

Vol. 7, Issue 41

Canada's most-decorated community newspaper

October 10, 2024

## HIGH HONOURS

#### World-renowned opera icon joins the Order of Canada



Lois McDonall's career as an opera singer took her around the world. Now it's won her Canada's second-highest honour. RICHARD WRIGHT

#### Richard Wright | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

ois McDonall is a Canadian and international music icon and inspiration — and as of August, the 85-year-old newly-decorated Order of Canada recipient is one of NOTL's newest residents.

McDonall received the nation's

second highest civilian honour Oct. 3 at a ceremony at Ottawa's Rideau Hall in recognition of her career as an international opera

She was given the honour, "for her celebrated career as one of Canada's leading sopranos and for her mentorship of the next generation of performers," reads her introduction on the Governor General of Canada's website.

It was a ceremony almost a year in waiting.

The Virgil resident was named a member of the Order in De-

cember of last year, but due to lingering delays caused by the pandemic, she wasn't presented with her insignia until this fall.

"I didn't expect it," she said about the day she first heard she

Continued on Page 13

# Gang rape suspect arrested at rural home

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A 19-year-old man wanted by police for his alleged role in a Sept. 15 gang rape in St. Catharines was arrested in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Tuesday.

Niagara Regional Police descended on the home at 912 Line 6 Rd. at 6:28 a.m. the morning of Oct. 8 with tactical and dog units.

At least one entrance to Line 6 Road, the Four Mile Creek intersection, was blocked off to traffic as the operation unfolded.

The arrest is part of an ongoing investigation, which saw three other suspects taken into custody in late September and early October.

"The emergency task unit, the K9 unit and uniform officers on scene contained the area until the fourth suspect exited the residence and was arrested without incident," police said Tuesday afternoon, in response to questions from The Lake Report.

Larry Smith of St. Catharines faces 16 charges, including breaking and entering to commit gang sexual assault, sexual assault with a firearm and sexual assault causing bodily harm.

He was held in custody pending a bail hearing that took place on Oct. 8 in St.

Continued on Page 5



Barry Wilding.

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A school bus driver for more than 15 years, Barry Wilding says the safety of his students is always his top priority — so receiving a \$50 ticket when trying to drop students off safely left him unsettled.

On Monday, Sept. 23, Wilding was taking children from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School to St. Vincent De Paul Church, a routine he has done multiple times a year for the last twelve years.

School bus driver fined by bylaw officer for picking up kids

But, when parked at his usual spot, Wilding was told to move.

"I said, 'Well we've done

this for years, what are we doing wrong?" Wilding told The Lake Report.

He noted that this Monday was rainy and his passengers included kids in kindergarten to grade six.

When the bylaw officer

requested Wilding wait for pickup at Fort George, he refused saying that he would not make kids walk in the rain.

He was then issued a \$50

Continued on Page 3





Wood • Luxury Vinyl Carpet • Tile

> From Top Designer Names and Brands







Join us for monthly **Customer Appreciation Days:** Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month Customers 60+: **Every Last Thursday of the Month ONLINE & IN-STORE** 





#### New Afternoon Tea!

We invite you to experience the timeless elegance of Afternoon Tea. Here the simple act of taking refreshments is elevated into a charming ceremony where delectable sweets, savoury treats, and perfectly brewed teas are meant to be relished.

> WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!



Restaurent . Wine Ber

## Have an opinion

#### Annual budget meetings kick off Thursday

Zahraa Hmood The Lake Report

That time of the year is almost here: The town is set to spend this fall nailing down its top financial concerns for 2025 — and how it plans to tighten, or loosen, its purse strings.

Council approved a two-month timeline for proceedings on next year's municipal budget during its September meeting the first budget committee meeting will be held Oct. 10 and the last, to finalize the 2025 budget, on Dec. 10.

The budget committee will be made up of all councillors and key staff members.

During minutes approval at the top of the Sept. 24 meeting — three hours before staff presented the budget timeline — financial concerns were already on at least one councillor's mind.

In sharing his rationale for voting in favour of the four-storey apartment building planned for Mary Street (during the Sept. 11 committee of the whole planning meeting), Coun. Erwin Wiens, who chaired the council meeting, brought



Coun. Erwin Wiens voiced concerns about the town's spending on legal battles over land development. FILE

up stacking legal fees the town is incurring in its disputes at the Ontario Land Tribunal over contentious development plans.

"I look at our legal costs and what we've done this year and they've skyrocketed," he said.

"Understand, there's a cost to all of it, and that cost comes at budget time. We're just going to go into our budget and you're going to see our legal bills."

He also voiced his confidence in planning staff's general expertise, as confirmed by their recommendations being proven correct at many tribunal hearings and the green light they gave the Mary Street project.

Coun. Gary Burroughs followed up on his comments, noting Wiens has brought up this concern over legal costs "many times," and how part of the issue comes from council's stances on proposed developments being in opposition to staff recommendations.

"The cost is great — and some of us believe the cost is worth taking if we're going to stand by anything in our community."

In March, council approved a \$48.5 million operating budget for 2024 and a property tax hike of 6.75 per cent.

At the time, the rising cost was driven by staff wage increases, five new hirings, insurance fees going up and high legal costs, among a few other causes.

No changes were made to the timeline staff proposed

to council on Sept. 24, however, Coun. Sandra O'Connor did raise some concerns to staff about whether they'll have enough time to properly work on the operating budget.

"I think operations is going to take us longer than two meetings," she said, also flagging slow progress on the municipal accommodation tax as a financial concern, among other items.

The committee will begin budget proceedings with the capital budget, which dictates the costs of projects and infrastructure, aiming to have a final version after a second discussion on Oct. 30.

As for the operating budget — which dictates the town's day-to-day revenue and expenses, plus the annual property tax rate - the committee aims to have two meetings on Nov. 7 and 21, before finalizing it on Dec. 5.

At the Dec. 10 meeting, it'll look at the 2025 budget as a complete package — including water and wastewater user rates, insurance costs and other items — before completing the budget.

#### you want heard? Send a letter to the editor to

editor@niagaranow.com

# 1974 • 2024



\$999,000 MI S 40656471 - Patricia Athertor



**494 MISSISSAUGA STREET** \$2,290,000 MLS 40617524 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk



12 CENTRE STREET

\$2,398,000

MLS 40592492 - Thomas Elltoft & Viviane Elltoft



356 DORCHESTER STREET \$1,749,000 MLS 40657362 - Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft



229 VICTORIA STREET \$1,595,000 MLS 40608182 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk



2165 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD \$4,995,000 MLS 40642492 - Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft



1501 LINE 8 ROAD #520

\$69,900

MLS 40627497 - Ricky Watson

14529 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY

\$2,590,000

MLS 40658695 - Thomas Elltoft & Weston Miller

**36 THE PROMENADE** \$2,189,000 MLS 40632780 - Patricia Atherton

Cheryl Carmichael\* ..... Linda Williams\* ..... 905-401-4240 Weston Miller\* .. 289-213-8681 . 905-246-3387



**445 QUEENSTON ROAD** \$1,695,000

MLS 40601103 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk





**58 JOHNSON STREET** \$2,799,500 MLS 40529584 - Linda Williams



**6 TULIP TREE ROAD** \$1,549,900

MLS 40577915 - Randall Armstrong

Patricia Atherton\* ...... 905-933-4983

\*\*\* Broker of Record \*\* Broker \* Sales Representative

Christopher Bowron***	905-327-6704
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3726

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

Page 3 October 10, 2024





Barry Wilding's priority is student safety when doing pick-ups and drop-offs. He is shocked a bylaw officer told him to park far down the road and make the kindergarten students walk the distance — or receive a \$50 fine. JULIA SACCO

#### School bus driver is fed up with parking bylaw

Continued from Front Page

ticket, paid by his employer Switzer-Carti Transportation Inc.

When Wilding later checked how much it would cost him to pick up the students at Fort George, an attendant told him it would cost \$55.

When The Lake Report asked the town why this happened, communications co-ordinator Marah Minor said buses violate the weight restriction bylaws in that section Old Town.

"The town's bylaws need to be revised to allow this," she said in an email.

The town is recruiting a staff position which will be responsible for reviewing and recommending bylaw updates, until then town officers look for "reasonable compromise and co-operation," Minor said.

The Lake Report reached out to Emma Fera-Massi, the principal of St. Michael, but she refused to comment.

This was the first she had heard of the incident and she will be looking into it alongside communications director Jennifer Pellegrini, Fera-Massi said.

