



A day at the carnival | Page 2

Vol. 9, Issue 30

Canada's most-awarded community newspaper

July 30, 2026



Luna, an Italian Greyhound.

Search for missing dog enters eighth week

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

On a warm May morning, around 9:30 a.m., Louisa Ibbotson received a phone call no pet owner ever hopes to receive.

The person on the other line told her that her small Italian Greyhound, Luna, had escaped.

Since then, Ibbotson's family and a team of volunteers have been searching for the small, four-year-old dog, who has been spotted by multiple people around town but hasn't successfully been caught and taken back home.

She describes Luna as a dog who likes to sit on laps and get under blankets, but still acts like a playful pup. This is why her months-long survival in nature came as a surprise.

The search, which began May 26, is now in its eighth week, has been "devastating" and "terrible" for Ibbotson and her family, especially for her mom, who relies on Luna after losing her sight.

The silver lining, Ibbotson says, is the dedication and compassion she's witnessed from the search team.

"Everybody's been super kind, and that's because the only way we're going to get

Continued on Page 2

The calm after ...

Aggressive storm leaves hundreds of homes, businesses, farms flooded



Residents of this Line 1 Road home were among many across Niagara-on-the-Lake who awoke Tuesday to yards and streets swallowed by floodwater after a torrential overnight downpour. Now, homeowners and businesses are beginning to assess the damage left behind. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Paige Seburn | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Basements filled, sump pumps failed and farm fields disappeared underwater Tuesday after heavy rainfall pounded parts of Niagara-on-the-Lake for five hours.

By Wednesday afternoon, less than 48 hours after the deluge,

most of the flooding had receded, leaving a lot of large ponds and pools of water in vineyards, along roadsides and on rural properties.

But the cleanup, repairs and steps to mitigate such problems when the next storm strikes has only begun.

Over on Four Mile Creek Road, Elizabeth Farmer says her home's basement flooded completely.

"Our basement is a write-off," she said, adding it will have to be redone.

According to a town briefing sent to council and shared with

The Lake Report by Coun. Wendy Cheropita, almost six inches of rain (146.26 millimetres) fell between 11:30 p.m. Monday and 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, with Virgil bearing the worst of what it called "except-

Continued on Page 12

Joyous NOTL celebrates fifth annual potluck picnic on the parkway

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Neighbours who had never met, some living steps from each other, shared a potluck lunch Saturday as Joyous NOTL held its fifth annual summer picnic on the lawn at McFarland House.

The picnic brings together members of a private Facebook group Mariah Reese started in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, to push back against the negativity she saw taking over local online spaces.

"I was starting to be a very negative person too, and I was like, 'You know what? If nega-

tivity can grow so fast, positivity can too,'" she said.

The Joyous NOTL group has grown to almost 2,000 members and its picnic has become a summer tradition beside the Niagara Parkway.

She said she launched the



Continued on Page 4 The picnic is growing. ANDREW HAWLITZKY



Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.

(905) 468 2135 | www.peninsulaflooring.ca
1311 Inegan Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Fresh Floors
No Guesswork

Free In-Home Estimates

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

The St. Davids Lions Club has pulled off its family carnival for a 63rd straight year, and club president Marty Byl says he could not be happier with the number of people who came out to the village fairgrounds.

The four-day carnival, which wrapped up Saturday, July 25, is held every summer outside the Lions Clubs's main location on York Road. Entry is free and the money raised at its games and food booths goes back into the club's community projects across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"That was a fantastic, fantastic turnout this year," said Byl. "Really pleased. Love to serve the public."

The carnival ended with the draw for its \$10,000 main prize, which went to Rick Beaupre. Pete Flynn took the second-place prize, a Niagara adventure package. MPP Wayne Gates made the draw alongside main prize chairman Bill Brouwer and Byl.

The club made its biggest change this year to the live



Gabriella Fischer, left, and Amelia Richardson, both 8, ride the Swinger at the 63rd annual St. Davids Lions Carnival. It was one of many attractions drawing families to come enjoy the four-day long festival. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

music, replacing its usual rotation of small acts with a handful of larger bands, Byl said.

Barby Collins, who joined the Lions Club and took charge of the entire music area, performed with her band on Friday night after special guest Dan Diggins opened the evening. A band called Madmen played the closing night on Saturday.

The midway games came back in stronger shape as well, said Byl, because the amusement company reinvested in its rides during what he understands to be a handover of the business from a father to his daughter.

The club also moved its dog show to a new time slot and set up an extra tent to give visitors relief from the sun. Its Lions burger

booth, a staple of the event, returned as well.

"We just try to keep tweaking [the carnival]," said Byl.

Finding enough volunteers remains one of the hardest parts of putting on the carnival each year, he said, but this summer several residents approached Lions members in the middle of the event and

asked how they could help.

"We've had people walk up to us and just say, 'Can I help?' It's been amazing," said Byl.

The club counted about 100 members and roughly 250 volunteers at last year's carnival, longtime organizer Al Snider said, with some helping for an hour and others working the entire weekend.

Snider also said the club makes no money on the midway rides and keeps its own prices the same every year, even as the amusement companies raise theirs, so that families can still afford a night out.

Byl believes people keep returning after six decades because the carnival gives them a rare chance to spend time together in person.

“We live in a world that doesn’t have social activities so much as they have social media,” he said. “This is an opportunity to bump into your neighbour, shake their hand, sit down at a picnic table, meet them again.”

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is making the carnival a little more difficult to operate every year, Byl said, and one of the permits the club needed this summer doubled in price.

He believes most of those obstacles are unintended, and the club plans to work with the town over the coming months to sort them out before the carnival returns for its 64th year next summer.

andrew@niagaranow.com

Niagara on-the-Lake Realty

1974 • 2024

29 CIRCLE STREET
\$989,000
Weston Miller

6 TULIP TREE ROAD
\$1,250,000
Randall Armstrong

336 GAGE STREET
\$1,295,000
Thomas Eltoft & Kim Eltoft

304-2190 LAKESHORE ROAD, Burlington
\$1,199,000
Weston Miller

107-215 RICARDO STREET
\$1,325,000
Weston Miller

14-21 LORETTA DRIVE
\$719,000
Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

1891 LAKESHORE ROAD
\$995,000
Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

262 SIMCOE STREET
\$1,199,000
Thomas Eltoft & Kim Eltoft

642 SIMCOE STREET
\$1,695,000
Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk

8 CLARENCE STREET
\$799,000
Jane Eltoft

1426 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
\$1,498,000
Thomas Eltoft

377 JOHNSON STREET
\$3,495,000
Thomas Eltoft & Viviane Eltoft

Christopher Bowron***	905-327-6704	Nicole Vanderperk*	905-941-4585	Jane Eltoft**	905-988-8776	Ricky Watson*	905-246-3387
Kim Eltoft**	905-380-8011	Viviane Eltoft*	905-988-7494	Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0276	Patricia Atherton*	905-933-4983
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977	Thomas Eltoft*	905-380-8012	Weston Miller*	289-213-8681	Socratis Kosmidis*	289-668-9324

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205
246 Four Mile Creek Road 905-262-6996
www.notlrealty.com

Team of volunteers helping track dog

Continued from Front Page

the dog is through sightings. I know it's a lot to ask of people, but they've really gone above and beyond," she said. "It really gives you a sort of faith in humanity."

The team behind the quest is Ken Price's "Dream Team," a group of volunteers who are on-call around the clock, ready to hurry to a sighting location any time of day or night.

The Dream Team, a not-for-profit Price started more than 12 years ago, uses various tools to rescue lost dogs.

Reported sightings are used to draw a rough map of where Luna may be hiding, which currently has an area of around 13 square kilometres. It's in this zone where drones are used to survey the land from a bird's-eye view, thermal cameras to discover hiding spots that conceal Luna from the sky, as well as carefully designed traps to lure her in.

"In the traps we have food ... we have urine from another dog that [she's] bonded with; we also have the owner's socks in the trap for scent," said Jaime Renner, a member of the search team.

These details are meant to evoke what Price calls "air bubbles," or information that gets pushed to the dog's subconscious when they enter a wild state, also known as fear-flight.

This personality switch that happens when domesticated animals enter a feral environment separates the dog from its usual self. In Renner's words, trying to catch a dog in fear-flight is like trying to catch a fox.

"The dog doesn't remem-

ber who they are anymore, but whenever they get a smell, the scent always gets through the fear-flight enough that the dog would say, 'Wait a minute, I know that scent,'" Price said.

With Ibbotson's clothing and the scent of the family's other dog, a miniature schnauzer named Maggie, the team is trying to bring air bubbles to the surface to snap Luna out of fear-flight.

But reuniting a wild animal with its domestic personality takes more than personalized traps and 24-hour surveillance; more than anything, it takes patience. A wild animal prioritizes survival above all else, which can turn family to predators in their eyes.

At the scene of a sighting, Price says the team will instruct the owner to sit on the ground about 20 feet away from the dog and wait, sometimes for minutes, sometimes for hours. And if the dog starts to approach, anything but silence and stillness may cause them to bolt again.

"The owner's scent or visual is not going to do anything right away; the dog has no idea who their owner is," he said. "The dog says, 'Wait a minute, I know the smell of this predator, why do I know the smell of this predator?' That scent makes them curious and makes those air bubbles happen."

This process can be difficult for owners, Price added, who are used to their pets running up to them right away.

This natural fear of predators is why trying to chase and catch Luna does more harm than good. In her eyes, a person walking toward



Luna has been missing since May, but people say they've spotted her. SUPPLIED

her is a predator hunting its prey.

"People have made eye contact and she's taken off. They've tried to call her and she's taken off. Some have tried to catch her and she's taken off," Renner said. "They must pretend they didn't see her. Look the opposite way, but try and see which direction she's going."

Still, the team says all reports of sightings are appreciated. The next step, though, is spreading the word that the search is still ongoing. Ibbotson said some people are taking down the signs, possibly because they think the search is over.

"It's upsetting because it's very time-consuming putting them up, but I mean there's been so many more people that have been just so kind and offered to help," she said.

Luna is a 12-pound, short

dog who has been away from home for months, which may cause assumptions the search has reached a natural conclusion. For this reason, Renner says it's important to give dogs credit for their survival abilities.

"All of those couple of nights out in the bush, every little bit of wild dog DNA seems to kick in, and those dogs start to hunt," she said.

For Ibbotson, Luna's resilience brings light to a difficult situation.

"My daughter and I used to make fun of her and say she was just a spoiled lap dog, but my god, she's survived in the wild this long," he said. "We have a newfound respect for her."

Although the search has stretched over the summer, Ibbotson says her family is hopeful Luna will make it home, thanks to the Dream Team. The challenge, she noted, is that she's a small dog who can hide well.

"It's been incredibly stressful ... she's kind of my mom's comfort because she's lost her sight, so of course we're devastated by the situation," she said. "(Maggie) is stressed. She's not as bouncy as she normally is, you can tell she misses her."

As the search continues, Price says Luna's witnesses should continue reporting sightings but maintain distance to keep her from taking off.

"We just have to keep going and do what we're doing," Ibbotson said. "Even when we drive around, we see water bowls in people's driveways ... There's so many instances of how kind people have been."



THE FARMHOUSE Cafe

Open For Lunch Daily
Reservations strongly suggested
Online booking available! Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814

Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in August!



CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR
Open 7 days a week
Wine tastings offered daily
Walk-ins Welcome for Wine Tasting! Reservations available for group bookings

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

St. David's VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com

Has your senior pet had a check-up lately?

House-calls available ☎ 905.262.8777



airway CPAP inc

CPAP AND SLEEP APNEA SUPPLIES
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202

For appointment call 289-868-9212.



Stewart LAWYERS
WILLS & ESTATES
PLAN TODAY. PROTECT TOMORROW.
Compassionate, practical legal services for wills, powers of attorney, and estate administration.

☎ **905.641.2633**
✉ andrew@stewartlpc.ca
1501 Niagara Stone Rd, Unit 7, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
By appointment.



Andrew Stewart, Lawyer

Have an opinion you want heard?
Email us.



GARAGE SALE



LOCATOR



The Lake Report will run a weekly garage/yard sale listing weekly until the end of September. **Thinking of having a yard sale? Send the details to editor@niagaranow.com by Wednesday and we'll publish them here for FREE.**

SATURDAY:	None found or submitted yet, but that doesn't mean there aren't any. Happy hunting!	SUNDAY:	None found or submitted yet, but that doesn't mean there aren't any. Happy hunting!
------------------	--	----------------	--

On Monday, check out the NOTL Museum's Heritage Festival, which includes the museum's popular treasures sale, featuring antiques, artwork, books, vintage décor and other collectibles, while local vendors offer food, drinks and handmade goods. Another great place to find garage sales is on the NOTL 4 All Facebook page. They will be archived in the featured tab, so if you're keen, keep your eyes peeled!

Hear conversations, laughter, and life again.

Book a **FREE** hearing test
866-474-5701

amplifon
Hearing Care Experts
amplifon.ca



SHUCK IT! Tuesdays
FRESH PEI OYSTERS & SEAFOOD FEATURES
WITH LIVE MUSIC • 5:30PM - 8:30PM
QUEENSTONMILEVINEYARD.COM



‘If negativity can grow so fast, positivity can too’

Continued from Front Page

page thinking four or five people might want a little positive space. It grew quickly and members soon asked to meet in person.

The gatherings carry no political, religious or business purpose, she said, and draw people from Niagara Falls and Buffalo along with residents from across town.

Those meetups have produced friendships, book clubs and walking clubs, said Reese. One resident once stopped her on the street to thank her, telling her the tone of other local Facebook groups had softened since Joyous NOTL began.

“We have some of the nicest, most joyous, most positivity-spreading people you could meet in town here,” she said.

Saturday’s picnic was the group’s family event — children, grandchildren and friends were all welcome. Reese said members range from newcomers to a regu-

lar in her 80s or 90s who gets chatted up by friends and neighbours every year.

Her husband, Robert Reese, said the group’s purpose has outlasted the pandemic that inspired it.

