I used to think the nervous system was the most complex system in the body, but after struggling to bring myself up to date on the immune system in the wake of this year’s Nobel Prize in medicine, I’m not so sure. The immune system is incredibly complex, too — intimidatingly so.

The challenge for the immune system is two-fold: mount effective responses to foreign invaders such as viruses and bacteria, while at the same time protecting the body’s cells from the same vigilant immune system. The latter question and how it was solved was the subject of this year’s Nobel Prize in medicine and/or physiology. The immune system begins with stem cells in the bone marrow, which mature in the thymus gland, a small organ located in the upper chest covered by the breastbone. To protect against foreign invaders, cells in the thymus develop a myriad of lymphocytes (T cells), each T cell expressing a unique protein tag on its cell surface membrane, which, should it match a protein on the surface of a foreign invader such as a virus or other pathogen, sets in train a series of events to destroy the invader. The system works surprisingly well and incorporates a memory for prior infections, the better to identify and attack like pathogens should subsequent attacks occur, such as COVID. The system works but isn’t perfect, as some readers can no doubt attest, given that they may have had two or more attacks of COVID, despite timely



To protect against foreign invaders, cells in the thymus develop a myriad of lymphocytes, specifically, T cells. WIKIMEDIA

vaccination with mRNA vaccines — themselves and their developers the subject of a Nobel Prize in 2023. The thymus not only protects against foreign invaders but also identifies T cells which express “self” proteins on their surface, which might potentially trigger an attack on some of the body’s own cells, and marks them for destruction within the thymus. It’s a marvellous “central” component to the immune system, but hardly perfect because some T cells that express “self” proteins on their surfaces manage to escape the thymus into the peripheral circulation, where they can provoke immune attacks on the body’s own cells — an autoimmune attack. There had to be a second line of defence: a peripheral arm to the immune system

what the mechanism behind it was. Enter the other two laureates, Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell, who set about identifying the exact mutant gene in the Scurfy mouse, an experimental model of a severe autoimmune disease. This wasn’t easy in the 1990s — like “looking for a needle in a haystack,” as the Nobel committee put it. Nonetheless, they were able to doggedly track down the culprit mutant gene to the never-before-studied mutant version of the Foxp3 gene. Brunkow and Ramsdell were able to demonstrate backwards and forwards that this was the real thing (all of the mutant mice showed this mutation, and producing transgenic mice with increasing copy numbers of the normal-wild-type Foxp3 gene showed progressive rescue of the autoimmune phenotype). Shortly afterwards, Brunkow and Ramsdell showed that a severe human autoimmune disorder (IPEX) showed the same sort of mutation in the human homolog of the same gene. Then, in 2003, Sakaguchi’s group and others showed that healthy versions of the Foxp3 gene were crucial to the function of the regulatory T cells they had previously discovered. Everything lined up. There really is a peripheral component to immune tolerance, as Sakaguchi originally suggested in the 1980s — it’s not all up to the thymus, important though that organ is. This is a very solid story of science at its best, expressed in the imagination and dogged persistence of the three laureates. They laid a firm foundation for modern day immunology and opened the way to exploring entirely novel ways to treat autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis more effectively and safely, Type 1 diabetes mellitus, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis as well as creating new avenues for preventing rejection of organ transplants, treating cancer and allergies such as the all too common and dangerous peanut allergy. Congratulations to the laureates and the insight and wisdom of the Nobel committee in choosing to highlight this subject in a very complicated field, of which I’ve barely hinted in this essay and learned so much in the process. 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.

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Obituary

Terry Anderson



ANDERSON, Terry —
Passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Monday Oct. 20, 2025 after a short but aggressive journey with cancer. He leaves behind his beloved wife and best friend of 45 years Nancy Jackson, his loving daughter Jennifer and his cherished grandchildren, Nyah & Kai. Terry is survived by his children's mother Sharon Anderson. He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, and friends. Terry was predeceased by his darling daughter Jacqueline and his three younger brothers, Barry (Judy), Brian, and Robert (Lou). Terry was born and raised in Ottawa, and later moved to Toronto where he and Nancy had their careers before retiring to Haliburton, where they lived for 15 years until they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2016. Terry was his own man. He will be fondly remembered for his quiet, reflective manner and his love of nature and the arts. Terry could easily become the life of the party with his intelligent wit and his lively, occasionally quirky sense of humour. Terry had an insatiable interest in learning, especially about the inner soul and where people fit into the universe. He spent many hours reading, studying, and sharing ideas with his online interest groups. Terry pursued many passionate interests throughout his life, including classical music (while in Haliburton he hosted his classical music program on Canoe Radio), stone carving, billiards, the meaning of dreams, and Jungian analysis. Most recently, he devoted several years to the spiritual study of the Tarot, including the Qaballah, and the Tree of Life. Terry loved helping others with whom he felt an intuitive connection. He will be deeply missed. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will take place at a later date at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. A celebration of Terry's life will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Newark Neighbours Food Bank and Thrift Store at 1534 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil, ON L0S 1T0. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