This isn't the first time Wilding has been issued a ticket from bylaw officers.

In May, he was driving a group of conference attendees from Niagara Falls to NOTL in his school bus.

"When it was time to pick them up, I told them I would pick them up at a spot in front of the Royal George Theatre where there's a bus loading/unloading zone," Wilding said.

A previous bylaw officer advised him to do this, Wilding said.

He was issued two \$50 tickets during this pickup, one of which was discarded after appealing them.

He let that instance go, Wilding said, but being ticketed when picking up students was unacceptable.

Along with a letter submitted to The Lake Report this week, Wilding submitted a letter addressed to the Lord Mayor and all councillors, he said.

The letter was answered by fire chief Jay Plato, who said the issue would be brought up as a learning experience at the next meeting, Wilding said.

Wilding asked what committee the issue was covered by so that he could come to the meeting to which Plato said it is not overseen by a committee.

If he wants to be present for discussion, Plato told him he would have to register a delegation during a council meeting, Wilding said.

"I don't think we'll see much action," he said.

Living in NOTL for 51 years, Wilding was once on the town committee for parking alongside Gary Burroughs, he said.

"It's a problem in this town, no matter what you do it's always going to be a problem," he said.

With his letter to The Lake Report and council, Wilding was hoping bylaw officers would turn a blind eye to dropping off school children at St. Vincent De Paul, Wilding's wife Louise said.

Hiring a new staff member and revising the bylaw is a start, Wilding said.

Wilding and his wife have travelled around North America, whether it be for work or a vacation and have never had parking issues like those experienced in NOTL, Louise said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

#### Open For FARMHOUSE Lunch Daily railable! Or give us a call to book 905-468-8814 Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in October! Not valid Oct. 14. 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





#### Village farmers' market ends another year

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

For some, the last day of this year's farmers' market at Garrison Village on Saturday was a chance to stop by to check out the latest produce from this fall's harvest season.

For those like Hannah Grace Medalla, it's about more than produce — it's about getting to know the people who do business in the area.

"I go to different markets because I want to connect with local businesses," said the private chef and caterer, who runs her own company.

However, for longtime vendors Ken and Rose Bartel, of Bartel Organics, this season marks the end of



The last farmers' market of the year was Saturday.

After 18 years of working at the annual market, they announced via a Facebook post they would be retiring from the market days, citing the physical demands of farming and market life.

"As we have aged we have had to rely heavily on our kids to help us with set up

and take down every Saturday for four years now, and with certain tasks on the farm that we can no longer do alone," the Bartels wrote in their post.

In the nearly two decades they've worked the market, they've only missed two Saturdays, they wrote in their post.

"Thank you to our patrons for your continued support through these 18 years, because without any of you, we wouldn't be here at all," they wrote.

Medalla said it's the connections with vendors — like Bartel Farms — that make the market a special place, where personal relationships and shared passion for local goods create a strong sense of community.

She finds value in connecting with farmers and local suppliers at the market, such as Cheese Secrets, a vendor she has sourced from for her catering events, she said.

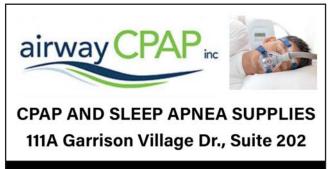
The market presents opportunities to build lasting relationships which support the growing community of local artisans, she said.





#### SUMMER OF THE FLOOD





For appointment call 289-868-9212.







Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

# Four Mile Creek watershed study will look at flooding and prevention

*In this final instalment of* our Summer of Flood series we look at joint plans by the Town of Niagara-onthe-Lake and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to review and improve the Four Mile Creek Watershed. NOTL residents have long complained about a lack of maintenance and care to municipal drains, ditches and natural watercourses. The results of this neglect have been regular flooding on private properties and public roads for years.

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-onthe-Lake and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are teaming up on a study of the Four Mile Creek watershed to review its health and find where improvements may be needed.

When completed, the report and its recommendations will be hot items with many NOTL residents looking to learn how it will address flooding issues in the Four Mile Creek watershed, which covers about a third of NOTL.

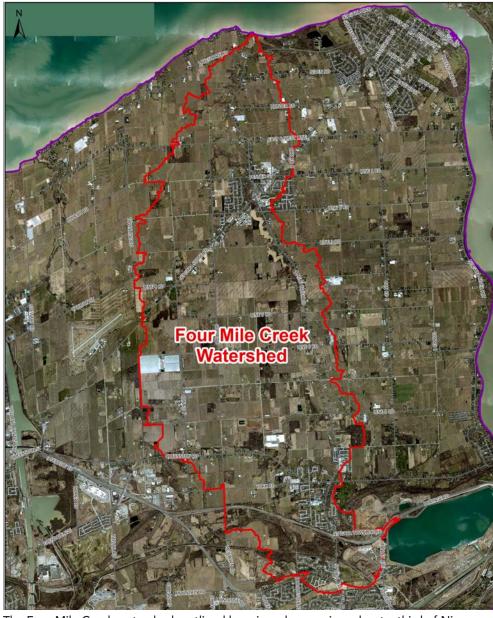
The NPCA defines a watershed as "an area of land that catches rain and snow, and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Gravity and the land's topography (the high and low areas) move water, rain, and snowmelt across the landscape from one area to another."

Overdevelopment of lands and clogged natural and manmade drainage systems are suspected contributors to the bloated groundwater levels in NOTL this year.

Those levels literally overflowed when a pair of heavy storms in June and July dumped record amounts of rain in areas of NOTL in less than an hour.

Even before those storms, residents were complaining of storm ponds, ditches and culverts either overgrown with plants and reeds as well as garbage and other non-natural debris, causing water to back up onto rural properties and into homes.

In urban areas, development has become a suspected cause of flooding because it covers up permeable lands where moisture was able to penetrate the surface and distributed it through the natural water-



The Four Mile Creek watershed, outlined here in red, comprises about a third of Niagaraon-the-Lake. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is looking at how it can improve water flow in the creek. NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

course and eventually out into Lake Ontario.

With non-permeable surfaces such as concrete, water remains on the surface and looks for places to go such as back into existing in-ground infrastructure through manholes openings, causing an overload situation and sending water spewing back up onto land.

Then there is an occurrence called infiltration.

This is when surface water seeps back into in-ground infrastructure through underground cracks or connection points, causing overflow situations, also sending water back into streets through manhole openings.

Infiltration also affects wastewater infrastructure in the same manner, sending sewage back through the pipes and into people's homes.

These scenarios played out in homes throughout NOTL during the summer storms, infuriating residents who at best had to deal with stormwater flows on their streets, and in the worst case scenario had disgusting backups of sewage in their basements.

The new Four Mile Creek study will take a wide look at the entire creek system to prevent flooding and ensure a healthy environment and landscape, said the town's director of community and development services, Kirsten McCauley.

"The goal would be to look at the current conditions, look at the natural areas, the watercourses, understanding what we're seeing right now and then reviewing that based on future development and future change in the area," said McCauley.

Following that, she adds town staff will look into "what we need to do to ensure that everything is working appropriately."

NPCA chief administrative officer Leilani Lee-Yates is promising the study will take a deep look into flood causes and solutions.

"This project includes updating the floodplain mapping using more current technologies such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and other base-layer data," Lee-Yates said.

"This mapping will provide a clearer picture of current flood risks and assist property owners in identifying hazards on their lands," she added.

Like the town, the NPCA hopes the study will provide answers about the watershed beyond flooding.

"Looking at the broader sub-watershed allows us to monitor and assess the full characteristics and complexities of the system, including how changing climate conditions affect watershed hydrology and erosion dynamics," she said.

"This integrated approach aims to provide new insights into watershed health and set a baseline for future decision making and restoration planning."

Coun. Sandra O'Connor hopes the study will be completed soon so council can review and debate it during upcoming 2025 municipal budget talks.

"The sooner we have this, the better, because it's going to impact our budget," she said.

"We are going into budget planning in the next couple months, so we're going to need a number from staff on that to put in the plan."

wright@niagaranow.com

#### Native Centre Powwow celebrates 50 years of service

The Niagara Regional Native Centre celebrated the centre's 50th anniversary with a Powwow. The 10th annual Nurture Our Roots Powwow hosted at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines last Saturday celebrated Indigenous traditions, culture and community while marking the beginning of a year-long anniversary celebration.

"Coming just days after the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, this event serves as a platform to educate, unite and remind everyone that Indigenous culture is not a relic of the past but a living, vibrant force that shapes our present and future," Native Centre president Sean Vanderklis said.