“There does seem to be some divisiveness every once in a while, and that’s a small town — it doesn’t matter what small town you go to,” he said.

He said the picnic brings a real cross-section of the town, and newcomers often build friendships that carry on after the tables are cleared.

“You might only see them in the parking lot. We just pick up where we left off, and we’re just friends,” he said.

Mariah Reese credited Konzelmann Estate Winery and Andrew Niven for their support, saying the winery has reached out every year to donate and ask how it can help. Door prizes at Saturday’s picnic included a \$200 basket donated by Konzelmann.

andrew@niagaranow.com



Joyous NOTL picnicgoers take part in a bounty of fresh fruit, salads, sweet treats and more outside the McFarland House on Saturday, July 25. It was the fifth annual celebration. “We have some of the nicest, most joyous, most positivity-spreading people you could meet in town here,” said group founder Mariah Reese. ANDREW HAWLITZKY



DOMINION LENDING CENTRES

YOUR LOCAL MORTGAGE EXPERT!

WHY CHOOSE ME?

With 20+ years of mortgage expertise, I deliver tailored solutions by shopping multiple lenders to secure the best fit for every client.

Specializing in purchases, refinances, renewals, investment properties, and alternative lending including private and reverse mortgages (55 years+).

Proudly serving Niagara-on-the-Lake with trusted, local insight.

MY SERVICES

-  **Bruised Credit Solutions**
for clients with credit challenges
-  **Equity Lending**
Access the equity in your home for investments, renovations, or consolidating high-interest rate loans
-  **Reverse Mortgages**
Homeowners 55 years + can access home equity with minimal qualification
-  **Mixed-Use Property Financing**
Mortgages for properties that combine residential and commercial spaces
-  **Farm Financing**
Mortgage solutions designed for rural and agricultural properties

AND MUCH MORE!

 **MORE CHOICE**
Access to multiple lenders for better options

 **BETTER SOLUTIONS**
Tailored mortgage solutions for your needs

 **CLEAR TRUST**
Honest advice. Reliable service. Focused on your goals.



Aly
SADAF AZAM
MORTGAGE AGENT LEVEL 1

 **416-937-2005**

 www.mtgbyaly.com

 info@mtgbyaly.com

 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

DOMINION LENDING CENTRES
CLEAR TRUST MORTGAGES 12806

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

WITH OLDE TOWNE BUILDING CO.



We are remodeling experts!

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

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

CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION



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

Olde Towne Building Company



Council **re-rejects** St. Davids housing plan revived by strong mayor powers

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa used his strong mayor powers to bring a rejected St. Davids housing proposal back for another vote last Tuesday, but council defeated it by an even wider margin.

Niagara-on-the-Lake council voted 7-2 against an official plan amendment that would have allowed five townhouses and one detached home at 1317 York Rd., at the southeast corner of York and Tanbark roads.

Only Zalepa and Coun. Erwin Wiens supported it. Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Maria Mavridis, Andrew Niven, Sandra O'Connor and Adriana Vizzari voted against it.

The defeat automatically killed the accompanying zoning amendment needed for the development.

The proposal already failed 5-4 at the July 7 committee meeting. Zalepa then used an authority available under Ontario's strong mayor system to place the two approval bylaws directly on council's July 21 agenda.

Under the strong-mayor rules, the official plan amendment bylaw needed support from four of council's nine members to pass.

The final vote followed little discussion, with Wiens saying only that he would vote consistently with his earlier position.

Councillors aired their concerns during the July 7 committee debate. Zalepa,



Despite an attempt by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa to force approval of a St. Davids housing development using Doug Ford's "strong mayor powers," almost all of council shot his idea down, with the exception of Coun. Erwin Wiens. He only needed four votes under the new powers. FILE

Wiens, Balasiuk and Mavridis supported the development, while the other five opposed it. Balasiuk and Mavridis switched sides for the final council vote.

The plan would have redesignated the property from low-density residential, which generally allows up to 14 units per hectare, to site-specific medium-density residential allowing 39 units per hectare. The town's standard medium-density limit is 30.

"The one that I still have a concern with is going to 39 units per hectare," Cheropita said during the committee debate.

The 0.42-acre property currently contains one detached home, which would have been demolished if the development had been approved. Five townhouses would have faced Tanbark Road, with a new detached home facing York Road.

Each unit would have had two parking spaces, meeting the town's zoning requirements. However, Cheropita said the devel-

opment appeared to leave nowhere for visitors to park.

"I have concerns that there would not be any parking for visitors to any of these homes," she said.

Niven said the increased density, lot coverage and number of exceptions sought from the town's normal zoning rules pushed the project too far.

"How many exemptions are too many?" he asked. "When we're getting over 15 exemptions, to me, that's not what we should be aligning to."

O'Connor focused on wastewater capacity and tree removal.

"Without having a plan that deals with this capacity situation that we know about now, I really can't approve this plan," she said.

The applicant's tree report identified 27 trees around the site and said 19 would have to be removed, including nine in the town's road allowance and three on a neighbouring property. A preliminary landscape plan proposed nine new trees across the property.

"My last concern is about the trees," O'Connor said, pointing to one tree measuring 112 centimetres in diameter. "That's a very big, iconic tree that's part of the natural heritage of that area."

Town planning staff recommended approval. It said the proposal complied with provincial and local planning policies, would add different housing options and could be supported by existing water and sanitary sewer systems.

Because of constraints at the town's downstream stormwater facility, runoff would have been directed to the regional storm sewer on York Road instead of the Tanbark Road system. An underground storage system would have controlled how quickly that water was released.

At the earlier meeting, Wiens argued council needed defensible planning reasons to reject a project supported by its professional staff.

"We have to keep looking at what is defensible at the (Ontario Land Tribunal)," he said. "It's easy to always say no."

"There is no credible evidence that says that we can deny this and go to the (tribunal) and win."

Council ultimately left the property's existing low-density designation and zoning in place. The owner cannot proceed with the development as proposed but has 20 days to appeal council's decision or could return with a revised plan.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

Ian Mell fundraiser collects **991 pounds** of pet food, raises \$1,400 to aid animals

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A fundraiser held in memory of Niagara-on-the-Lake businessman and animal lover Ian Mell collected 991 pounds of pet food and raised \$1,416 for local animal rescues.

The event also collected 50 pounds of cat litter. Members and volunteers with the Community Initiative for Animal Rescue delivered the pet food and litter to the Newark Neighbours Pet Pantry on July 28, organizer Tanya Rice said.

The group hosted the



The total of pet food donated came in at 991 pounds — a measure of fundraiser participants' generosity. SUPPLIED

fundraiser July 25 at 456 Line 2 Rd. in Virgil, bringing the community together for a garage sale, raffle and pet-food drive.

The money raised included \$1,000 for Niagara

Falls Community Cats and \$400 for Joy's Rescue, Rice said.

Mell, a longtime co-owner and operator of Grape Escape Wine Tours, died in May 2025 at age 67.

He ran the family-owned tour company with his son, Richard Mell, and partner, Diane Shaw, and was known for supporting animals and community initiatives.

In 2019, Mell and his family helped launch the Lights for Bikes project, which supplied and installed bicycle lights for migrant farm workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The July fundraiser was organized to honour that community-minded legacy while supporting local animal rescues and helping Newark Neighbours keep its pet pantry stocked for residents in need.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

**BE RIGHT BACK
SEE YOU SOON
WE'LL MISS YOU**

SUMMER BREAK

BACK AUGUST 10

CLOSED AUGUST 1 TO 9

HAPPY CIVIC WEEKEND

**It's been a spec-tacular summer,
and now we're taking a little break!**

Our offices will be closed from August 1 to 9. We'll have our sights set on returning refreshed and ready to see you on Aug. 10! Happy Civic weekend!



**DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY**
— Sight for Life —

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

Legion 100
Branch 124
Niagara On The Lake
1926-2026

CIVIC HOLIDAY PATIO PARTY

**MONDAY, AUG 3
1-8 PM**
LIVE MUSIC
ON OUR FESTIVAL STAGE
FROM 3-7 PM
with
THE TROPHY HUSBANDS

BBQ ★ JOIN US AT THE LEGION ★

LEGION 410 KING ST.

MEAT FOOD COLD DRINKS GOOD TIMES COMMUNITY

**PROUD TO
BE YOUR
Voice
IN OTTAWA**

TONY BALDINELLI
MP | NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE:
905-353-9590
tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca
tonybaldinelli.mp.ca
facebook.com/tonybaldinelli.mp

FORT ERIE OFFICE:
905-871-9991

**Proud to support
local news!**

WAYNE GATES
MPP Niagara Falls proudly
representing Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-357-0681

St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd., St. Davids
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek
Rental inquiries: 905-262-5242

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

Advertising inquiries?
Email.advertising@niagaranow.com



MM LALANDE LAW
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Wills & Estates, Real Estate,
Collaborative Family Law

Been named
as executor? Not sure
what to do next? Feeling
overwhelmed by the
process? Join me for my
seminar at the end of
August on Estate
Administration Basics!
I'll walk you through what
to expect, the probate
process, and how to
navigate your
responsibilities.



FREE PARKING &
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

WILLS & ESTATES SEMINAR - Aug. 26, 6:00-6:45pm
"Estate Administration Basics"
Call or email to register!

(289) 868-9687 mmlaw.ca
mml@mmlaw.ca

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

Council plans major revamp of chambers

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is shelving plans for a larger municipal office in favour of spreading staff across existing town facilities — a move its staff say will improve customer service while avoiding the significant cost of building or expanding office space.

Committee of the whole endorsed the recommendation last Tuesday. It would also see the town spend up to \$150,000 to reconfigure council chambers after the province's approval to reduce council to seven members from nine prompted a review of the chamber's layout and functionality. The recommendation goes to council July 21 for final approval.

Staff said it considered both centralizing its services in one building and spreading its services out over multiple buildings before concluding that



Council chambers will be upgraded to be more accessible, have better technology and suit a seven-person council. FILE

decentralizing services over time — by making use of municipal buildings and spaces the town currently has — makes more financial sense and creates “a more agile and responsive work environment.”

Chief administrative officer Nick Ruller said the approach maximizes the town’s “existing municipal facilities” and avoids “significant capital costs” associated with centralizing services in one administrative building.

Ruller said the current layout of council chambers also isn’t ideal because council members have their backs to the public gallery and aren’t well-positioned to engage with people who stand to directly address council, like presenters and

delegates.

The work would improve accessibility, expand gallery seating and overall capacity and upgrade aging technology. Ruller said about 40 per cent of the budget would go toward technology improvements.

“We’d be looking to reconfigure to better position council to be able to kind of connect with the delegates,” he said. “We don’t have a specific design established at this point.”

During discussion, Coun. Wendy Cheropita called the report “excellent” and said recent technical problems during meetings, such as July 7’s committee of the whole planning meeting, showed upgrades are needed.

“After last week, it was

very obvious that we needed to upgrade some technical services,” she said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs asked if the town’s “front desk section” would still be there “because many of our residents are very impressed by the treatment they receive.”

“That’s correct,” Ruller said, agreeing that community feedback has consistently shown residents value being able to meet staff in-person.

“We’re also looking at whether we can expand that throughout the community.”

The report says human resources staff have already been moved to the administration building, finance employees have been consolidated in one area, fire administration relocated to a more accessible ground-floor location, parks and recreation managers returned to the arena and parking services staff moved closer to their equipment.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

26TH ANNUAL NOTL KINSMEN

SHOW & SHINE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARKS CANADA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
9 A.M. - 4 P.M. | KINSMEN SCOUT HALL
(At the corner of King and Mary streets)

CAR SHOW, BARBECUE, BEER TENT,
ANNUAL T-SHIRTS & MORE

Proceeds support Kinsmen community projects
and Cystic Fibrosis Canada



All cars welcome.
Register at gate





MEDIA SPONSOR:
The Lake Report



MOVE BETTER. FEEL BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

Chiropractic care focused on
reducing pain, improving movement,
and helping you get back to
doing what you love.



BACK PAIN



NECK PAIN



HEADACHES



SCIATICA



SPORTS INJURIES



SHOULDER PAIN

Gary Friesen, D.C.

CHIROPRACTOR | CLINIC DIRECTOR

Serving Niagara-on-the-Lake and the surrounding community for **over 10 years**, Dr. Gary Friesen provides personalized chiropractic care for patients of all ages — from injury recovery to long-term wellness.

- ✓ Hands-on treatment tailored to your needs
- ✓ Identify the root cause, not just the symptoms
- ✓ Evidence-informed care focused on results
- ✓ Practical strategies to help you move confidently every day



**YOUR HEALTH.
YOUR GOALS.**



Personalized care
for your lifestyle



Evidence-informed
chiropractic treatment



Better movement.
Better quality of life.

 **HELPING NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MOVE BETTER SINCE 2014.**
Personalized chiropractic care for the whole family.



health & wellness

CHIROPRACTIC | PHYSIOTHERAPY | MASSAGE | NATUROPATHY | OSTEOPATHY



NotlHealthAndWellness.com
443 Butler Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
(corner of Mary and Butler)



905-468-0614

CALL ANGELIKA = **SOLD!**™

CALL OR TEXT (289) 214-4394

★ FREE HOME EVALUATION ★

FEATURED LISTING



\$1,399,000



STUNNING KITCHEN



GORGEOUS MAIN FLOOR FAMILY ROOM

1606 CONCESSION 4 ROAD

- Proactive - I Solve Problems Before They Start!
- **Free packing of your house / estate cleanup/decluttering services*****
- World class videography, photos and drone footage, high quality hard cover print brochures & advertising in print media
- Large social media presence and extensive unique marketing techniques
- Your property is advertised on all 23 Real Estate boards in Ontario plus globally listed in over 200 countries
- Home renovation experience
- **Help Elderly Relocate**
- Several testimonials and 5 star reviews
- Long term presence in Niagara-on-the-Lake. **Local Right at Home Realty Team Office in NOTL** (Over 6000 in GTA, #1 independent brokerage in the GTA for over 10 years**)
- Angelika previously owned a highly successful marketing/media business in Toronto for over 20 years. Built relationships with Fortune 500, big banks, CTV, Global, Olympics, Film Festival.
- Years of real estate experience
- Knowledge in all aspects of real properties (waterfront, residential, agricultural, commercial and leases)
- Up to date on mortgage trends and state of economy, strategy to sell
- Contribution to charities



ANGELIKA ZAMMIT
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD
TOP RATED AGENT IN
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE! *



496 MISSISSAUGA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TEAM
Bringing GTA Buyers to Niagara-On-The-Lake
#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA FOR 10 YEARS**

Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE



*Based on reviews from Rate-My-Agent.com, a triple verified review platform **TRREB Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2022, combined units sold.
***FREE GIFT OF 10 HOURS OF PACKING AND DECLUTTERING SERVICES - excludes tenanted areas

Shaw lands \$750K grant, Art at the Pumphouse is back

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival has secured \$750,000 for its new Royal George Theatre as it prepares to take two Niagara-on-the-Lake productions to Toronto this fall.