We welcome your letters

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



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NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATIONS, OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING

- What:** Notice of **Complete Applications, Open House** and **Public Meeting** for a **Zoning By-law Amendment** and **Modification to an Approved Draft Plan of Condominium** (under Section 34 and Section 51 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended)
- When:** Open House: **Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:00 pm**
Public Meeting: **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm**
- Where:** Open House: Electronically via the directions below
Public Meeting: In-person at the Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, or electronically via the directions below
- Regarding:** Files ZBA-24-2025 and 26CD-18-25-06
308 Four Mile Creek Road (Phase 2), Niagara-on-the-Lake

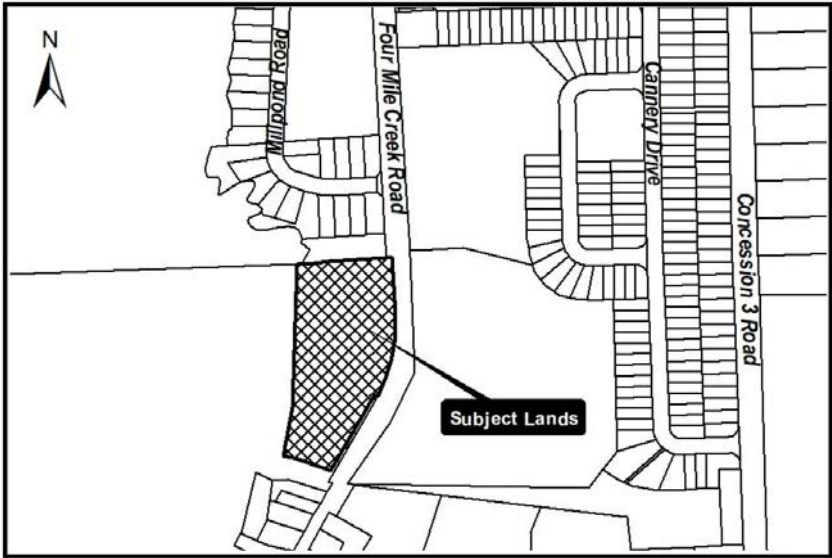
What is this?

Applications have been received for a Zoning By-law Amendment and a Modification to an approved Draft Plan of Vacant Land Condominium on the subject lands (see location map).

The Applications are proposed to facilitate the development of fifteen (15) block townhouse dwelling units to be accessed via a private road which connects to Four Mile Creek Road.

The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone a portion of the subject lands to a site-specific “Residential Multiple (RM1) Zone” to permit the block townhouse dwellings, with site-specific provisions for permitted yard projections and encroachments, distance between buildings on the same lot, interior side yard setback, and garage door width. No changes are proposed to the site-specific “Open Space (OS)” zones, which were implemented as part of a former approval on the subject lands to protect the Four Mile Creek and associated buffer lands, with permissions to allow for a private road and infrastructure subject to approval from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

The approved Draft Plan (Town File No. 26CD-18-23-01), includes nine (9) condominium units for townhouse dwellings on the northern portion of the property and a block at the southern portion of the property identified for future development, and a block for open space to protect the Four Mile Creek and associated buffer lands. The Draft Plan (Town File No. 26CD-18-23-01) was approved by Town Council on July 30, 2024. The modification is seeking to add six (6) condominium units for block townhouse dwellings at the southern portion of the subject lands, which is marked as Phase 2 – Future Development on the approved Draft Plan, in addition to revising the configuration of the private road.



Dialogue is encouraged:

You are invited to attend the Open House and Public Meeting to gather information and provide input regarding this matter.

Town Hall is open for the public to register in advance to attend Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings, including Public Meetings, in-person. Alternatively, the public will continue to have the option to register in advance to participate electronically.

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(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2025)
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Please Note: Written comments on the application are encouraged and must be submitted to the Town Clerk, at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 or via email at clerks@notl.com referencing the above file numbers. Unless indicated otherwise, all submissions, including personal information, will become part of the public record.

For more information:

A copy of the applications and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall. Please contact John Federici, Senior Planner, at 905-468-6441 or via email at john.federici@notl.com if additional information is required.

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Please note that third party appeals are restricted for this application as per Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024. Planning Act appeals may be filed by the applicant, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a “specified person” (as defined by the *Planning Act* 1(1)), and any “public body” (as defined by the *Planning Act* 1(1)).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 30, 2025
Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

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