## Gang rape suspect arrested at rural home

Continued from Front Page

Catharines. He remains in custody.

A publication ban pre-

vents details of the hearing from being released.

Smith will appear again

Smith will appear again in court Oct. 11.

Niagara police had four suspects in the Sept. 15 gang rape — Smith is the last of the four to be arrested. Police first publicly identified Smith as a suspect more than a week ago, in a media release from Sept. 27.

The alleged gang rape took place at a home around Welland Avenue and Lake Street. The victim, an adult female, sustained non-lifethreatening physical injuries.

On Sept. 28, Kieran Ennis, a 24-year-old from Atwood North Perth, surrendered himself at the Perth detachment of the Ontario



Police tactical units wrap up after detaining a suspect in a gang rape that occurred in St. Catharines on Sept. 15. The suspect was located at 912 Line 6 Rd. RICHARD WRIGHT

Provincial Police.

The remaining two suspects, whose names cannot be released as they are young offenders under the age of 18, were arrested and charged on Oct. 3 and Sept. 27.

Alongside the main offences, the four suspects were all charged with both mischief and theft under \$5,000 — police say they stole multiple items from the residence — and use of a firearm during the commission of an offence.

wright@niagaranow.com

#### Contractors injured on the job by falling tree

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Two contractors were injured on the job in Niagaraon-the-Lake last Monday morning after being struck by a falling tree — with one taken to the hospital with serious injuries.

There are no updates on the state of the workers, the

Ministry of Labour said, adding an inspector has been assigned to the case.

"As the investigation is ongoing, no further details are available at this time," the media relations team said in an email Tuesday afternoon.

At 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 30, emergency services responded to a call at 1426 Line 8 Rd. for a report

of two contractors being injured while working on the property.

Paramedics and fire services also responded to the scene.

The two officers on the scene determined two workers were struck by a falling tree, Const. Phil Gavin told The Lake Report.

"One of the workers was

trapped for a short period before he could be freed," Gavin said in an email.

The trapped worker, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident in his 60s, was airlifted to an out-of-region hospital with serious injuries, Gavin said.

The second worker, a Lowbanks resident in his 70s, sustained minor injuries.





Poor vision can contribute to scholastic struggles. Considering that 80% of learning is visual, having clear and comfortable vision is essential for children to succeed in school. Contact Dr. Hopkins & Associates Optometry to schedule your child's eye exam.



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



The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion, Branch 17 from

Oct. 30- Nov. 1

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the Provincial Service Officer should contact Branch 124, NOTL Legion office by Oct. 18th 905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

#### St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids 905-262-5242

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

## Louisiana meets Niagara College's signature chef evening

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

For one night this past weekend, Niagara College's Benchmark restaurant was transformed into the southern American city famous for jazz, Mardi Gras and Cajun cuisine.

As guests enjoyed the lively atmosphere at the Louisianiathemed Chef Signature Series event on Oct. 5, Eric Martinez, the evening's special guest chef, smiled.

"To be able to share what we do down south, and kind of bring it to the world it's the ultimate for us," said Martinez.

"Seeing the people here, in Niagara, accepting it with open arms, and the students excited about doing it that's what kind of makes this all worthwhile."

The culinary experience, held at the Daniel J. Patterson campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, turned Benchmark into a festive celebration of New Orleans culture and cuisine.





Left: Chef Eric Martinez, best known as the executive chef of the largest Marriott, in Orlando, Fla. Right: Culinary students serve up authentic, party-style Cajun and Creole cuisine during the signature chef event. PAIGE SEBURN

"We have a great crowd some from the community, some from the college. It's been an amazing three or four days with our chefs," said Craig Youdale, the college's dean of culinary, tourism and beverage studies.

Originally running from 2012 to 2015, Youdale said the Chef Signature Series was relaunched after its hiatus.

"We thought it was really important to bring other chefs in," he said. "It's exciting for our students and exciting for the community to get to take part."

This year, Youdale said they wanted to try something new and different.

"We brought our chefs that we know from Louisiana to have a fun jazz, Louisiana, Cajun and Creole kind of night," he said.

Sous chef Michael Mc-Guire said how meaningful it is to share his culture through food.

"It's fun cooking dishes that I grew up with and sharing them with people from a whole different part of the world," he said, voicing particular enthusiasm for the vibe and the crawfish.

"The atmosphere; the music; it feels like I'm at home. It's seeing that look on people's faces while they eat something they might not have ever tried before." said McGuire.

Guests had dishes like crawfish étouffée and duck and andouille gumbo, all served in a more casual, festival-like setting than the restaurant is used to.

"It's not pretentious or fancy," said Martinez.

Attendee Amanda Baldinelli said she appreciated the relaxed vibe.

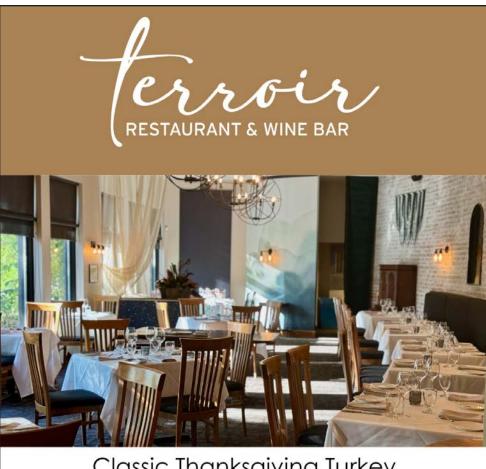
"It's a fun, casual event, and the drink options have been really creative," she

Niagara would benefit from more outside culinary influences, like what this signature event provided, Baldinelli said.

The evening also provided valuable hands-on experience for Niagara College students, said Youdale.

"This is a real-life event," said Youdale. "Students usually work in labs, but here, they see what it's like under pressure with guests and different cooking styles."

Looking ahead, Youdale hinted at plans for future events in the Chef Signature Series: They are working on bringing in a famous Toronto restaurant and a Niagara College alumnus from Vancouver, he said.



Classic Thanksgiving Turkey Three-Course Prix Fixe Sun Oct 13 lunch and dinner Mon Oct 14 lunch only

For groups of 1-8 people. Limited Availability. Pre-Booking and Pre-Payment Required. Regular menu also available.



**Terroir Restaurant at Strewn Winery** 

1339 Lakeshore Rd at Four Mile Creek Rd 905-367-0343

> Open Thurs-Mon Lunch: 11:45 AM - 3:00 PM Dinner: 4:30 - 8:00 PM

Menus and online reservations on our website www.TerroirNiagara.com



## STARTER COMPANY PLUS

## Take your business to the next level.

If you've got a great idea for a new or existing business – and the entrepreneurial drive to see it through, Starter Company Plus is here to help you with your company and provide the invaluable guidance of business professionals.

- Business Training & WorkshopsMentoring & Networking Opportunities

**Apply today:** niagarafalls.ca/sbec

**Applications close October 14th** 





## Review of special event permits gives businesswoman hope

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Marlene Gallyot wants to take advantage of Niagaraon-the-Lake's tourism culture to increase her livelihood by performing weddings on her property — something she was barred from doing earlier this year.

The entrepreneur is a bed and breakfast owner and also serves as a wedding planner and officiant.

"I just want small (events), once in a blue moon," she said.

"It's only like the summer months, four months we have. So why can't I get that opportunity to do my own events in my backyard?"

Gallyot is prevented from hosting commercial weddings and gatherings at her Line 3 Road home for two reasons.

Zoning bylaws for shortterm rental property owners prevent commercial special events on-site.

Secondly, her property's zoning status of residential does not allow her to apply for special event permits.



Marlene Gallyot wants to be able to host small wedding ceremonies at her backyard chapel. She was ordered to shut down her operations, but hopes there could be a light at the end of the tunnel when the town reviews its policiy on special events permits. RICHARD WRIGHT

In March this year, it came to the attention of NOTL bylaw officers she was hosting events after photos appeared on her social media platforms.

Bylaw enforcement then revoked her bed and breakfast license for being in contradiction of the shortterm rental/special events

Gallyot admits during that time she didn't check to see if events were permitted on her property, adding since no one approached her during the pandemic when she hosted small events, she thought they were allowed.

"In 2020 when COVID was here, we were allowed to do things like that in our backyard spaces, according to the province, and nobody bothered me," she said.

That is a moot assertion according to Coun. Erwin Wiens.

"That's not relevant," he told The Lake Report.

"Small gatherings were meant to be for family or friends, not for commercial."