The RBC Foundation Community Spaces Grant will be provided over three years to fund a geothermal well system for the rebuilt theatre's heating and cooling infrastructure.

Expected to open in fall 2028, the new Royal George is designed to become North America's first theatre to earn Zero Carbon Building Design certification.

The geothermal system will provide all-electric heating and cooling without on-site fossil fuels. The theatre is also pursuing Rick Hansen Foundation Gold certification for accessibility.

Meanwhile, the Shaw will begin a three-year artistic residency at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre with



The RBC's grant, to be provided over three years, will fund a geothermal well system for the new Royal George Theatre's heating and cooling system. SUPPLIED

"Sleuth" and "A Christmas Carol."

"Sleuth," a crime thriller starring Patrick Galligan and Sepehr Reybod, will run at the Fleck Theatre from Oct. 16 to Nov. 1 after ending its season at the Shaw's Court House Theatre on Oct. 9.

The Shaw's annual production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," starring Sanjay Talwar as Ebenezer Scrooge, will follow

from Nov. 12 to Dec. 23.

The partnership is intended to introduce the Niagara-on-the-Lake theatre company's work to new audiences while expanding Harbourfront Centre's year-round cultural programming.

Subscription packages are now on sale. Performance schedules and ticket information are available at HarbourfrontCentre.com/Shaw.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

Staff
The Lake Report

Paintings, pottery, photography and plenty of river-side inspiration will fill the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre this weekend as its annual Art at the Pumphouse show and sale returns with more than just artwork on display.

The juried art show and sale will run Aug. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the arts centre.

The event showcases original works in a range of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, glass, pottery, textiles and jewellery. Visitors can also browse an artisan marketplace, watch artists at work and take part in hands-on art activities.

Four Niagara artists are participating in the show for the first time this year: St. Catharines acrylic painter Peggy Brennan, St. Catharines photographer Laurie J. Morrison, Welland water-colour artist Lillian Pasqua and Lincoln mixed-media artist Dorothy Vandersteen.

Pasqua's work combines her interests in illustration and the natural world



Explore a diversity of original artworks, including paintings, photographs, sculptures and more at the annual show, running Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. FILE

through traditional botanical illustrations inspired by native plants, she said.

"My art is an intersection of my interests in both illustration and the natural world," she said in a media release.

Vandersteen, who creates artwork using preserved moss, botanicals, glass and upcycled picture frames, said she hopes visitors discover a medium they may not have seen before.

"When viewers look at my work I anticipate an enthusiasm in seeing an art

form that they have not yet experienced," she said.

Returning artists include St. Catharines printmaker, painter and mixed-media artist Janet Horne Cozens, whose work has increasingly focused on Northern Ontario landscapes.

"I hope that viewers will see the beauty of nature and the Canadian wilderness through my eyes — full of vibrancy and colour, serene and isolated," Cozens said.

Throughout the weekend, local artists will demonstrate techniques including acrylic painting, pottery throwing, stained glass and photo emulsion lifts.

The event will also feature musical performances by Niagara musicians, including John Claus, Selena Carlson and Gordon Cleland, as well as historical interpreters, pet portraits and activities for children and families.

Admission is \$5, while children are admitted free. A virtual version of the show will remain available online until Aug. 9 for those unable to attend in person.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is located at 247 Ricardo St.



HERITAGE FESTIVAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

11 AM — 4 PM

📍 Castlereagh Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake



JOIN US FOR

Live Music / Treasures Sale
Historic Demonstrations
Food Vendors / Artisan Booths
And Much More!

FREE
ADMISSION!

notlmuseum.ca • 905-468-3912 • contact@nhsm.ca

vendors curated by  SORELLA NIAGARA

A thoughtful ‘Heartbreak House’ that never fully catches fire

HEARTBREAK HOUSE

(out of five)

Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre, 2 hours, 40 minutes, one intermissions. Ends Oct. 3. By George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Tim Carroll.

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Monday night’s prolonged electrical storm dislodged any possibility of slumber, which led to observing flashes of lightning and the rewriting of this review.

I wanted to wholeheartedly love Tim Carroll’s direction of this “Heartbreak House,” brought home once again to the Shaw Festival.

It is, after all, one of Bernard Shaw’s finest plays, if not the finest. One he struggled with and anguished over until he could reconcile its conflicts and bring its deeper meanings to relevant fruition.

In July 1916, Bernard Shaw was at a house party in Sussex, sitting on the terrace after dinner, when he heard the distant, ominous thunder of artillery on the

battlefields of the Somme. On July 1, British forces had launched their offensive and suffered 57,000 casualties. Such grave losses were to continue until 1918, a generation of young men gone.

For what? “Heartbreak House” is a profound examination of generational change, of dreams and ambitions shattered by war, of industry and government overturning social programs in favour of exploitation.

It mourns the loss of idealism, manners, economic stability, the gains made by women, the demise of literature and the death of poets flung into the maws of death.

Only love can sustain the survivors. And only attention to its message, to the fine Shavian words, can save this production. It is demanding of its audience.

Into this bohemian ship of Captain Shotover is a house unmoored from reality. Tim Carroll has brought together his finest actors to guide us to understanding.

Julia Course is outstanding as the beguiling Shotover daughter, Hesione,

by turns warm and compassionate or fiery in opposition when provoked.

Tom Rooney’s Captain Shotover achieves the remarkable balance of paternal sensitivity and grace with his “demon of Zanzibar” reputation of controlling his men at sea and avoiding wrecks on the rocks by a lifelong adherence to the importance of navigation.

Graeme Somerville is totally believable as the tough Boss Mangan, who beneath the hard shell and bluster of an industry giant, is a softy incapable of actual cruelty who longs to be loved.

Sochi Fried as Ariadne, Lady Utterwood, the other Shotover daughter, brings the required crispness of a woman bound to etiquette, respectability and her status as a colonial governor’s wife. She returns, 23 years after escaping, to the safety of home, but remains appalled by its irreverent bad manners.

Her father, the captain, wisely sees that her facade of cold heartlessness is a cry for love and to have her heart broken. She falls for her sister’s husband, the

liar and philanderer, Hector Hushabye, played by Martin Happer with a loucheness not quite in keeping with a suavity one would expect.

Jason Cadieux is Randall Utterwood, the brother-in-law of Ariadne. She treats his puppy-dog devotion with utter contempt. Unfortunately, in this play of meaningful dialogues, Cadieux and Happer’s moment, was unheard by our section of the audience. We saw only the back of Cadieux’s head and heard nothing. And here is where we need to consider the mature, matinee audience.

Clever lines hardly raised a chuckle or recognition. Is Shaw no longer read? A standing ovation, au courant for anything and everything, did not occur at this matinee. It was worthy of one.

Are the tragedies of the First World War forgotten in the onslaught of current wars currently consuming lives yet easily forgotten in the maze of media coverage, reality television, iPhones and games?

Revelation. Shaw actually based this play on a game: chess.

The action of “Heartbreak



Martin Happer as “Hector Hushabye.” DAVID COOPER

House” is its narration and its mind game. The set is minimalist, a checkered floor and a few chairs. Its reference to a ship only comes when the captain blows his whistle and commands “To the fore-castle.”

This house appears to be a place of sleep and dreaming but it is also a place of gamesmanship. Who will take whom, or fail to take whom, on this chessboard? There are white and black kings and queens and bishops and pawns. They move according to the game. The costumes, cleverly designed

by Ximena Pinilla in black and white, are sumptuous or casual as required.

Only at the end, does the reverie and gamesmanship come to an end. The ensemble are out in the garden, musing sleepily after dinner. They hear distant drumming. They become alert. Lights go out. They hear a zeppelin overhead. The nearby Rectory is bombed. The captain’s dynamite in the garden gravel pit explodes. One black king is killed. The game is over.

But it has all been so exciting that they wish the bombing to return the next evening. Fear and danger and adventure has brought meaning to their lives. It would have brought more dynamic meaning to the audience to hear a few of these sounds. Alas, we don’t. The spoken narration tells us.

A moment later, the ensemble becomes melancholic. They wistfully sing Ivor Novello’s 1914 song, “Keep the Home Fires Burning.” It is a poignant end to what might have been.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an arts and culture historian, writer and lecturer living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Your Niagara-on-the-Lake Real Estate Professionals

30 Bianca Drive, Niagara-on-the-Lake
List Price - \$799,000



IMPROVED PRICE

CYNTHIA & AMBER LOFORTI, REALTORS*
905.359.5780 905.329.0353

WE ARE LOCAL
WE ARE TIMELESS

McGarr

GROUP
WITH

REVEL

REALTY INC., BROKERAGE



WE ARE GLOBAL
WE ARE INNOVATORS

Lot 1 Bayberry Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake
\$775,000



BEAUTIFUL STREET IN AN IDYLIC TOWN

JOY MIELE, REALTOR*
Joy@McGarrRealty.com 905.347.3728

7819 Pender Street, Niagara Falls
List Price - \$1,299,999



SPACIOUS AND MODERN

CYNTHIA & AMBER LOFORTI, REALTORS*
905.359.5780 905.329.0353

20 Crimson Drive, Niagara-on-the-Lake
List Price - \$795,000



NEW PRICE

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

681 Warner Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake
List Price - \$1,180,000



OPEN HOUSE SUN AUG 2 2-4PM

BUNGALOW WITH GUEST COTTAGE, CITY WATER/SEWER. OVER 400' DEEP LOT.

JOY MIELE, REALTOR*
Joy@McGarrRealty.com 905.347.3728

Squash brings international athletes to NOTL

Maddy Gordon
The Lake Report

Young athletes from 38 countries are in Niagara-on-the-Lake this week to take part in the World Squash Junior Championship, a six-day tournament of more than 500 matches.

The tournament kicked off on July 26 at White Oaks Resort & Spa and is running until this Friday.

For Simon Hall, squash player, coach and tournament volunteer, the event solidifies NOTL's place as an international sports hub, due to its athletic facilities and local charm.

"We've got two high-calibre clubs with courts ... and they have opportunities here for shopping and sightseeing," he said, adding how excitement for international sports sparked by the World Cup flowed into the event.

The tournament was primarily hosted at White Oaks, though courts at Ridley College were also



Colten McLaughlin lunges for the ball during his match against Keng In Leong of Macau, China, at the world junior squash championships at White Oaks. McLaughlin won 3-0, and all three Canadian players took their matches to defeat China 3-0 in the team tie. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

used. Players and families from across the world explored the town between matches — in Hall's words, taking advantage of NOTL's "cultural richness" and "gorgeous" views.

Though this squash junior championship has not been hosted in Canada since 1984 in Calgary, Niagara regularly hosts national tournaments, such as the

Canadian National Junior Championships and the Canadian University and College Championship.

White Oaks is a base for major squash tournaments because it includes a hotel and courts in one location.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake and White Oaks are known worldwide," Hall said.

Still, the number of local players does not match the

scale of NOTL's squash resources. Matt Easingwood, squash director at White Oaks, says he hopes to recruit more young players following the junior championship.

"We're always looking for beginners because we really want more kids to play," he said. "People can come and try it out for free."

The victorious young players of the singles half of the tournament represented Egypt and India, with Egypt's Mohamad Zakaria winning the men's division and India's Anahat Singh winning the women's.

Both 18-year-old athletes made history during their time in NOTL: Zakaria became the first male player to win the world junior title three times, while Singh was crowned India's first junior champion.

"She was just such a sophisticated player for a young person," Hall said, describing Singh. "She

played so intelligently, smoothly and precisely. From my point of view as a coach and a player, it was beautiful to see."

He says the athletic ability, paired with the positive sportsmanlike environment, is why he enjoys volunteering at tournaments.

"The talent is through the roof," he said. "They're just wonderful people and they're doing their level best in a very competitive situation."

Playing squash is like playing in a fishbowl, especially at the championship level. The court, with see-through walls, sits in an arena surrounded by spectators on all sides, an atmosphere Hall says can be intimidating.

But even with the stiff competition, players typically end matches with a handshake and words of congratulations.

"I always say that it's fun, fitness and friendship in squash," Easingwood said.

"There's a lot of friendships in squash because it's like a small community."

Players will compete in the team championships until July 31, now the individual championships have concluded.