In the end, she appealed the revoking of her bed and breakfast license to council in late April and had it reinstated with a promise not to host weddings.

While she is happy to have the license back, the decision still left her dejected and feeling like nothing could be done to restore the other half of her business.

But now the town plans to take a fresh look at its zoning rules.

That examination will deal "specifically with special events and how we need to improve our policy and our regulations with regards to special events," said Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

This has given Gallyot

"I am very optimistic," she said, noting that she has been in private conversation with O'Connor and other members of council and has received mixed concerns to her plight.

"The deputy mayor (Wiens) kept saying, 'I'm going to talk to the council, I will talk to the mayor, I will talk to everybody' but there's only so much he could do. He's trying," she

"Councillor O'Connor," she added, "is very openminded, and I've reached out to Maria (Mavridis) many times, but she won't answer me because she said, 'If we give you permission, then the bulldozers will be going into everybody's backyard."

As it stands now, all Gallyot can do is apply for a site-specific bylaw change, which comes at a considerable costs to the applicant.

"It's not cheap," Wiens said, noting the applicant would have to pay for expenses such as planning reports and open houses.

Gallyot has been told it will cost in the neighbourhood of \$30,000.

However, she is hoping the upcoming review will remove those costs from her own pocket, since it will be a town-led process and not an application on

She is putting her hopes in the hands of her council allies.

"It (the review of zoning bylaws) may or may not help her," said O'Connor. "It depends upon how council as a majority wishes to go."

Wiens is also offering hope, but not just for Gallyot.

He is in the corner of the community as a whole, hoping town staff's review will take into account the larger economic picture.

"Absolutely I have sympathy for anybody who's got financial hardships," he

"We are going through the process right now to put a level playing field in front of everybody."

"We have to have a balance between the economy, our zoning bylaws and our residents ... and an understanding that the economy is a good thing," he added.

wright@niagaranow.com







ST.COM 1-800-511-SHAW **SHAW** 





## The Lake Report





**Publisher: Richard Harley** Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley Managing Editor: Zahraa Hmood Editor Emeritus: Kevin MacLean Design & Layout: Richard Harley Advertising: Megan Vanderlee,

Lisa Jeffrey

Contributors: Denise Ascenzo, Dr. William Brown, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Kevan Dowd, Linda Fritz, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Paige Seburn, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White, Richard Wright, Joanne Young and many more members of the community



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





Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 112 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



#### Contributed by Patty Garriock

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." - Dolly Parton

#### **HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

#### Email:

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

Newsroom: 905-359-2270

Advertising Department: 905-932-5646

Office Address

496 Mississagua St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.

**Mailing Address** 

PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, LOS1J0

#### Have a lead on a story?

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



## A budding entrepeneur

lanto's idea of building a little business selling his gourds wasn't just pumpkin-pie-in-the-sky. The 11-year-old worked all summer to care for his crop and is now reaping the rewards. He's selling the fruits of his labour this fall for three for \$10, out at 855 Line 1 Rd. in the Virgil area. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

#### Editorial

#### Time to fix water infrastructure

Richard Harley Editor-in-Chief

The Lake Report's final instalment of "Summer of the Flood" was published this week, outlining some of the efforts both the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are taking to get more information about how our watershed areas are affected by major storms.

It was one part of a sixpart series outlining how this year flooding caused by heavy rains caused damage to homes and properties across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It shone a light on several key factors, including outdated infrastructure and government standards for heavy rainfall — once called 100-year storm events — that is becoming more and more frequent due to our changing climate.

It outlined how the town is drastically behind on maintenance of its ditches and culverts, especially in our rural areas.

It discovered problems with stormwater capacity for the wastewater treatment plant in Niagara Falls, which is shared by many households in Niagara-onthe-Lake's St. Davids and Queenston communities.

It captured resident sentiments about how continued development with low standards for drainage — on lands that already have improper infrastructure — has contributed to the problem by removing natural water absorption.

It got our lord mayor thinking twice before using terms like "100-year storm" to brush off widespread damage to the homes of NOTL residents.

Now, what we hope, is that it kicks council into gear to ask for a comprehensive look at flooding in town, and whether or not there needs to be a change in the way we handle our watersheds.

Already the town is seeking to redefine what an unprecedented rain event looks like. By all accounts, those extreme weather events will become more and more frequent.

Already government staff experts have conceded that, while much of the infrastructure like wastewater plants and stormwater sewers are operating at the current standard, that standard is outdated in many cases and needs to be improved and upgraded.

That's a good step. But changing terminology is little more than lip service to the people waking up

with human waste in their basements, having to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair newly built

Lip service simply isn't good enough.

The Lake Report would like to thank the dozens of residents, from all areas of NOTL, who shared their photos and flood experiences with us for this series.

We sincerely hope it will make a difference and become a priority for this council, which should demand higher standards when homes are built and in service to already established areas of town.

Because nobody wants to wake up to their home and possessions being destroyed.

Even if canoeing in your lawn does sound like a good time, we need to start fixing what's broken.

editor@niagaranow.com



**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON** 

PUVERVIEW ESTATE WINERY 

**RETAIL SHOP WINERY TOURS WINE TASTINGS ICEWINE TASTINGS CHARCUTERIE BOARDS** 

\*\*MENTION THIS AD FOR 10% OFF\*\*





#### No consideration for elementary students

Dear editor:

As a school bus driver of over 15 years and a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake for 51 years, I have never experienced such an incident in the Town of Niagaraon- the-Lake as I did on Monday, Sept. 23.

For many years I have been and still am one of the four bus drivers to take school children from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School to St. Vincent de Paul Church on Picton Street. As I have always done over the past 12 years, I again parked at the side of the church on Wellington Street to drop off the students and then returned at 11 a.m. to pick them up again.

I am always on time for the 11 o'clock pickup and I parked in the same place for the pickup. This Monday, however, the bylaw officer came by in the Town of NOTL van, as it was raining, and told me to move — and may I also mention that we have some very rude bylaw officers with an attitude!

I wish to mention that on this particular rainy Monday, there were hardly any tourists in town. It was a quiet Monday in town. When I asked where then could I park to pick up these students, I was told to park at Fort George. I told the bylaw officer that I could not expect the kindergarten students to walk

to Fort George in the rain and for this reason I would not move. Some of these little students are as young as three and four years old and I just couldn't let them walk to Fort George in the rain. Safety for the students on my bus will always come first.

Of course, I was given a parking ticket of \$50 which my employer will have to pay. After I finished dropping off the students, I decided to check out the parking for school busses at Fort George and to my surprise, I was told that I would have to pay \$55 for parking even if it was just to pick up the students who were finishing at St. Vincent de Paul Church. I wouldn't

be parked there for more than 15 minutes or so and it would still cost \$55.

What is happening to our town? Is it just money that the town is after — is there no longer any consideration for students who are attending a service at a church? Is there no leeway for situations such as this? The church services at St. Vincent de Paul are an important part of the Niagara Catholic District School Board curriculum and we take these students to church several times during the school year.

I have sent a similar letter to the Lord Mayor and all the NOTL Councillors.

> **Barry Wilding** Bus driver



Mental Health Day was Oct. 10 — but you can talk about it any day.



#### End the stigma.

Talk to someone if you're struggling with mental health or addiction. Come see us. We can help.

> Stone Road Pharmacy 905-468-3000 1630 Niagara Stone Rd.

## Of Trump, Harris and NOTL gelato



#### THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner Columnist

First, we talked dogs. The man on the stool inside Nina's shop on Queen Street owns a Bernese. "He'd never be docile like that," he said, waving at my pooch lying prone on the floor hoping for a gelato meltdown.

When I found out Jason was from Rochester, I asked him. "Trump or Harris?"

"Man, I actually regret them both," he said. "I wish my country could have done better."

So, Jason agreed with me. Trump's crazy. He says weird things.

"But that's exactly why he's a good president. Because people like Putin are afraid of what he's going to do. He'll do anything. I love it. Besides, he's got experience. He was there. She wasn't. What's she done, anyway?"

Of course, he called Harris 'Ca-maul-a' instead of "Comma-la'. Just as his favoured president does.

He finished with the main point: "She's not as strong. You can see that. Can a woman really do that job? Huh? Not a chance."

Then I told him — if Trump wins and Jason comes back here in a year or two — why his gelato may cost \$12 instead of Nina's current seven bucks.

"He's bad for Canada. Tariffs. Protectionism. More inflation. Tax cuts. Stronger U.S. dollar. Tumbling loonie. Then rates here go up. We don't need that."

Kathy Weiss is the seasoned new boss at the local chamber of Commerce. NOTL has a tourism economy, she agrees. And guys like Jason, Trumpers or not, keep our bread buttered. The numbers are awesome. Almost three million visitors a year. Last month 27,000 by bus alone. They spend \$250 million. This supports six in ten jobs. And 46 per cent of the horde are Americans.

We want more, she says. Maybe not a ton more bodies, but longer stays and bigger spends. Funded by the new accommodation tax, a broad new

marketing campaign in the States is ready to go. NOTL may become even more dependent on Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut and Jason.

But wait. With America cleaved down the middle by political polarization and one candidate wanting to wall off the country more than the other, what danger may lie ahead?

"I would hope the relationship doesn't change," says Weiss, "and the freedom we have going across the borders. Depending on who wins, it could become a lot different. Things probably won't change, unless one gets in who is more like a dictator than liberal. Trump is the unknown."

Many worry about that. Trump says he wants lower corporate tax, higher trade barriers, less regulation, mass deportations and America-first policies.

"The tax cuts proposed by Trump would be expansionary in nature," agrees TD economist Tom Feltmate.

"However, funding those cuts by universally increasing tariffs on all of America's trading partners threatens to disrupt trade flows and destabilize global supply chains — increasing the odds of a global recession ..."

Economists tell us this will end in higher prices, rekindled inflation, upward pressure on rates, plus extra deficit and debt in a country which already owes heaps.

Meanwhile Harris advocates more taxes, more spending and more social support — the womanly stuff Jason fears.

One fear is Trump will ultimately tank our dollar, stall the economy and add almost 2 per cent to mortgage rates. But there's no guarantee, of course, he'd govern with the same machismo as he campaigns. Let's hope so.

Well, financial markets like lower taxes on oil, Apple and Tesla. They embrace less regulation leading to higher profits. GDP and the greenback will swell. If Trump wins, stocks will probably spurt higher. Good for your portfolio. Not so good for Queen Street.

"We worry about your guy," I told Jason. So we went back to dog talk. They unite..

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

garth@garth.ca



#### **OUR ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER IS HERE!**

#### Menu

German dinner | Bread and butter | Bratwurst + sauerkraut | Smoked pork ribs | Huehnerfrikasse | Roasted vegetables | Bratkartoffeln | Gravy | Spaetzle | Kale salad with walnuts | Strudel + Chantilly | All paired with German wines

After dinner, dance the night away with Neon Dirty, providing some GREAT after-dinner entertainment!

905-468-7738 ext 21 | www.reifwinery.com

#### **HANDYMAN**

Powerwashing, eavestroughs, weeding, yard work, wood cutting, tree trimming, household repairs, windows/deep cleaning, snow, garbage and recycling removal, auto and heavy equipment washing, polishing and detailing.

905-246-1843

Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com





VISIT SEVERAL SITES OF HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR FREE IN NOTL

> Visit doorsopenontario.on.ca for hours and information.





## Four faces of Gothic Revival



#### ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

For more than 50 years, from the 1830s to the 1880s, the Gothic Revival style of architecture dominated the Ontario marketplace and continued its popularity in the province into the early 20th century.

In the Arch-i-text column published in this paper on Aug. 31, 2023 ("Training our eyes on the world of Gothic Revival"), we explored the history of the style, its Romantic roots in Britain and the influence of Downing and Louden — through their pattern books — on this side of the Atlantic.

We also identified a few local examples of Gothic Revival but, looking back on that article in hindsight, I realize it really should have been followed by another — one that provided the descriptive details necessary to identify buildings in this style.

Well, better late than never, as they say.

Let's begin with the Erland Lee Home (now a museum) in Stoney Creek.

Pretty as a picture, it is an expression of Carpenter Gothic at its finest — certainly inspired by, if not drawn directly from the work of A.J. Downing.

The building's form is what has come to be known as the Ontario Gothic cottage: A rectangular footprint, one-and-a-half storey, symmetrical gable end home with a tall, pointed gable on the façade centred over its main entry, which was flanked by windows on either side.

Typically the façade gable sported an arched window, in this case semi-circular (or half-round).

As is common in the Carpenter expression, the

dwelling was clad with board and batten — the light and shadows of which served as a perfect backdrop for decorative bargeboard in both front and end gables (as in this case) or around the entire house.

On the Erland Lee Home, we see a fanciful celebration of the carpenter's skill expressed in a leaf and vine pattern.

Sometime between 1870 and 1890, the bow windows on the façade were added — another element common to Gothic Revival design during that period (and extending into the early 20th century).

As in the bargeboard, both bays and the porch which unites them are enhanced by a filigreed cornice and geometric grill work.

Moving on from our wonderful but relatively modest first example, we'll wander out to the rural areas of Pelham where we find another Ontario Gothic on a larger, more impressive scale.

The typical Gothic cottage storey-and-a-half symmetrical end gabled form, with its full-width verandah, has been augmented by a very high-pitched roof, while the centre gable above the front door extends to over half the width of the façade.

Combined, the roof and very wide gable would significantly increase the area of the full-height ceiling in the "half" storey.

The exclusive use of lancet windows in all the gables added to the sawtooth bargeboard design used on all the eaves — horizontal and raked — draw the eye upwards to the patress plates set just below the peaks, to the effect of further accentuating the impression of soaring height.

These gable features, coupled with the open verandah design, tall segmentally arched first-floor windows, and a slightly peaked entry entablature unite to produce a very impressive façade on a brick Gothic cottage.

Now, the main entry surround and the verandah design, neither possessing Gothic elements, were very likely the result of more







Clockwise from top left: A late 19th century Gothic farmhouse. The Erland Lee Home, a Carpenter Gothic residence in Stoney Creek. The Keefer Mansion, a high Victorian Gothic home in Thorold. A brick Gothic cottage in Pelham. BRIAN MARSHALL

modern Classical Revivalbased renovations to the façade.

However, they do not detract from the overall integrity of the original design.

Our next example is again drawn from the country roads of Niagara and represents the Gothic farmhouse expression.

Widely touted in the late 19th century, pattern books as the most practical rural home design, the Gothic farmhouse was vigorously built across Ontario farmlands and in farming communities — with the most common form being cross-gabled, either T or L-shaped, with a footprint that provided generous living space.

Our storey-and-a-half asymmetrical example presents an L-shaped façade with prominent bays on both the cross-gable portion and the end gable.

A rear extension — part of which was likely originally as-built — slightly confuses the footprint (which is predominately T-shaped) but is effectively integrated into the large and

somewhat rambling building. That rambling character is common to these farmhouses.

Gable wall dormers, set above a finely decorated porch, rise through the eaves of the façade and the rear extension.

And, while the majority of the windows are segmentally arched with limestone keystones, the gable wall dormers are treated to semicircular openings accentuating the slender punctuation of each of these elements.

Modillions, set on the cornice of the porch, are repeated on the moulding of the bays sandwiched between brackets which, in turn, have been deployed in the dormers.

The bracket design has been fancifully reflected in the ornamental elements that bracket the slender porch pillars and its roof cornice.

Taken as a whole, this "echoing" design approach provides a continuity that not only unifies the overall presentation but also celebrates the decorative elements inherent to Gothic Revival design.

Finally, no examination of the Gothic Revival would be complete without at least touching on the High Victorian Gothic expression.

Although rare due to their cost of construction and an apparent departure from the other Gothic Revival expressions, these buildings still maintain continuity with the architectural parameters of the style.

One of these rare buildings can be found in Thorold.

It was late in the era of Gothic Revival popularity when this more liberal interpretation of the style developed. Central to this expression was the use of polychromatic cladding to highlight elements.

Decorative ornamental brick, clay tile and carved geometric or leaf-patterned (wood) elements were commonly deployed.

Flat-headed openings for doors and windows were often used to accentuate featured Gothic arched openings, while trim on gables, eaves and porches tended to be both simpler and heavier than the more involved curvilinear trim of the typical Gothic Revival.

In our example, the polychromatic treatment is achieved through the Grimsby red sandstone contrasting against the Queenston limestone and paint treatment of simple geometric decorative elements.

The heavy straight lines of the limestone bevelled lintels and flat sills push the pointed arch of the main entry in the projecting frontispiece even further to the fore.

And speaking of cost ... just the stone purchased for this building in 1886 cost \$30,000 — that's equivalent to just over \$1 million in 2024.