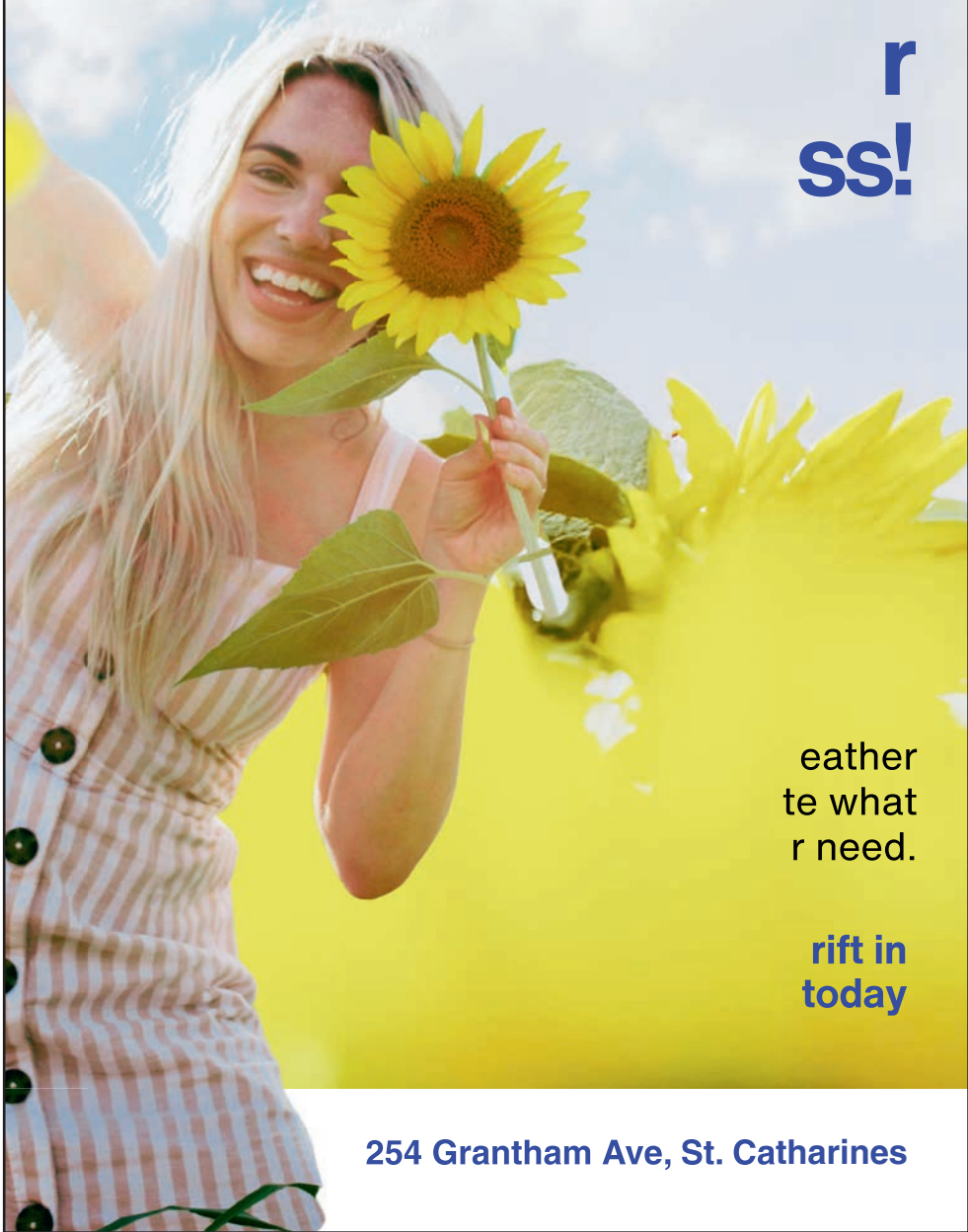
On the first day of the team event, Canada's men's team lost to Japan, while the women were victorious in defeating Nigeria.

Egypt, defending champions in both the men's and women's leagues, also opened the team tournament with success — the women beating Brazil and the men beating both New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Matches are livestreamed, but fans can purchase tickets to see the action in person, ranging in price from \$25 to \$70.

"It's neat to be just a regular person, a member of the (White Oaks) club, and having such amazing talent coming to us here in Niagara," Hall said. "I just love being a part of it."





our
r
ss!

weather
te what
r need.

gift in
today

254 Grantham Ave, St. Catharines

RAVINE



GARDEN
COOKOUT





Ravine Garden Cookout
Saturday, Aug 15, 2026 - 12pm to 3pm

Join us for a Garden Cookout at Ravine Vineyard!
Enjoy a smoked BBQ feast by Executive Chef John, paired with Ravine wines, live music, lawn games, and a guided garden tour with Estate Gardener Laura. Discover BBQ tips, fresh garden ingredients, and an unforgettable afternoon of food, wine, and vineyard hospitality. Perfect for food and wine lovers!
Scan the QR code to access our menu and learn more about Ravine Vineyard.

1366 YORK ROAD | ST. DAVIDS, ON | 905.262.8463 | RAVINEVINEYARD.COM

NOTL **reclaims title** in showdown match with Toronto Hunt Club

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Every year, men's teams from two of the longest-established nine-hole clubs in Ontario tee it up in a friendly interclub tourney that gives the winner bragging rights after a hard-fought 27-hole tournament.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club and the Toronto Hunt Club have a long history of competition and last Saturday it was NOTL's turn to play host to their big city counterparts.

As so often happens in competitive sports, it came down to the final "out" before a winner could be declared.

NOTL led all day, capturing the first nine-holes of best ball 3.5 points to 2.5.

The home team matched that result in the second nine and held a 7-5 lead heading to the final round. But it was far from over as 12 points were at stake over the last nine holes.

And because the Hunt Club had won the cup in 2025 at home, the visitors only needed 12 points to retain the championship. NOTL needed at least 12.5.

As the head-to-head singles competition over the last nine holes wound down, all eyes were on the final NOTL duo of Patrick Craig and Brian McKillop. They only needed a half-point to secure victory.

McKillop came through big time, winning his singles match. That allowed NOTL to split the final round matches 6-6 and score a 13-11 overall win.

While the competition is intense, it's all in good fun and the day wraps up with a celebratory dinner.

The other members of NOTL's winning team were Rob Chubey, Paul Dickson, Joe Doria, Tom Elltoft, A.J. Harlond, Stephen Jenkins, Evan McCaughey, Darren Smith, John Sobil and Ricky Watson.

Meanwhile, after rain and smoky skies combined over the previous five weeks to cancel the Thursday's men's league, things finally got back on track last week.



Above: The teams from the Toronto Hunt Club and NOTL Golf Club pose on the first tee prior to their annual interclub competition last Saturday. NOTL reclaimed the coveted cup with a narrow two-point victory.
DARREN SMITH

Left top: The Toronto Hunt Club's Mike McLaughlin, left, and NOTL's Tom Elltoft have a firm grip on the interclub tourney cup.
DARREN SMITH

Left bottom: This is the trophy the NOTL and Toronto Hunt Club play for each year in their interclub competition. NOTL reclaimed the title this year.
JOE DORIA

Craig Tunnicliff's 1-over 37 won low gross honours while Al Kavanagh was second, also firing a 37.

Quinton Spagnol had the best net score with 32, one better than Rick Schulz's 33.

The weekly putting contest has stymied players most of this summer and the jackpot kept growing over the past 11 weeks.

It hit \$1,375 last Thursday and the always steady Paul Wilson rolled in a 25-footer

to take home the prize money.

Other winners on the day were: Paul Dickson (longest putt made on #5), Ron Planche (longest drive on #2 and closest to the pin on #9), Marty Nixon (closest to the pin on #4).

In the Monday business women's league, Tracey Peters continued her steady play this season, carding a 44 to win low gross.

Other winners were: Angeliqe Magi (longest drive

on #1), Bridgette Bassie (closest to the 150 marker on #2), Mary Beccario (closest to the pin on #4), Lori Beak (sank the longest putt on #7) and Holly Anderson (closest to the pin in two shots on #9).

Monday night's torrential rains flooded parts of the course, rendering it unplayable on Tuesday. That forced cancellation of the men's Woofs league and the women's nine- and 18-hole leagues.



THIS WEEKEND!

**Saturday, August 1 & Sunday, August 2, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Juried, original art show presented by
NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

 247 Ricardo Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

\$5.00 Admission

Purchase your tickets online!
Kids enter at no charge



artatthepumphouse.ca

BLUEMIN' ACRES
Pre-picked and pick-your-own
NOW OPEN!
 1007 Line 1 Rd., NOTL
905-468-8162
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Sherlock
Heather Sherlock is proud to announce the arrival of three beautiful great-granddaughters:
Millie Margaret Sherlock-Clark was born to Kathryn Sherlock and Harry Clark in Auckland on 15 July 2026.
Frankie Jo Roberts was born to Morgan Sherlock and Braden Roberts in Peterborough on 29 June 2026 – a baby sister for Georgia Louise Roberts born on 29 October 2024 in Peterborough.

HANDYMAN HANS CAN
Power Washing (Houses, Driveways, Patios, Polymeric Sand, Sealants and Brick-Leveling), Black Top, Deck Staining and Cleaning,
Junk, Furniture, Bush and Vehicle **Removal**, **Yard Clean-up**, Weeding, **Tree** and Bush **Trimming and Cutting**, **Home Installations** (Grab Bars, Railings, Toilets, Sinks, Door Bells, Doors, Lights, Vents, TVs, Blinds and Hinges), Wall Mounting, **Furniture Assembly, Painting**, Caulking, Household and Window Cleaning, Organizing and **Hoarding Help**, Eavestroughs, Drywall, Clogged Sinks and Toilets, Windows, Screens, Taps, **Demolition and Moving Services**.
905-246-1843

Even a small ad can be effective.
advertising@niagaranow.com

Housing Can't Wait  Niagara households earn just 53% of the income needed to afford a home
housingniagara.ca  

Municipal drainage was never intended to handle so much rain, town says

Continued from Front Page

tionally significant, highly localized” rainfall.

The Town of NOTL shared on Wednesday that it received more than 100 service requests related to flooding, debris, road conditions and drainage concerns.

Municipal workers are labouring throughout the town to assess damage, restore affected areas and respond to requests as quickly as possible.

The town said it has not identified any confirmed infrastructure failures, but is still assessing the storm-water system and other infrastructure.

While all residents The Lake Report spoke to acknowledged that the overwhelming volume of rain triggered the flooding, a recurring concern was that the town has been reacting to drainage problems as they arise rather than addressing issues proactively.

The town said it takes steps to look over its storm-water management system before forecasted storms hit the area, but that no municipal drainage system can completely prevent flooding during rainfall of this magnitude.

Staff plan to conduct a full review once the town is done responding to immediate flooding problems and they are inspecting roads, bridges, culverts, trails, parks and stormwater infrastructure to understand impacts, identify safety concerns and make repairs.

Emergency pumping began around 3 a.m. on Tuesday. By 4 a.m., every sewage pumping station had reached a high-level alarm because of the stormwater entering the system.

On Vincent Avenue in Chautauqua, Richard Begley woke up to more than six inches of backed-up water across his basement. He said a town worker told him municipal systems became overwhelmed.

Neighbours arrived with pumps and offers to help.

“While this has undoubtedly been a disaster for us, it has been another testament to the strength of the community here in Chautauqua and greater NOTL,” Begley said in an email.

On Line 4, Brent Asselin said his driveway and two crossings over drainage

ditches remained submerged Tuesday afternoon. He feared his honeybee colonies had been lost or seriously damaged.

Asselin blamed irrigation dams in the Harrison Drainage System for worsening the flooding. He provided a complaint sent to the town in January last year warning that blockages previously caused drains to overflow and left his crossings unusable.

On Line 7, Charlotte Tutu

“The only person that can help this town is Doug Ford, from a financial perspective. We need money from the province to address what the town doesn’t have to spend.”

MICHAEL WATSON
FARMER

had four inches of water in her basement despite two heavy-duty sump pumps running constantly. Water came through the floor drain.

Tutu said she did not experience that type of flooding during her first 19 years on the farm. It has now happened four times in five years.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority said its Line 5 rain gauge in Virgil was among several gauges that recorded rainfall estimated at a 50- to 100-year storm level, with a one per cent chance of occurring in any year.

A Lakeshore Road resident who asked not to be named reported nearly a foot of water in the basement. One sump pump began smoking and nearly caught fire before a backup was brought in. The resident said nearby fields were underwater and the air smelled strongly of sewage.

In Old Garrison Village, Sue-Ann Ramsden said about five inches of rainwater entered her home after drains could not handle the volume. Four other homes nearby experienced similar flooding. An insurance adjuster assessed the damage, but Ramsden said she would not know the cost until a re-

mediation company arrived.

On Firelane 13, Rene Flear said two pumps saved her basement, but her garage was damaged. She said the town does not provide road or culvert maintenance there.

Ronda McGregor, a St. Catharines resident close to where the city said the unexpected pause occurred, awoke around 4 a.m. to find about two feet of water in her finished basement.

The water destroyed her furnace, washer and dryer, flooring, furniture, books and treasured keepsakes from her son. In a word, she said, she’s “distracted.”

The council briefing said sewage-backup reports remained relatively limited “despite the severity of the event.” Drinking water remained safe, with no watermain breaks or service interruptions reported.

Niagara Region reported no problems with its local wastewater system.

“All regional wastewater infrastructure was operating as designed during this period in NOTL,” said Phill Lambert, the region’s director of water and wastewater services.

Alongside starting emergency pumping, the town activated its Emergency Control Group, closed roads and sent crews to flooding and fallen trees.

NOTL Hydro disconnected power to six severely flooded homes “to ensure public safety.” Four transformers were knocked out by lightning and the utility’s office flooded. The Niagara District Airport terminal also flooded but later resumed operations.

Nonna Luisa’s farm was severely flooded, with water covering much of the property and reaching the road Tuesday morning.

An employee who wished to remain anonymous blamed poorly maintained ditches.

“They could have been better prepared. Instead of being reactive, be proactive,” he said.

The employee said water drains toward Airport Road, beneath Niagara Stone Road and through the airport.

“If that backs up, I get overrun, and then the whole thing here gets overrun,” he said.

A resident who brought

Continued on Page 14



From Neob Lavender on Niagara Stone Road to fruit farms along the lines and concessions and suburbs across Niagara-on-the-Lake. The town estimates about 146 mm of rain fell between 11:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday morning while farmers worked to pump water from flooded fields. The full cost remains unknown, but the town is addressing drainage concerns. Staff are inspecting roads, bridges, culverts, trails, parks and stormwater infrastructure.