Even when the bargeboard, other decorative elements and actual windows have been lost to time and costs of maintenance, repair or replacement, there is something about Gothic Revival houses that have stood the test of time.

Watch for them, it's worth it.

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



Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.

A global leader in hearing healthcare.









## National Newspaper Week is about supporting journalism



Special to The Lake Report

According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Digital News Report 2024, Canadians' trust in news is 39 per cent. For comparison, Americans' trust is news is even lower at 32 per cent.

There are many variables at play in the decline of trust, including engagementdriven algorithms that deprioritize hard news which traditionally provided a common set of facts – in favour of reinforcing one's point of view rather than informing the reader. The rise of 'fake news', misinformation, and disinformation are among other factors in the decline of trust.

Across Canada, newspapers — whether print or digital - continue to cover

school boards, cops, courts, city hall, and other issues that matter to the daily lives of Canadians. That's why Canadians' trust in their regional or local newspaper stands at a relatively healthy 65 per cent.

But real journalism by real journalists — not some artificial intelligence tool that scrapes the web for content, which is not always reliable — costs real money. Real local journalism involves the hard work of gathering facts, shows evidence of first-hand reporting — such as independent research, interviews, and fieldwork — and editing.

The light rewriting, reproduction or aggregation of news from external sources is not original journalism, nor is simply cutting and pasting news releases or loading up a website with copy from a wire service or with a carousel of clickbait.

While there is no one silver bullet to solve the economic crisis in journalism, there are solutions that can help.

First, businesses can sup-



port their local newspaper through advertising.

Governments — federal, provincial and local - can follow the lead of the Ford government in Ontario earmark 25 per cent of advertising spend to domestic news publishers. For context, the feds spent more on China's TikTok last year than all Canadian print publications combined.

The private sector shouldn't be competing with the public broadcaster, which takes in \$73,139,000 in digital advertising revenue while receiving \$1,271,800,000 in direct annual government subsidies.

The government can provide the Competition

Bureau with the tools and resources it needs to complete its investigation into online advertising practices

And finally, Canada Post needs to return to the longstanding policy of exempting community newspapers with commercial inserts (e.g., flyers from local hardware and grocery franchisees) from the Consumers' Choice program. Community newspapers with commercial inserts are not "junk mail."

In a world where misinformation travels faster than truth, newspapers and their websites keep Canadians informed, connected and engaged in communities from coast to coast. National Newspaper Week is an opportunity to recognize the 3,000 print journalists who work tirelessly every day to get news out to Canadians, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on how we, as Canadians, can support their work.

Paul Deegan is president and CEO of News Media Canada.

#### Observations from last week's paper

I was surprised and very impressed by the Letter Of The Week on page 9 of The Lake Report this past week (Oct. 3). Two excellent and extremely informative letters from Patrick Devine ("Letter: We need a new, comprehensive heritage district plan") and John Morley ("Letter: The town's bylaw enforcement is flawed").

Are we not extremely lucky to have this type of well-informed input and information as to just what is going on?

And there is the question: Just what is going on with this council?

It is obvious that bylaw enforcement really is flawed and in trouble and Patrick

Devine's comprehensive reporting on heritage is a real eyeopener.

I hope this is a first step to help keep these critically important subjects in the public eye.

Now, on to page 10. Brian Marshall's excellent and extensive information about Glencairn was so interesting ("Arch-i-text: The architectural legacy of the Hamilton family," Oct. 3) and raises some concern about its future.

And, just a last thought, we must all be aware and give some serious thought to just what we have left and why we love this Old Town — it seems we may be losing it.

> Christopher Allen **NOTL**

#### We welcome your letters

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





#### **DRAIN & WATERPROOFING**



WET BASEMENT SOLUTIONS, INTERIOR/EXTERIOR, SUMP PUMPS, DRAIN CLEARING, REPAIRING & REPLACEMENT.

PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING, INSTALL A BACKWATER VALVE/SUMP PUMP TODAY

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
905-431-5612
Sink2Sewer@gmail.com
DrainageService.ca

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

## Tough year for cross-lake swimmers

Tony Chisholm Special to The Lake Report

A few months ago in The Lake Report, we mentioned this was the year for a number of marathon swimmers to attempt crossing the lake from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto ("Seven swimmers set to challenge Lake Ontario this year," July 4).

Now that the last attempt has been made, we can report on the successes and failures.

Eight swimmers were scheduled to do this "traditional route" this summer. Two were successful but unfortunately, one dropped out and five failed to make it across, despite being well-trained.

First of all, congratulations to Jessi Harewicz, the first to cross in July in 22 hours and seven minutes.

Then, in mid-August, Cinti Cseuz crossed successfully in 21 hours and eight minutes.

Both of them spent a long time in the water.



Many swimmers have tried, and struggled, to cross the 52-kilometre distance across Lake Ontario from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto. TONY CHISHOLM

waves.

I must mention Molly Bent, who was successful, but she swam a shorter course from Mississauga to Grimsby. Kim Lumsdon, who first swam the lake in 1976, withdrew for this season.

What happened to the five swimmers that started out but were unsuccessful?

Several had shoulder injuries. Small wonder, as it takes over 50,000 arm strokes to go the 52-kilometre distance. Others suffered cramping and hypothermia.

But the main culprit

CHISHOLM seems to have been adverse currents as well as the cold water and unexpected

At 52 kilometres it is of course a long way and it can be a cruel lake, with conditions changing hourly.

One year, a while back, there were multiple thunderstorms weekly, which prevented or threatened the swimmers that year.

If the swim master (the person accompanying the swimmer during their marathon) hears thunder during a swim on two oc-

casions, the rule is to call off the swim for the safety of the swimmer (in case of lightning striking nearby) and the crew.

This, of course, can be very disappointing for a swimmer who has trained for up to two years.

He or she has had to arrange a number of boats, kayaks, crew for each boat, the swim master, a coach, someone to feed the swimmer, etc.

If all this is carefully arranged for a certain date and then, at the last moment, thunderstorms are predicted for a few days, all the arrangements fall apart. That happened this summer.

So, next time you pass the swim plaque down near the gazebo in Queens Royal Park, stop for a minute with a bit of reverence and read the names, ages of the swimmers as well as their distance and time swimming.

These were the successful lake swimmers.

## Doors Open gives free access to NOTL destinations

Barbara Worthy Special to The Lake Report

Once again, on Saturday, Oct. 19, Doors Open Niagara-on-the-Lake is inviting locals and visitors to celebrate the many heritage treasures that this historical town has to offer.

Under the banner of Doors Open Ontario and co-ordinated by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the public is encouraged to explore some of the most unique and appealing sites and businesses Niagara has to offer.

Doors Open Ontario is a provincewide heritage tourism initiative led by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Each year, communities across Ontario open local sites of interest for free public tours, ensuring Ontario's diverse heritage can be accessed by individuals and families of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

The program was launched in 2002 to create access, awareness and excitement about the province's heritage, showcasing buildings, natural spaces, infrastructure and cultural landscapes that shape and define our communities.

Fifteen local Niagara sites are participating on Oct. 19.

Most sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with free admission, welcoming



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is opening its doors for free access on Oct. 19, as part of Doors Open Ontario. It's one of several participating destinations. FILE

guides and the chance to learn something new about our living and built history — from art and architecture to bikes, parks, breweries and churches.

This year's participants are:

- Clare's Harley-Davidson of Niagara with its reclaimed and re-purposed architecture, and the fully restored, much-loved Diana Sweets restaurant.
- The Exchange Brewery, housed in Niagara's original 1880 telephone exchange building, with its flagship

- brews, tasting room and bottle shop.
- Grace United Church, designed by William Thomas, and celebrating its 200th anniversary this year.
- The Niagara Apothecary, where you can step through the doors to see how pharmacists practised their profession over 100 years ago.
- Niagara's 1847 District Courthouse, with its history of saints and sinners while serving as the official county seat of Niagara District until 1862.
- Niagara Lodge No. 2, rarely open to the public, and the oldest Masonic lodge in Ontario.
- Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, overlooking the Niagara River, and offering a variety of arts programs, exhibitions and events, for all ages.
- Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, steeped in history, where visitors can always enjoy their award-winning wines and world-class farmto-table cuisine.
- Queenston's RiverBrink Art Museum, overlooking

- the Niagara River, where visitors can also view outstanding works on loan from contemporary artists, and Canadian and international collections.
- Shaw Festival Theatre, the Shaw's largest venue with 856 seats, built in the modernist style and the fabulous showpiece of one of Canada's finest theatre companies. Note: Tours are offered 9 to 10 a.m. only.
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, originally built in 1795, burned during the War of 1812, destroyed by a cyclone in 1855, and now inviting visitors to take a pew and enjoy its beauty.
- St. Mark's Anglican Church, the oldest Anglican church in continuous use in Ontario, completed in 1804, damaged in the War of 1812, and home to some of the finest stained glass in the province.
- Voices of Freedom Park, the award-winning interactive park created to honour and understand the Town's Black history, with an accompanying audio-visual walking tour. The Niagaraon-the-Lake Museum's "Tiny Museum" will also be onsite with a mobile exhibi-
- Willowbank, grand and statuesque, built in 1834-36 in the Greek classical revival style, and since 2006 home to the School of

Restoration Arts, unique in North America.