THE CALM AFTER THE STORM



Photography by Dave Van de Laar



divisions in St. Davids, Monday's torrential downpour left a trail of flooding and untold damage Monday and 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. Some homes were inundated with sewage, others with stormwater, town received more than 100 service requests involving flooding, debris, damaged roads and structure to assess the damage, identify safety hazards and prioritize cleanup and repairs.



THE CALM AFTER THE STORM

Town’s hands were tied, **only province** can fix flooding problems, says farmer

Continued from Page 12

food to the employee and also wished to remain anonymous said the owners’ son raised vehicles onto jacks to keep them out of the water.

“Could a storm like this be prevented? No. But the flooding could be,” the resident said. “Preventive maintenance is a lot cheaper than emergency repairs.”

Some of the steps the town takes in assessing its stormwater management system before storms arrive include inspecting clear catch basins, culverts and drainage infrastructure, the town said.

At Southbrook Organic Vineyards, bioswales built to collect and filter parking-lot runoff filled to their rims. General manager Veronica Holmes said its weather station recorded almost 5.4 inches in about two hours.

“This is just simply a lot of rain in a very short period of time,” she said.

Floodwater never reached Southbrook’s

“Thank you (to town staff) for doing a thankless job and putting yourselves out there. Most of us appreciate you and those that don’t have their own issues they need to deal with.”

RAINER HUMMEL
NOTL RESIDENT

grapes, but Holmes said vines can be harmed if their roots remain underwater too long. She said unpredictable rain, drought and freezing are making farming harder.

On his farm near Concession 4 and Line 1, Michael Watson said the west lateral of the Szockyj Drain overflowed until water reached roughly his knees.

The same field lost 500 young peach trees in 2024, Watson said. He was now watching potted rosemary

after water reached the tops of the pots.

Watson, who has pushed the town to address the drain, said flooding has grown worse but defended current senior staff for moving the issue through the Drainage Act process.

“Who can control this amount of rain in a short period of time? Nobody,” he said.

Watson said an engineer’s report expected to go before council Sept. 22 could take more than a year. He said the town inherited decades of deferred infrastructure work and needs provincial funding.

“The only person that can help this town is Doug Ford, from a financial perspective,” he said. “We need money from the province to address what the town doesn’t have to spend.”

Developer Rainer Hummel took to Facebook to thank town staff for its quick response to the situation, noting on Wednesday morning he saw street sweepers out cleaning the roads.

“Thank you for doing a

thankless job and putting yourselves out there,” he said. “Most of us appreciate you and those that don’t have their own issues they need to deal with.”

He also criticized members of town council whom he said voted against replacing infrastructure such as culverts, with funding instead going toward legal fees in Ontario Land Tribunal disputes.

Residents and businesses stepped up to help. Robert George, owner of Niagara Pools and Niagara Pool Liners, lent all his electric pumps to residents draining their basements and said he would continue lending them as they became available.

St. Davids resident Christine Blane also offered to help anyone affected by the flooding, particularly seniors and people living alone.

Residents can submit flooding, ditch or culvert service requests through the town’s online reporting portal.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



Top: One of many properties in the Virgil area that was surrounded by water on Tuesday. Bottom: Over on Henegan Road, Phil Hering attempts to clear the catch basin as the street is flooded. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE PEACH FESTIVAL

AUGUST 7 & 8, 2026

KIDS ZONE

SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH
12-4 PM

- FACE PAINTING
- CRAFTS
- PEACHY ACTIVITIES
- SWIMMING
- MEET PERCY THE PEACH!
- LEARN ABOUT THE PEACH!

SIMCOE PARK
ENTRANCE OFF OF QUEEN ST



SO MUCH STUFF!

PEACH PIE Contest

SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2026
11:00 AM
IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE
QUEEN STREET, NOTL

Guest JUDGES!
They'll bring their appetite – you bring your best pie!

BAKE & BRING YOUR PIES to win the bragging rights of **BEST BAKER 2026!**

Animals **rushed** from flooded NOTL rescue farm

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Fish washed onto the driveway and geese swam past them after floodwater swallowed an animal rescue farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Four sheep, two goats and two pigs had to be rushed from their pens at the Line 6 farm, which belongs to Vaughn and Lauren Goettler, Tuesday morning.

Almost six inches of rain (146.26 millimetres) fell between 11:30 p.m. Monday and 4:30 a.m. Tuesday. Virgil dealt with the worst of what the town called an “exceptionally significant, highly localized rainfall event,” but flooded basements, roads and farm fields were reported across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“Our sheep pasture and pen were underwater, so they had to be moved out, and the goats were also underwater and they had to be moved out, and the pigs,” Lauren said.

Horses and cows stayed in their soggy pasture, while the ducks appeared to enjoy



While many were worried about the state of their basements, lawns, driveways and vehicles when the flooding happened on Tuesday, over at Vaughn and Lauren Goettler’s farm on Line 6 Road, the big worry? Rescuing their farm animals from their flooded pens. SUPPLIED

the new surroundings.

“The ducks were happy.” The scramble began after a creek beside the property overflowed into its pond, sending water across the farm. The couple also found a few inches of water in the basement.

“But mostly, it was the displacement of the ani-

mals,” Lauren said. “The farm — it was just under-water.”

“It was a quick, ‘What can we do? We have to move them. We have to, you know, quick, get them out of there,’” she said.

Vaughn, who is running for lord mayor in this fall’s municipal election, said the

town needs to plan infrastructure before approving more development.

“I think there are several issues that we’re dealing with. One of them is an aging infrastructure,” he said.

“In my opinion, the infrastructure should be developed ahead of building projects, not afterwards,

because then it becomes an ad hoc approach to infrastructure, which means if it floods, then try and remediate somehow.”

Despite the damage, all the animals were safe Wednesday.

“Everybody’s making do. We’re all good,” Vaughn said. “But it was

a little bit of scrambling to make sure that we had everybody housed so that, you know, any nighttime predators like coyotes or anything didn’t have our animals loose.”

“They’re all better friends now,” he said. “They’re all a little closer together.”

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

St. Michael Grade 6 student **wins big** in Legion contest

Zahraa Hmood
The Lake Report

Soldiers, generals, doctors and nurses: the battlefields of the the First and Second World Wars were made up of hundreds of these individuals who fought, cared for the wounded and showed leadership before, during and after the action.

Last fall, Dean Pagnotta wrote about these men and women who fought for Canada, each carrying out “a brave and heartfelt job,” he wrote in a 335-word essay.

“All of the Canadian soldiers that died gave their today for our tomorrow, so we can live safely and freely for the rest of our lives,” he wrote.

Earlier this year, Dean won first place in two categories in the Royal Canadian Legion’s annual essay-writing and artwork competition for Remembrance Day — on Nov. 11, students are invited to submit original works of writing and art in honour of Remembrance Day.

The Grade 6 student at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School placed



Two members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, Lori Beak and Stan Harrington — co-chairs of the youth education committee — honour the work of Grade 6 student Dean Pagnotta in the Legion’s annual Remembrance Day contest. Pagnotta won first place in the contest from his school and zone for his essay and poster commemorating the sacrifices of soldiers who fought in both world wars. SUPPLIED

first in his grade at his school for both the essay he wrote and the poster he created. He would then go on to place first in the Legion’s zone level, then second at the district level for both creations.

His poster depicts a soldier facing away and

saluting, with his body segmented into various tableaux: rows of white crosses in a military graveyard, a poppy wreath, the National War Monument in Ottawa, Canadian flags waving over the Highway of Heroes, and more.

Beside the soldier are six

words in bold black lettering: “All gave some ... some gave all.”

In his essay, titled “Why We Remember,” Dean wrote about all the people who served on the front-lines of both World Wars, the trauma they endured, the pain their families

experienced waiting for them to come home and the importance of remembrance in order to prevent destructive wars like those from returning.

The Grade 6 student said he enjoys reading and writing, so when the opportunity to take part in this

contest arose, he decided to share some of what he knew about Remembrance Day in his work.

“When I learned about it in school, I was like, ‘Well, that’s really terrible that all of these things happened,’” he said. “It inspired me to learn more about it, because I wanted to deeply understand what was happening and how we can resolve these things so they don’t happen again.”

Dean said getting this far in the competition is special to him.

“This is the first time that I’ve really progressed this far in this contest because I’ve been competing in it since Grade 3,” he said.

“This means a lot because it took me this long to get here and now that I have, it just feels amazing.”

His mother, Amanda Pagnotta, said she’s quite proud of her son, but doesn’t want to take credit for his success.

“Generally, we just try to do our best to teach him how to be a good person,” he said. “He has a good head on his shoulders.”

zahraa@niagaranow.com



Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Zahraa Hmood
Editor Emeritus: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee
Contributors: Dr. William Brown, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Patty Garriock, Maddy Gordon, Steve Hardaker, Andrew Hawlitzky, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Paige Seburn, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar, and many more members of the NOTL community.

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



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 170 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.

BKind Grateful #86: Share cuttings, seeds or veggies and flowers from your garden.

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock
“I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer.”
- Toni Morrison

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:
Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
Phone
Newsroom: 905-359-2270
Advertising Department: 905-932-5646
Mailing Address
PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

Have a lead on a story?

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

Late Joanne Young honoured



Over at Newark Park’s community garden, its members erected a tribute to a member of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s horticulture community who helped them bring an important part of their garden to life. The group renamed its pollinator garden the Joanne Young Pollinator Garden after the late NOTL gardener who died last September. Julian Trachsel, founder of the community garden and seen here with a plaque unveiled this month, says Young was instrumental in helping the pollinator garden get off the ground — crucial in providing pollinators like bees, butterflies and beetles with the sustenance they need, benefitting them, the plants and us. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

When the rules just don’t matter



THE TURNER REPORT
Garth Turner
Columnist



The mass of the new Royal George in the middle of Old Town is evident in this sketch. Council approved it, despite heritage rule infractions and no finished rendering being provided. SOURCED

Wanna build a new house in town without paying for drawings of “all exterior elevations”? Forget about it. Not happening.

But if you plan on throwing up a 51,000-foot, six-storey-high commercial building in the middle of a highly protected area where four vintage buildings stood and break every heritage rule, well, that’s OK. Knock yourself out.

Against the tide, three councillors took the principled position a few days ago to try and halt Shaw Inc. — the real-estate development company that used to just put on plays — from doing just that. They failed.

In a six-to-three vote, our leadership gave the final green light to a modern complex that will forever, irrevocably, irreversibly change our landmark street. Not since 1847 when the Courthouse was built has anyone done this (and it’s a third the size). And the new Royal George will end up being, well, a giant box. With a fancy snout.

But nobody knows for sure. Because, weirdly, a rough sketch is the only thing the Shawmeisters delivered showing how

their trophy will look in the context of our beloved 19th-century Queen Street and heritage hood.

Yikes.

In case you missed it, the Shaw wants a new theatre no larger than the one it just tore down but surrounded by a state-of-the-art complex that will give it oodles of office, rehearsal, commercial kitchen and food service space. The lobby alone will hold more than 300.

The \$90 million edifice is being financed in large part by tax dollars. And as a charity, the Shaw pays no commercial income tax, no property taxes and sits on \$40 million in investment assets.

Well, I asked the brave dissenters why they did what they did, knowing pro-Shaw sentiment flows largely in the opposite direction in NOTL. Actually, it gushes. People love it. At least, until this thing is built and towers over us.

“My concern has always been the mass and scale of the proposal,” says Sandra O’Connor. “The total floor space increases close to five times to 51,000 square feet.

There will be no significant increase of theatre seats — the space is mainly for theatre related activities and accessibility.

“This will set a precedent for Queen Street. It will not preserve the heritage character of the heritage conservation district.”

Andrew Niven shares O’Connor’s dismay at the lack of a comprehensive to-scale model.

“During the council meeting, I asked if the additional renderings and streetscape materials (that would be released afterward) were exactly the same as what the committee reviewed,” he says. “The response was that they would be ‘generally’ the same, which raised a concern for me.

“For a significant landmark within the Queen-Picton heritage conservation district, I felt it was important to understand the final design intent and how the building would integrate into its surrounding.”

Gary Burroughs, the third dissenting vote, provided the sketch published here.

“My concern regarding the Royal George has

always been about the massing, and the effect on the streetscape of our main street,” he states. “I only recently received the ‘drawing’ (whatever it should be called). Maybe the “heritage battle” has been lost, but my concerns haven’t changed.”

Everyone, including these three, vow support for the Shaw. But not this building.

As for those who want to run the town this fall after the October election, Coun. Erwin Wiens voted for the Shaw to proceed. Vaughn Goettler wavers.

“If I were lord mayor, I would have made sure that heritage was top of mind from the very beginning of this project, rather than being treated as an afterthought. The leadership of the current council did not do this, which is why we’re in a situation now where the revitalization of the George is controversial and divisive, instead of being celebrated.”

Andrea Kaiser would also have voted no.

“While I support the redevelopment of the Royal George Theatre and recognize its importance to Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Festival, based on the information available to me publicly, I would not have supported approving the heritage permit at this juncture,” she states.

By the way, O’Connor and Burroughs are standing for re-election.

Good.

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

NOT JUST SERVING CANADA - CANADIAN MADE!!!

ONTARIO'S LARGEST RECLINING CHAIR GALLERY
469 GLENDALE AVE, ST. CATHARINES
PROUD SPONSOR OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF GREATER NIAGARA

ALL PALLISER FLOOR MODELS MUST GO!

FABRIC & LEATHER RECLINERS • SOFAS • LOVESEATS

UP TO 60% OFF

Interiors By Better Shade

FURNITURE AND WINDOW COVERINGS

CALL TODAY
905-227-4555



Accessibility is key for great hospitality

Dear editor:

Two weeks ago, I stayed at 124 Q Hotel & Spa. The hotel is on Queen Street, which is the main thoroughfare running through town.