• The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, which showcases the history of the town through its vast collection, community programs, education outreach and exhibitions. The current exhibit "The Prettiest Town – Beyond the Bricks and Mortar" explores the detail and beauty of some of NOTL's heritage homes.

Also, to complement the occasion on Oct. 19 at the museum, local chef Pam Mundy will share heritage cooking tips, recipes, and baking samples at the museum, including a background on the history of baking powder and its essential use for military baking. Visitors will be able to enjoy Queen Victoria sponge cakes, 1770s war cakes, Pam's classic shortbread, and cookies with rose water icing.

Visitors are encouraged to check opening and closing hours before visiting, as some sites have limited viewing times.

More details can be found at doorsopenontario.on.ca by clicking on Niagara-onthe-Lake.

This is a rain or shine event — whatever the weather the doors will be wide open, the welcome mat is there and you can even keep your shoes on.

## NEWS 🕞

## Opera takes singer from Canada to London and back

Continued from Front Page

was to be a recipient.

"My career was not really here in Canada. Although I thought about it and said, 'gosh, you know, just think what could happen,' and then I got that phone call."

Born in a one-room farmhouse in Northern Alberta in the community Larkspur, McDonall's life and career took her from the Canadian prairies to Vancouver, Toronto, New York City, Germany and eventually London's iconic West End.

Music, said McDonall, has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember.

When the Canadian government opened the west to newcomers in the early 1900s, McDonall's family was amongst the first in the Larkspur area.

Alberta farming communities in those days were full of people from around the world including Irish, Scottish, French and Ukrainian settlers, all of whom have well noted affinities with music, farming and family.

"My family was music mad," said McDonall.

"My father, you gave him an instrument and he could play something in half an hour."

It has always been about family and music for Mc-Donall, who was — and still is — as a single mom to her adult daughter and son.

Her first music memory of wanting to be a singer is from when she was just four years old.



McDonall, alongside a photo of herself from her youth, says the life of an opera star was demanding. RICHARD WRIGHT

"I must have been put down for a nap or something, but I remember crawling over my crib side and walking out into the kitchen," she recalls.

"My mother was over by the north window of her kitchen, and she was stirring something ... her back was to me. I remember standing there and announcing to her, 'when I grow up I'm going to sing on the stage and I'm going to wear diamonds and sparklings and you'll be there and granny will be there, it is all going to be wonderful."

At that, her mother turned around and told her, "hitch your wagon to a star honey and you never know where it'll take you."

From that day forward, she knew she was going to

When she was about 10, her family decided a moved to the Alberta capital of Edmonton was in order so she could get a better education.

This, the family thought, would put her on a better path in life to pursue her dreams. And indeed it did. After studying under a teacher who encouraged her artistic side, she enrolled into the Alberta College of

However, while music still rang loud in her desires, she ended up in a career as a lab technician in Edmonton and then Vancouver, where she got married and had her first child.

She never gave up on her singing dreams though.

"In all those years, I entered singing competitions because that was the only outlet that seemed to be available," she said.

One of those competitions was held by Vancouver's Metropolitan Opera.

She won.

Another competition, not long after, was held in Seattle.

She won that, too. That performance earned her a ticket to New York

City to compete at the famed Metropolitan Opera House — the MET.

She didn't win that. But she didn't lose either.

"At the MET, they told me that they thought I could make a career, but that I had a lot of hard work to do, to learn everything," she said.

The powers that be at the MET were so impressed with McDonall that they wrote a letter to the head of the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto.

But as McDonall puts it, "life happened again" and her second child was born.

The family then officially moved to Toronto from Vancouver, but she put off her singing career for a year to allow herself to bond with her new child.

During that time she never ventured far from her dreams, enrolling in the University of Toronto's Opera School which was run by the Canadian Opera Company, the same company that she had been referred to just months earlier.

"I was happy as a clam. I was singing. It was really hard work, there's no doubt about that," she said, noting she was still working as a lab tech while going to school.

"I was very responsible for my children and I tried really hard to make sure that worked, but their dad was there at that time, and he took care of them at night, and I did the rest."

The rest is an incredible

After the University of

Toronto she was selected to go on an audition tour in Germany and Austria where she earned herself a one-season contract with an opera company in Flensburg in 1969.

This was the big-time. She had made it.

From small town Alberta to the big leagues of opera in Germany.

"All of that was fantastic. I was like someone in a candy shop," she remembers fondly.

"That's when I started to get paid for singing."

From there, the good and the not-so-good of life continued.

She and her husband divorced, but then London came calling — Sadler's Wells Theatre, to be exact.

The famed theatre company has roots dating back to 1683.

"They, on the spot, offered me a two year contract. And I, on the spot, said, 'yes, thank you very much."

Throughout her time in Europe, her children were back in Canada living with their grandmother.

The life of an up-andcoming opera star was a demanding one, but she never lost sight of her children.

But once she had succeeded in becoming an opera star, she wanted to be with her children again.

"I do recall asking them if I could afford to bring my children on the salary that they offered me. And they said, 'oh, of course you can."

For the next 14 years,

McDonall and her children remained in London, ingratiating themselves in the diversity and talents of London's West End and building a community of friends and loved ones.

McDonall's star continued to rise through those years and she became one of the most recognizable names on the London opera scene.

But in the early 1980s it was time to come home.

She retired from opera singing, returned to Canada with her children and resigned to a year of relaxation and reflection.

Her professional life as a musician and singer ended as a music teacher, giving back to youngsters the way people had given to her on her way to the top.

She taught music for a semester in the Canadian Rockies at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

She did the same for a short while at University of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music and eventually opened a private music studio where she taught voice and piano until CO-VID changed the world.

"I love teaching. I taught at the faculty (Banff) and I taught at the conservatory, but it was more rewarding to teach at home," she said.

"I discovered that I could teach little kids how to play the piano. I didn't know I could do it, but I just loved seeing the light go on."

Now, her career and accomplishments are written in the Canadian history books.

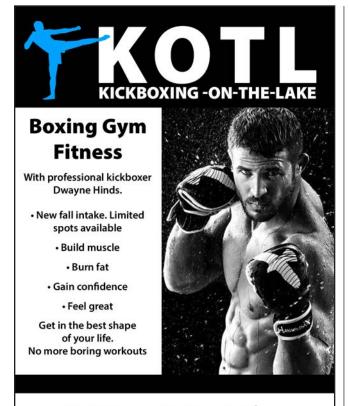


Canadian newspapers are powered by journalists, not Al. They check the facts so you can trust what you're reading. That's why 4 in 5 people in Canada come back each week for more. Thanks for keeping it real with us.

Visit **nationalnewspaperweek.ca** to learn more.







256 East & West Line
(Located beside Caughill Automotive)

Adults & Kids classes available 905-964-2852

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com

#### **TEAM OF THE WEEK**

## St. Davids Cold Storage U7



Front row, left to right: Sam Slootsky, Hansen Guo, Jon Velsnik, Michael Collins, Philip Leanovich, Emmie Cherney, Amelia Epp. Back row, left to right: Wyatt Haynes, Matt Bogusat, Matt Kroeker, Hazel Lachapelle, Quinn Falk, Joseph Giunta, Emily Ferguson, Alexandra Marinis, head coach Emanuele Giunta. Missing from photo: Ladon Munger, Logan Folino, manager Brenda Ferguson. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



## Youth & Family Programming



Join in the fun, NOTL! The Town is offering a ton of new and exciting programs designed for youth and families!

#### **REGISTER TODAY**

To learn more and register, please visit www.notl.com/programs-youth-family or scan the QR code.