I have a physical disability and use a walker. There are so many times when commercial establishments simply do not make any effort to accommodate the needs of mobility challenged individuals that when they do, it is worth acknowledging their efforts and celebrating their thoughtfulness.

In this vein, shout out to Eric Quesnel, the general manager and Stephanie Don Griot, the marketing manager.

The hotel at 124 Q is barrier-free. Even though the lobby entrance off Queen Street has a step, the management had the foresight to design a barrier-free entrance through the side.

This entrance was at street level and appeared not to be an afterthought. It was beautifully decorated and led directly to the lounge, restaurant and elevator.

While beneficial to hotel guests dragging suitcases, and anyone pushing a stroller or bundle buggy, I



especially appreciated it. It said to me that I was a welcome guest.

The room as well was thoughtfully designed. It was adapted specifically to accommodate my mobility challenges — from a roll-in shower to maneuverability around the bed and in the bathroom, an accessible sink that could accommodate a wheelchair or scooter with no vanity underneath restricting access.

There was no carpet for me to trip over, automatic door openers that actually worked and grab bars both at the toilet and in the shower.

When you are making your reservations, my suggestion would be to mention that you need to be accommodated in the adapted room.

The treatment rooms in the spa were also accessible. There was even a specialized room with a table that

could be raised or lowered as required, hoists were available for both the hot and the cold therapy pools, and the staff there was very helpful and accommodating.

Vanessa Tierney is the spa director and Hillary Penn is the spa manager. My suggestion would be to call ahead and mention your special needs.

While in NOTL, don't miss the wonderful shops, cafés and restaurants. The town itself is beautiful. Flowers are everywhere. I couldn't help thinking, again and again, that the town council was visionary in designing NOTL to be so lovely.

Congratulations to the businesses that have taken the simple but meaningful step of making their entrances accessible — whether by sloping their entrance or by using a portable StopGap ramp.

Those small adaptations send a powerful message that says everyone is welcome here.

Accessibility accommodations benefit far more people than those who are mobility challenged. Parents pushing strollers, shoppers

with bundle buggies, people recovering from injuries, etc. all benefit from a barrier-free entrance.

It's a practical improvement that reflects thoughtfulness, inclusion, and good customer service.

I was with a friend. We both made a point of supporting only those businesses that had made this effort. When we encountered shops or restaurants without accessible entrances, we simply moved on. Why spend our money where some people can not even get through the front door?

Accessibility is not just about complying with the law. It is about hospitality. It says that every customer matters and every visitor deserves the opportunity to enjoy everything our beautiful store has to offer.

So, bravo to the businesses that have embraced accessibility. You earned both our appreciation and our business.

As for those that have not yet made the effort, I hope they will. They are missing more customers than they may realize.

Cheryl Katz
Toronto



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style
Category: EDIBLE IDIOMS

In a 1785 poem William Cowper referred to this as "the very spice of life" — spoken like a man who's never tried sriracha.

Last issue category: POTPOURRI

Clue: Japan's tallest mountain, it's actually a volcano that hasn't erupted since 1707.

Answer: What is Mount Fuji?

Answered first by: Katie Reimer

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Nick D'Amore, Bob Wheatley, Mike Gander, Esther VanGorder, Jeff Lake, Margie Enns, Susan Hamilton, Sheila Meloche, Lynda Collet, Jane Andersen, Jim Dandy, Katie Reimer, KC King, Claudia Grimwood, Rob Hutchison, Ana-Marija Petrunic, Donna Pearce, Catherine Clarke, Sylvia Wiens, Wade Durling, Nancy Rocca, Marla Percy, Don Paul, Emma Balsas, Howard Jones, Margaret Garaughty

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

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

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

Council undermines its own tree bylaw

Dear editor:

Earlier in July, I watched in disbelief as council voted against its own tree bylaw.

I have no issue with bylaws being amended but there is a correct approach to do this and it isn't to simply vote against the bylaw case by case while leaving the bylaw in place.

Homeowners seeking to remove a protected tree appealed to council for relief from the required deposit and replacement-tree planting, arguing the costs were a hardship and that they lacked space for more trees.

Even after some of the councillors reminded Couns. Erwin Wiens, Tim Balasiuk, Wendy Cheropita, Andrew Niven and Adriana Vizzari of their obligation to uphold the bylaw as written, their personal opposition to it shaped their decision and not the facts of the actual case.

These five councillors voted down the motion, with Wiens then introducing a new motion to waive all but \$50 of the fee and remove all other obligations saving these homeowners thousands of dollars.

He did this after stating

"the best people to decide in our town is the resident that owns the house." Very noble indeed, but if this council opposed the bylaw so strongly, why didn't it amend or repeal it when it reviewed it in late 2025?

This is not about personal property rights, government interference or protecting the tree canopy.

It is about council deliberately ignoring its own bylaw and creating unequal treatment for the residents it supposedly represents: some homeowners pay fees and plant replacement trees in good faith, while others,

it turns out, can appeal and be exempt from the law as written. Ridiculous.

I encourage anyone affected by this unequal treatment to write to council, especially councillors Wiens, Balasiuk, Cheropita, Niven and Vizzari, for their support in directing the town staff to refund fees paid and remove future obligations as laid out in the bylaw to avoid any appearance of bias or hypocrisy.

It created this problem; now it is responsible for fixing it for everyone, equally.

Kenton Needham
NOTL

Tragic state of affairs at Parliament Oak site

Dear editor:

I take the aerial view of the Parliament Oak fiasco surrounded by the large green trees and surrounding side streets (published

in The Lake Report on July 23: "Letter: Basements, the water table and trees") as devastating, sad and tragic.

I see it is emblematic of all that has been wrong with

a council that often ignores expert advice and citizen advocacy in favour of an agenda that is often not-so obscure.

And as that image gets ever worse when this hotel

develops, as predicted, let it serve as a legacy to future councils as something never to be repeated.

Richard Peter Rand
NOTL

ST. DAVIDS LIONS CLUB



DRIVE-THRU FRIDAYS

JULY 31, AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28
SEPTEMBER 4

4PM to 7PM

Jumbo Hot Dogs & Hamburgers
Lions Canadian Burger
Peameal Bacon on-a-bun
Chicken Nuggets (6 pcs)
Fries - Onion Rings - Water/Pop

FISH FRY STARTS OCT 2

1462 York Rd, St. Davids

konzelmann
estate winery

New! SEATED TASTINGS

Enjoy our refreshed seated tasting experience in our brand new tasting hall, with flexible ways to enjoy our wines. ONLY \$15/PERSON

Visit konzelmann.ca for details.



What will it take to **protect** heritage properties?



Brian Marshall
Columnist

On Aug. 21, 2025, I wrote a column (“Arch-i-text: Something is wrong with this picture”) that spoke to the disturbing trend in this province toward marginalizing, diminishing and — in some cases — allowing the destruction of our shared history, built heritage and cultural landscapes.

Included in that article was the example of the circa 1830 dwelling and a centuries-old tree that had been on the property at 1475 Lakeshore Rd. E, Oakville until both were razed to the ground without municipal permission or permits.

I questioned at that time whether the property owner (1475 Lakeshore Road East Inc.) may have believed that, given our current political environment vis-à-vis heritage, whether any financial penalty that may be levied would be

high enough that it could not be recovered by revenues accruing from the future development of the lands.

Indeed, in Doug Ford’s Ontario, it is even imaginable that said owner may have thought he would get a slap on the wrist and just get away with it.

Now, allow me to outline the maximum fines that could be applied. Under the Ontario Heritage Act, the ceiling for total illegal demolition of a designated heritage building has been set at \$1 million, plus up to a year in jail. Under the Building Code Act, the maximum fine for a corporation is \$500,000 for demolishing a building without a permit.

So, if the maximum fines were applied, the perpetrator of this destructive and illegal act would face a total financial penalty of \$1.5 million (plus any fine for violating the town’s tree protection by-law) and one year behind bars.

Well, not willing to simply do a slap on the wrist, the Town of Oakville filed charges in September 2025 with the Provincial Offenses Court in Burlington. In July, the court rendered its decision.

The owner (a corporation) must pay fines that include



The 19th-century schoolhouse on Niagara River Parkway being torn down — before the town ordered the developer to halt demolition of the historic structure. FILE

\$50,000 under the Building Code Act and another \$700,000 under the Ontario Heritage Act. In other words, these fines amounted to \$750,000 or 50 per cent of the \$1.5 million penalties allowable under the law. No mention of jail time.

Here, I must note that the \$700,000 fine is considered a “landmark” case, since it is significantly higher than the norm in decisions relative to these types of cases.

When we add the fine for violation of Oakville’s tree protection, which arrived at \$72,000, the total fines that the corporation is required to pay amount to \$822,000.

It is notable that, according to Robin MacLennan’s article published by Ontario Construction News on July 15, 2026 (“Oakville court

imposes \$822,000 in penalties for unauthorized demolition of designated heritage home”):

“The owner had previously received heritage approvals from Oakville council as part of a redevelopment proposal that would have relocated and restored the heritage structure while allowing new construction on the property. Those approvals did not authorize demolition of the designated building.”

And, perhaps the blatant disregard of legislation by an owner who clearly understood the law and due process when giving the demolition direction may have been a factor in the court’s decision.

That said, how hard a hit on the corporation’s pocket

book is a fine totalling \$822,000 on a property that is currently listed for sale at \$11.99 million?

A paltry 6.9 per cent. Something well within any educated investor’s damage control margins considered in their ROI projections.

All said, while I applaud the Town of Oakville for standing up and committing the funds to underwrite this overture — and congratulate them for their landmark win — there is still an elephant in the room.

How do we, as a society, value the protection and preservation of our shared history?

And, what do we want our legislative bodies — municipal and provincial — to do to underwrite our shared wish relative to protecting Ontario’s heritage?

That decision remains in the hands of you, the voters. Now, bringing this thing closer to home.

The Oakville case had many applicable references to the attempted demolition of the heritage-designated building at 14785 Niagara River Pkwy. as this columnist shared on April 23 (“Arch-i-text: Clear violation of heritage law at old schoolhouse”).

Apparently the property owner had, in hand, a

heritage permit to move the old stone school elsewhere on the property as one piece (that is, the building must be lifted and moved as a complete structure) but, for a structural stone building this undertaking, while possible, is fraught with risk and very expensive.

The owner, who began his career as a mason before becoming a developer, can reasonably be considered an educated individual vis-à-vis both the issues involved in moving a masonry building and the requirement for permit(s) that specifically detail the work allowed to be performed.

No demolition or associated heritage permits had been issued by the town prior to him commencing that work. And, in fact, the town was forced to issue a stop-work order halting the unauthorized demolition.

The question remains: will the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake follow Oakville’s example or come to some other accommodation with the property owner?

We will have to wait and see.

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



Darcy Price CPA
Professional Corporation

1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2, Virgil
905-468-5300
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**Accounting *Canadian-U.S. Taxation *Business Services*



WARREN
RENOVATIONS

905.468.2127
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING



J&S Performance

SALES & SERVICE

905-468-9735
901 East/West Line, NOTL



Loewen's Fencing & Decks / Repairs

- Post hole service
- Dump service
- Concrete pads
- Driveways

Call Peter 289-696-3509



NIAGARA
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
ENTERPRISES

289-690-0202
niagararce@yahoo.com
www.nrce.ca



DIAMOND CONTRACTING

Custom built spaces for AGING IN PLACE.
Your Home. Your Comfort. Your Independence.

Contact Us to Book an Assessment
📞 905-692-5690
✉ info@diamond-contracting.ca
🌐 www.diamond-contracting.ca



amplifon
Hearing Care Experts

Hear conversations, laughter, and life again.

Book a **FREE** hearing test
866-474-5701

amplifon.ca



D-Handyman Services

Painting, wall and ceiling repair and much more!

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

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



GRACE UNITED CHURCH

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Our 203rd anniversary | 1823-2026

From Matheson to NOTL, fire leaves its mark



ROSS'S RAMBLINGS

Ross Robinson
Columnist

It seems to be all the rage lately to read about wildfires in so many parts of the world. This year, Spain and France are having thousands of hectares destroyed. And here in North America, yet another record year for fires, apparently over 80 per cent caused by humans (at least in the U.S., according to research).

So many evacuations and hearts broken.

My early years were spent up north, in Virginia-town near Kirkland Lake. I recall people talking about the Great Matheson Fire of 1916, which remains the deadliest in Canadian history, killing 223 — probably more, as many prospectors were in the bush working their claims solo, dreaming of striking gold or silver or cobalt. Some of them were never found.

Ever heard of the Great

Matheson Fire? How about the Halifax Explosion? Spend some time on Google and learn about them. So many killed, and so destructive.

And to be a bit repetitive, not that long ago we really couldn't compete with Mother Nature if she chose to have a tragic conflagration in one of our boreal forests.

Yes, I dove for my dictionary, and the word boreal means "of or pertaining to the north." Who knew? And just last week in the Toronto Star, Marco Chown Oved summarized, "As the temperature rises, the forests dry out and the wildfires will get bigger, stronger and more frequent."

Sort of says it all, and my NOTL Public Library pal Bill Garriock and I agreed that trees in boreal forests are wood, and wood burns. Trees live, trees die and then fall over. Eventually they dry out, and become kindling.

Some people build houses in or near the forests, and then put cedar shingles on the roof. More kindling. Then, perhaps they add cord of split wood piled near the house for the fireplace or wood stove. What are we thinking?

Rambling back to July 1916, when the forest near



A sailboat returns to the NOTL Sailing Club marina as smoke from northern wildfires casts a yellow haze over Lake Ontario, contributing to unsafe air quality. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Matheson caught fire. We didn't have the equipment we take for granted now. On the television, we watch helicopters and fixed-wing airplane waterbombers attacking fires here in North America and around the world. Big machines and chainsaws being used to create fire breaks. Thousands of well-trained men and women strategically attempting to bring the fires under control.

How times have changed. And thankfully, how quickly. I understand that our Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department was started in 1916, and is among the oldest in Canada. Over a hundred dedicated, highly trained, enthusiastic and brave first responders now, operating out of the five

fire stations in Old Town, Glendale, Queenston, St. Davids and Virgil.

Some 16 pieces of equipment. That's including the 1953 Chevrolet Bickle-Seagrave pumper used for parades. Thank goodness it is red, and not yellow.

We see — and sometimes hear — them as they head toward challenging situations here in NOTL. Fires, medical and vehicle accidents (yes, we are close to the QEW).

To sneak in a request, let us all make certain our smoke detectors are in good working order. Our local firefighters do their best to educate and remind us, but in the end it's up to us.

And they sometimes have to take time from fam-

ily events or their "other lives." They are called out in all types of weather.

One of my first memories of life in our town was the Christmas Eve fire that destroyed the Oban Inn in 1992. It started at about 9:30 p.m., and guests and diners were forced out into the bitter cold, with a wind blowing from the lake.

It was an hours-long battle, with all neighbouring buildings saved. Our firefighters coated in ice, and thank goodness for the canteen truck and townsfolk bringing hot beverages and food.

Less than a year later, then owner Gary Burroughs miraculously opened a near perfect replica Oban Inn in November 1993. Can this be

true? The attention to detail was mind-boggling, from similar floor coverings and wall hangings.

Yes, it's true. Congratulations, again.

Rambling to a local conclusion now. About 20 or 25 years ago, a fire broke out on Queen Street downtown, in the buildings just east of the Courthouse. It was a fairly windy day, and again our local firefighters worked for many hours knocking down the fire and saving adjacent structures.

Nosy and curious me rode my bicycle downtown from our home on Vincent Avenue in Chautauqua, to watch the action. Upon my return home to CHQ, several neighbours heard I had been downtown for a look.

Nobody asked if the Courthouse or the Cenotaph or the Prince of Wales Hotel were OK. The first three or four friends asked the same question: "Is the liquor store OK?" I kid you not.

Hats off to our first responders. These brave people go toward the fires to save lives and limit damage. Most people flee fires.

Now, let's end this wandering rambling by asking, "Why isn't there a pet black-and-white Dalmation firehall dog being kept at one of our local firehalls?."

rossrocket9@gmail.com

MUSIC
NIAGARA
FESTIVAL | 2026

ATIS BANKAS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



THE UNDERCOVERS

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF KENNY ROGERS,
LIONEL RICHIE & SMOKEY ROBINSON

AUGUST 12, 2026

IRONWOOD CIDER HOUSE
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

| 7:00PM |

\$44
TICKETS



5PM
FOOD &
DRINKS
AVAILABLE
FOR
PURCHASE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

CINDI LOFORTI LEPP & GEORGE LEPP

WWW.MUSICNIAGARA.ORG

Have some fun

- Across
8. Part of a sentence (6)

9. Newbie (8)

10. Where Drake bowled (8)

11. Put the phone down (4,2)

12. "Late December, back in ---" (Four Seasons) (5-5)

14. Some want to eat this and still have it (4)

15. Mart cart? (8,7)

18. Send (4)

20. Upbeat (10)

22. He had a talking donkey (6)

23. Herb often found with with lamb (8)

25. Relating to a law court (8)

26. Burger topping (6)
- Down

1. Puerile (8)

2. Inner surface of the hand (4)

3. Take off (6)

4. Getting warm (2,3,5,5)

5. Kind of ear implant (8)

6. Mealtime annoyances (5,5)

7. Walked out (6)

13. Old-style audio accessory (4,6)

16. "The Man in the ---" (Dumas novel) (4,4)

17. German IT manager settles elsewhere (8)

19. Kind of collision (4-2)

21. Regimental animal (6)

24. The high seas (4)

Crossword Puzzle

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8							9						
10									11				
12			13								14		
15					16								17
18	19				20				21				
22							23				24		
25									26				

Last issue's answers

1	Y	O	D	E	M	O	N	I	C	E							
8	T	W	I	N	G	E	E	A	O	S	L	O					
	C	B	N		A	C	T		L	B							
11	H	A	W	A	I	I	A	N	O		12	A	F	A	R		
	A		I	E	S				15	A		E					
16	P	A	Y	L	E	S		18	O	N	A	S	S	I	S		
	H	I					20	I	N	S	G		C	P			
21	A	U	D	U	B	O	N		23	C	H	O	R	I	Z	O	
	Z	D	E				24	C	A				S		N		
25	A	T	I	S	S	U	E		26	R	E	G		I	M	E	S
	R	S		T				29	M		S		D		E		
30	D	A	H	L			32	P	A	R	C	H	I	V	E	S	
	M	E		R	A	M		34	O				O		R		
37	T	I	E	D	O			38	R	E	C	K	O	N			
	N		A	F	F	R	O	N	T		Y		S				

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

MEDIUM

GOLFI[®]

REAL ESTATE

#1

RE/MAX TEAM IN CANADA*

MAXIMIZE EXPOSURE!

Your home, **advertised from Niagara to Toronto** — not just in town.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

NEW PRICE



16 MILLS LANE
2+1 BED • 3 BATH • 1,703 SQ. FT.
\$1,079,900

FREE

HOME EVALUATION

905-641-0308

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



8 FIRELANE 14D ROAD
2+1 BED • 3 BATH • 1,500 SQ. FT.
\$1,249,900

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



19 OAKLEY DRIVE
2 BED • 3 BATH • 1,615 SQ. FT.
\$1,198,900

CALL TODAY!

SCAN FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

Call the brand that gets your home **NOTICED!**

Ask about our **Golfi Home Warranty**. Full protection for one year.[†]

905-641-0308 • Sold@GolfiTeam.com • www.GolfiTeam.com

RE/MAX

*Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2024. †Conditions apply. RE/MAX Escarpment Golfi Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

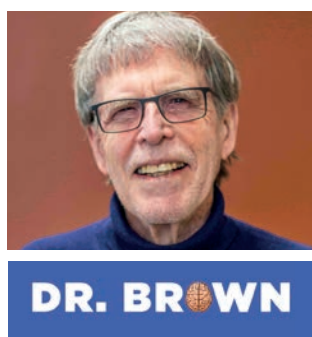
EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The CIBC on Queen Street

At first glance, this photograph looks as though it was taken in the 1920s or 1930s, thanks to the vintage car parked in front of the bank. However, the sign above the entrance tells a different story. It reads Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), a name the bank only adopted after the 1961 merger of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and The Imperial Bank of Canada. That means this photograph must have been taken after 1961. The bank occupied the building at 27 Queen St. for many decades. It was certainly here during the First World War, when it was the Imperial Bank of Commerce, and likely much earlier, making it a familiar fixture on Queen Street for generations of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents. The building itself has an even longer story. It was constructed around 1895 by local builder Walter Davidson for Salmon and Fanny Rowley. While it may appear unassuming at street level, it is one of Queen Street's architectural gems. When you're strolling through the historic district, don't forget to look up, you'll discover details on buildings that are easy to miss. Designed in the late Victorian Italianate style, the building features decorative terracotta blocks, a concealed hip roof, and four striking chimneys with distinctive flared tops. After serving the community from this historic location for decades, CIBC eventually relocated to its current branch in Garrison Village, bringing an end to the bank's long presence on Queen Street.

The surprising link between dementia and epilepsy



Dr. William Brown
Columnist

My wife died in November at Pleasant Manor after almost 20 years from the onset of the earliest symptoms of dementia.

The evidence based on her history and MRI findings of hippocampal atrophy strongly suggested she had Alzheimer's disease, but as often happens, it was more complicated than that.

MRI studies also revealed evidence of two small, old infarcts, one in her brainstem and the other in her cerebellum, which suggested that vascular disease and Alzheimer's disease coexisted, and both contributed to her dementia.

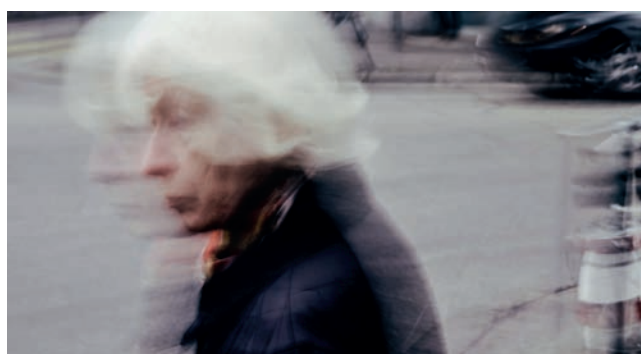
Beginning a few years before COVID-19, Jan sometimes slumped unresponsive over to one side if seated or slipped to the ground if standing, only to recover within a few several minutes, throughout which

her pulse and colour barely changed.

These incidents were investigated with no cause found. Then, beginning in the last year and a half of her life when she was in Pleasant Manor, she developed periods when she was unresponsive or barely so, from which she would recover after several hours, none the worse for the experience — sometimes more attentive and engageable than in the several week runup to the unresponsive events.

To me, these events looked like non-convulsive seizures whose onset was often heralded by increasingly common small random muscle twitches in her limbs for the two or three weeks before she became unresponsive.

The progression suggested a buildup in epileptic activity over weeks culminating in a period of relative unresponsiveness lasting several hours, in turn followed by a period of becoming the "best" in weeks in which Jan was more engageable and brighter — perhaps a period when her brain was "defragged," to borrow an old term from computer science, which created the several day period when in common parlance she was



Research at the University of California San Francisco suggests that ongoing, abnormal electrical bursts occurring between overt clinical seizures might impair cognitive and memory functions. UNSPLASH

"more with it."

Those were my thoughts, but where was the evidence? I talked to epilepsy colleagues who agreed but admitted that they knew little about the frequency or nature of epilepsy in Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. A literature search revealed similar ignorance except for the suggestion that epileptic phenomena were common in Alzheimer's disease late in the disease.

Then, in late April, a review article titled, "Tiny probes make sense of abnormal bursts in the epileptic brain" written by Jennie Erin Smith for one of the best general science journals, *Science*, caught my notice.

The original study she reviewed was published

in *Nature Neuroscience* and shed new light on how subclinical epileptiform electrical discharges in the brain might not only trigger clinically overt seizures but interfere with memory and other cognitive functions.

That was an eye-opener for me.

Quoting from Smith's review: "Seizures are the most dramatic symptom of epilepsy, but they're not the only type of abnormal activity ... brief electrical bursts, called interictal epileptiform discharges ... can occur hundreds or thousands of times a day, usually without a person noticing ... although not as dangerous as seizures, they can cause temporary confusion and contribute to long-term cognitive problems, even in those whose obvious clinical

seizures are controlled."

In the original study that prompted the review, scientists at the University of California San Francisco inserted fine multi-electrodes into epileptogenic regions of brains of patients undergoing resection of that region for the treatment of temporal lobe epilepsy. The high resolution of these recordings allowed them to record abnormal spontaneous electrical discharges from as many as hundred single cortical neurons at a time.

What really caught my attention in the study was the surprising finding that "some of those discharges recruited some of the same neurons involved in speech perception, pulling them briefly off their jobs." That observation suggests that ongoing abnormal electrical bursts occurring between overt clinical seizures might well impair cognitive and memory functions.

Returning to Jan, the question was whether some part of her ongoing impaired cognition and awareness was in some way related to similar epileptiform discharges.

The only sure way to resolve that question would have been to transfer Jan to an epilepsy unit equipped to carry out several days

of continuous electroencephalographic recording with surface electrodes, but for practical reasons that wouldn't have worked.

However the question remains: do some patients with mid-to-late-stage dementia have abnormal electrical activity in their brains that contributes to their cognitive decline? The observation that she was noticeably brighter and more attentive in the immediate aftermath of several-hour periods of lost consciousness is consistent with such a hypothesis.

One way to test the hypothesis would be to carry out a small clinical trial designed to see whether selective anti-seizure drugs over a several-week period improve cognition, especially in those patients who like Jan, have clinical evidence of myoclonic jerks suggestive of abnormal electrical discharges in their brains.

I'm not sure whether such a study is practical given the high workload in long-term care facilities these days, but it's worth considering.

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.

THE LEGION PRESENTS....

**LIVE MUSIC
CASH BAR**

**WEDNESDAY
FOOD TRUCKS
SUPPERMARKET**

**JUNE 3- SEPT 16
FROM 4:30-7:30PM**

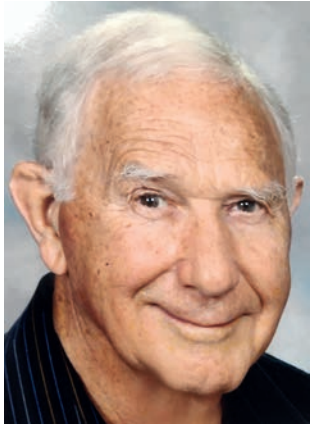
Legion
Branch 124
Niagara-on-the-Lake

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124

905-468-2353

LEGION124@GMAIL.COM

James ‘Jim’ Griffiths



Griffiths, James (Jim) — Sept. 6, 2031 - July 22, 2026
It is with sadness, and gratitude for a life well lived, that the family announces the peaceful passing of Jim, surrounded by his family and the compassionate, dedicated staff at Pleasant Manor in Virgil, Ontario.
Jim is lovingly remembered by his beloved wife, Isobel; his children, Mark (Kelly), Gavin (Tracey), and Lynne (Karl); his cherished grandchildren, Payton, Zachary (McKayla), Brittany, Rachel (Armand), Cody (Emma), and Tegan; as well as extended family in Scotland and lifelong friends and colleagues in Canada and around the world.
Born and raised in England, Jim graduated from the University of Nottingham with a degree in Civil Engineering before beginning his career in Killin, Scotland. There he met and fell in love with a cheerful, auburn-haired, green-eyed Scot named Isobel, who would become his steadfast and loving companion for 67 years.

Jim’s career as a civil engineer became the passport to an extraordinary life. Specializing in hydroelectric power projects, he spent more than four decades helping to design and manage infrastructure that brought sustainable energy to communities around the world. Together, Jim and Isobel embraced every opportunity that came their way, building a family whose story crossed borders and cultures. Their three children were each born in a different country before the family settled in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 1969, when Jim joined Acres International Ltd.

Although Canada became “home base”, his work continued to take the family to Ethiopia, Pakistan, Iran, Lesotho, Uganda, South Africa and Chile until his retirement in 2000. Wherever they lived, Jim approached each new country and culture with curiosity, respect and genuine interest, forming friendships that endured long after the projects were completed.

A lifelong sportsman, he enjoyed a wide range of sports but it was mountain climbing that best reflected his determination and adventurous spirit and led him to the summit of Falak Sar, the highest peak in Pakistan’s Swat Valley district. Whether documenting a Hindu Kush expedition or an ordinary family gathering, a camera was his faithful companion. In retirement, he painstakingly digitized thousands of photographs and slides, preserving a lifetime of adventures and family memories for future generations.

Jim was the quintessential English gentleman — polite, reserved and thoughtful. He possessed quiet integrity, and a wonderfully dry wit that often caught people delightfully off guard. In later years, that understated humour occasionally gave way to flashes of irreverence, usually inspired by a fine Scotch, Benny Goodman and even better company.

Above all, Jim was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. His love was expressed not through grand gestures but through quiet encouragement, practical wisdom and unwavering dependability. His family always knew they could count on his calm perspective, thoughtful advice and steadfast support.

Jim possessed a deep moral compass. Although his faith evolved over the years, it remained an important part of his life and inspired an enduring love of learning. He read widely on theology, philosophy, history, and countless other subjects, and was equally at home discussing engineering, politics, literature, or the latest book that had captured his imagination.

Although his journey is complete, his family will forever cherish the adventures they shared.
A celebration of Jim’s life will be held in the Simpson Room at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Ln., on Aug. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Project Ploughshares (www.ploughshares.ca) or the Council of Canadians (<https://canadians.org>) charities that work for peace, and public policy rooted in justice and care for creation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

Andrew Knauer



KNAUER, Andrew —
It is with profound sadness that we announce that Andy passed away peacefully on July 14, 2026, surrounded by family and loved ones in the soft evening light at 7:30 p.m.

Predeceased by his mother and father, Rudy and Lotte Knauer, he leaves behind his precious partner, Karen. He was a cherished father to Jason (Prachi), brother to Phoebe (David) and uncle to Max.

Andy faced his battle with cancer with bravery and grace, continuing to show up for the people he loved right until the end. A simple man at heart, he was a true Niagara-on-the-Lake local, born and raised in Old Town. He attended Parliament Oak School and Niagara District Secondary School.

He loved spending time with Karen and their beloved cat, Skeeter, in their garden on Simcoe Street — his paradise, as he called it. He enjoyed golfing and playing pool with his buddies at the Legion and could often be found at a few of his favourite local cafés, where Jason and Prachi would visit him regularly.

A life well lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Berti and the kind palliative care nurses who made his final days peaceful.

For obituary and memorial inquiries, please contact megan@niagaranow.com.

James ‘Jim’ Alexander



ALEXANDER, James “Jim” Arthur —
It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Jim on July 28, 2026, at the age of 81. Beloved husband of Erika Alexander. Loving father of Peter Alexander, and Andrea Lamont (Jason). Adored grandfather of William Alexander, Vanessa Duncan, and Hannah and Charlie Lamont.

Born number 3 of 16 on October 10, 1944, to James and Josephine Alexander, Jim was the dear brother of AnnaLee Benjamin (Jack), Ralph (Ruby), Patrice Alexander, Kevin (Nancy), Marion Alexander, Jeff (Janice), Kathie Alexander, Marg Alexander (Gerry), Christopher, and Heather Lynn Alexander. Predeceased by sisters, Sharon Adams, Fran Cushnie, and Jacqueline Baker, and brothers Gerald, and Michael Alexander.

Fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, their spouses and children, and many cousins, and friends.
In keeping with Jim’s wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends and family are invited to Morgan Funeral Home on Thursday August 6, 2026, for visitation between 12pm – 2 pm, with a celebration of Jim’s life to follow at 2pm. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish in lieu of flowers, may make a memorial donation to The Friends of Fort George-friendsoffortgeorge.ca/donate. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.

Even a small ad can have a
BIG IMPACT.
[email advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com) to learn more.



NOTL
Construction
& Renovations
EST. 1999

Serving
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
Since 1999





LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS
Father & Son Team
BASED IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP. | HONEST SERVICE. | BUILT TO LAST.



DECKS & OUTDOOR LIVING



KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



ADDITIONS & GARAGES



RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS

From small renovations to full home transformations, we manage every detail from plans and permits to the final build. We take pride in our work and treat every home like it's our own.

FREE ESTIMATES



289-690-0660



niallbroughton@gmail.com



See our latest projects on
Facebook
NOTL Construction & Renovations



GARAGE SALE LOCATOR

List your garage sales in
The Lake Report,
NOTL's most-read publication.



Niagara-on-the-Lake loves garage sales, yard sales, estate sales — all of it.

That's why we want to help people find them, so they can hunt down deals as easily as possible.

Send details (time and address) to

editor@niagaranow.com

and we will publish your sale

• FREE •
of charge.

Even a small ad can have a
BIG IMPACT.
[email advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com) to learn more.



The festival offers visitors a chance to meet costumed historical interpreters. FILE

Heritage Fest returns Monday

Staff
The Lake Report

History isn't just pre-served in Niagara-on-the-Lake — it's celebrated. On Monday, Castlereagh Street will once again become a living show-case of the town's past as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum hosts its annual Heritage Festival.

The free event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 3, filling the street with live music, artisan vendors, his-torical demonstrations and family activities.

Visitors can browse the museum's popular treasures

sale, featuring antiques, artwork, books, vintage décor and other collectibles, while local vendors offer food, drinks and handmade goods.

The festival also gives visitors a chance to meet costumed historical inter-preters, including members of the War of 1812 Cana-dian Volunteers, the soldiers involved in the burning of Niagara in 1813.

Live music will be pro-vided by Aaron Berger and Nathaniel Goold throughout the day.

Heritage organizations and craftspeople will also be on hand with demon-

strations and displays, including representatives from the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, Mackenzie Printery, Niagara Handweavers and Spinners, Friends of Fort George, the United Empire Loyalists' As-sociation of Canada and collector Victor Packard, whose historic musket dis-play is a regular festival attraction.

The annual festival is one of the museum's signature summer events, celebrat-ing the people, stories and traditions that have shaped Niagara-on-the-Lake. Admission is free.



DATE NIGHT MENU

\$139 + HST FOR 2 PEOPLE. DINE IN ONLY

STARTER

CHOOSE ANY 1

PEANUT DELIGHT (V) (GF)
ROASTED PEANUTS, ONIONS, CUCUMBER, BELL PEPPERS, TOMATOES, LEMON JUICE, SPICES, CHIPS

SOUP OF THE DAY
ASK YOUR SERVER

DAHI PURI
HOLLOW PUFFS, STUFFED WITH POTATOES, CHICKPEAS, YOGURT & HOMEMADE DELECTABLE CHUTNEYS

SAMOSA CHAAT
POTATO & PEAS STUFFED SAMOSAS ON A BED OF CHICKPEAS, WITH YOGURT & OUR CHUTNEYS

SPECIALS

LIMITED TIME THALI
CHICKEN OR PANEER MAIN
DAL, RAITA, PICKLE, DESSERT, RICE, ROTI/NAAN
\$34 (DINE IN ONLY)

THURSDAY
BUTTER CHICKEN \$20
WITH PURCHASE OF A DRINK

FRIDAY
HALF PRICE BOTTLE OF WINE WITH MEAL

DINE IN ONLY
HST & GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED

GREAT SELECTION OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL WINES, BEERS AND SPIRITS.

MAINS

CHOOSE ANY 2

BAIGAN BHARTHA (V)
ROASTED EGGPLANTS, PEAS, ONION AND TOMATO BASED PREPARATION

PALAK PANEER
INDIAN CHEESE IN SPINACH BASED PREPARATION

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA
THIS NEEDS NO EXPLANATION

KADHAI LAMB
BONELESS LAMB IN CINNAMON FLAVORED SPICY PREPARATION

SAAG ALOO (V)
POTATOES IN A SPINACH BASED PREPARATION

PANEER MAKHANI MASALA
PANEER IN A SPICY AND BUTTERY GRAVY THICKENED WITH CASHEWS

DELHI BUTTER CHICKEN
NOT THE USUAL GLORIFIED KETCHUP. THIS IS MILDLY SPICED.

GOAN FISH CURRY
BASA FILLET COOKED IN A TAMARIND & COCONUT BASED SPICY PREPARATION

ACCOMPANIMENTS

CHOOSE ANY 2

ROTI

BUTTER NAAN

GARLIC NAAN

RICE

DESSERT

CHOOSE ANY 2

RICE KHEER

AFFOGATO

GULAB JAMUN

BOTTLE OF WINE

CABERNET SAUVIGNON
PINOT NOIR

PINOT GRIGIO
CHARDONNAY

233 KING STREET | NOTL | L0S 6J0 | 905.468.7222
auraonthelake.ca | info@auraonthelake.ca

OFFERS, PRICES, MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE
THESE OFFERS AND SPECIALS CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS

Buying OR SELLING?



RE/MAX Niagara Realty Ltd., Brokerage
Independently Owned & Operated

THE SYKES TEAM real estate

Not intended to solicit persons or properties currently under contract.



NOTL & NIAGARA REGION

Evan McCaughey

Salesperson

289-968-8128

WHEN YOU CALL GREG - YOU GET GREG

**GREG
SYKES**

SALESPERSON

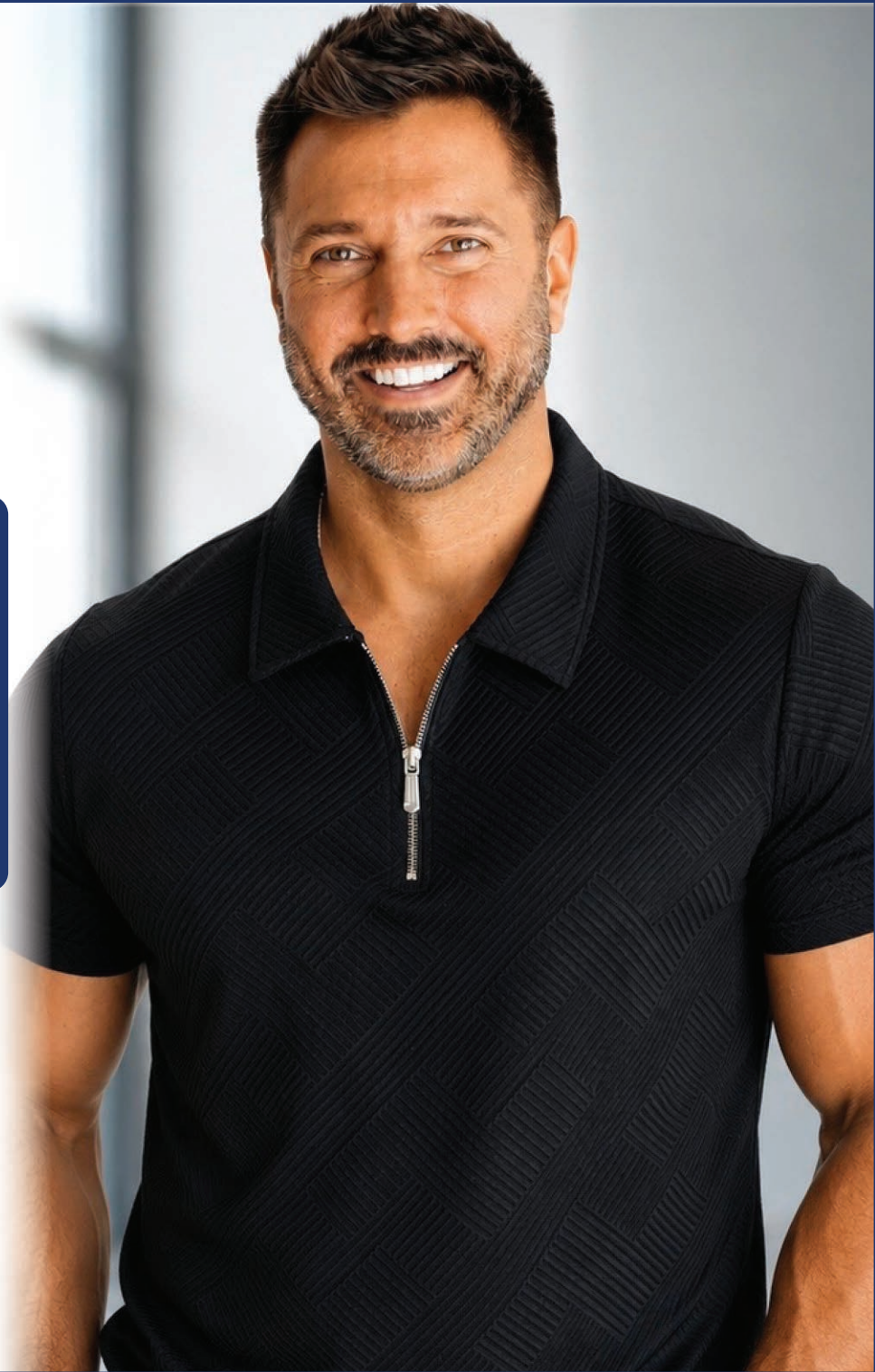
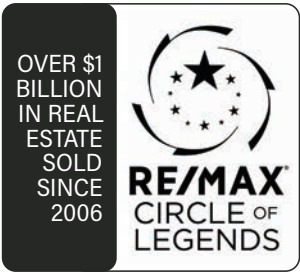
**FREE HOME
EVALUATION**

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



**RE/MAX
NIAGARA**
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND
OPERATED



360 Dorchester, Niagara on the Lake
Listed at \$1,295,000

TEXT OR CALL GREG TODAY @ 905.329.3484