## Niagara Lake

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND
AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING
MUNICIPAL ADDRESSES IN THE TOWN
OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

#### NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has passed

#### By-law No. 2024-059

Designating the following properties as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18

Roselawn, 1413 Lakeshore Road

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 10th day of October, 2024 Grant Bivol, Town Clerk



#### Puglisi cards hole-in-one on #9

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

It's been raining aces at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club this season and the newest hole-in-one came on the tough par-3 ninth hole last week.

David Puglisi, 28, is the latest golfer to accomplish the feat this year, thanks to a perfect shot with his trusty 6-iron.

The first-year club member, whose family operates NOTL's Bella Terra Vineyards and Pondview Estate Winery, was playing an early-morning round with Judy Wright, Sally Miller and Peggy Larder.

"It was a beautiful Thursday morning and we reached the ninth hole at 10:40," he told The Lake Report.

Playing the white tees, he hit first. "The pin was front right and I had 177 yards to the hole. I hit a beautiful 6-iron that was soaring toward the hole," he said.

"I was worried the shot



David Puglisi holds up the lucky ball that he scored a holein-one with at the NOTL Golf Club on Oct. 3. SUPPLIED

was too thin, but Judy said, 'David, I can't see your ball any more."

He responded that maybe it went over the green, but Wright disagreed and thought it might have gone in the hole.

"The ladies were elated as we started to walk toward the hole," Puglisi said. "They said that they didn't want to take any more shots until I checked."

Turns out Wright was

right. His ball was in the hole.

Cue the celebrating. Puglisi has been playing golf regularly for about eight years but first took up the game when he was younger. He played the course often with his dad Lou, who has been a member for several years.

It was the younger Puglisi's first ace and helped him shoot an 8-over 44 that

#### Eighth annual Grape and Wine Tournament brings friends together

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Saturday's Grape and Wine Tournament proved to be a lively day of competition and camaraderie, as a couple of dozen women came out to the Niagara-onthe-Lake Tennis Club for a series of matches — with free wine for the winners.

This was the eighth annual tournament, hosted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 5, and saw 24 registered participants take part, first with a round-robin tournament, then the championship games.

Trish Spagnol and Christy Pennington, members of the NOTL Tennis Club, cohost the tournament every year, conceived eight years ago while Spagnol was playing on the courts one night with friends.

"We wrap up the summer by having an enjoyable tournament — just because we love the game," said Spagnol.



The NOTL Tennis Club enjoys its afternoon on the court, celebrating the end of another season. PAIGE SEBURN

Participants were encouraged to wear shades of purple, pink or white, to reflect their favourite types of wine.

"It's such a lovely group of ladies. This was a great way to bring them all together and to meet somebody new," she said.

After everyone showed up and found out who their partner was for the round-robin on Saturday, they played two rounds of 45 minutes each, and from there, they established the championship and consolation games, said Spagnol.

She made personalized

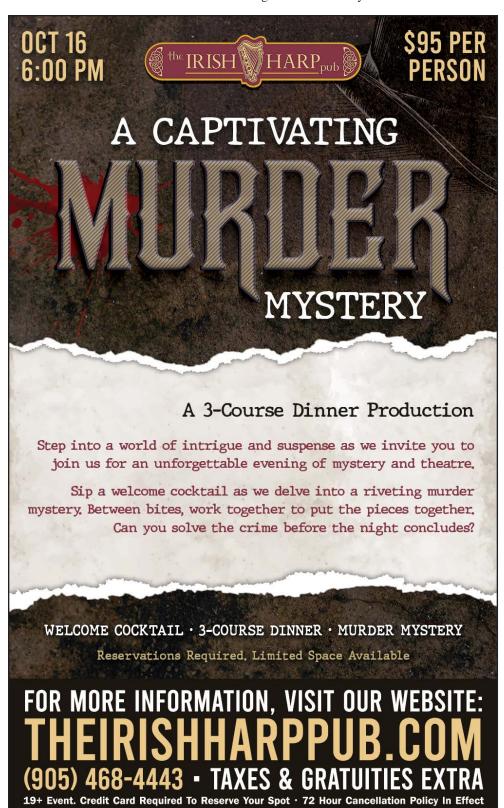
towels for everyone, had local wine donated by NOTL winery Ferox for the winners, and provided jams and jellies for all participants to take home.

"Nobody went home empty-handed," said Spagnol.

The registration fee of \$25 covered not just the games but also a box lunch and snacks, which she said made it an affordable way to enjoy a day of tennis.

"With rising costs, I was left with only \$7 to save for next year," said Spagnol.

But the community's enthusiasm is what keeps this tournament alive, she said.





We strive to provide quality, innovative, and superior workmanship to every project, and put our client's needs above all else.

Brandon Noel 905-325-2766 Jeff MacIntosh 905-651-4803



Olde Towne Building Company







## Library Week focuses on young and old

Richard Wright Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

A common vision of a public library is one of quiet spaces full of paperbacks, periodicals and newspapers attached to sticks, but the new-age library is much more exciting and broad than that, say a pair of NOTL library officials.

As part of Ontario Public Library Week (Oct. 20-26), the NOTL Public Library hopes to highlight just how modern and inclusive a library can be, with an open house on Oct. 23.

"We're going to be showing all the different ways that the library can enhance people's everyday lives through programs and services and resources," said community engagement coordinator Debbie Krause.

With a theme of Libraries for Life, Krause and acting CEO Laura Tait are hoping to expose the library to audiences both young and old.

"We are there for every stage of their life," said Tait.

"We have families who bring their babies into story time and toddler time. The teenagers are probably where



The NOTL Library will hold an open house Oct. 23 as part of Ontario Public Library Week.

we struggle the most to bring them into the library, but we've definitely seen an increase in that recently."

The biggest demographic to visit the library, said Tait, is the senior population.

She hopes even more will take this time to come down and learn about the programs that can help them directly.

Many seniors in Niagaraon-the-Lake, she said, deal with loneliness and she believes the library is a great place to combat that.

"One of our most successful programs are the social connections," said Tait.

"We have a Scrabble club and a baking group and we have seen people who had no friends in town form real friendships."

Tait would also like to highlight a program called Makerspac, geared toward helping seniors navigate and feel comfortable in the new electronic world.

"One of the biggest elements (of Makerspace) is digital literacy, which is in huge demand by seniors in our community."

"That's another kind of social connection thing as well," she added, referring to how the population is increasingly using social media platforms to connect.

The open house runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

wright@niagaranow.com



## Mrs. Ropers romp for youth campus

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Amidst the historic charm of Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday, Lou Larkin, a first-time attendee of the Mrs. Roper Romp from California, embraced the lively atmosphere of the pub crawl.

"We just got back at 3:30 in the morning from a cross-country trip," said Larkin, with excitement beaming through her voice.

She planned her trip perfectly to be lucky enough to stumble upon this crawl by chance, she said.

She was joined by her friends who had flown in from Hawaii and New York for their trip.

The Roper Romp combines the allure of Niagara's fine dining with a vibrant, lighthearted and carefree spirit, said Larkin as she took in her surroundings.

"It's saying that you can be fancy and still have fun," she said.

A Roper Romp is a festive pub crawl that combines themed attire inspired by Helen Roper, a character from the sitcom "Three's Company," socializing and exploring local establishments.

Roper Romps, having originated 11 years ago from New Orleans, have



This dynamic dozen hit the streets of Old Town for the second annual Mrs. Ropers Romp pub crawl, all dressed like the campy icon from television's "Three's Company." PAIGE SEBURN



taken place in many cities and towns. This was Anchor Niagara's second time hosting one in NOTL.

Alicia Tymoszewicz, another newcomer to the Roper Romp, said a girlfriend of hers sent her the post and encouraged her to join in on the fun.

After reading it, she was automatically in.

"It's different and fun," said Tymoszewicz.

She said it shows how you can have a good time without adhering to conventional norms, thanks to the joy that comes from embracing spontaneity.

"When you're with a group, too — it feels a little more powerful," said Tymoszewicz.

Twelve people took part in this year's crawl. They began at the Legion, where ample parking was offered and specialty drinks were featured, including a Roper-Rita.

Participants then made their way to several local spots, including the Irish Harp, Corks Wine Bar and the Olde Angel Inn.

They returned to the Legion and then had the option to continue the festivities at the Sandtrap for the afterparty if they wanted.

It was free to join, but donations to the NOTL Youth Campus were appreciated.

Next time you're at a bar, keep an eye out for Helen's spirited influence - who knows, you might just find yourself joining in on the fun.



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

Cirriform describes icy these, which have a wispy appearance.

Category: IN YOUR ELEMENT

Clue: Most of what we call this elemental foil is actually made with aluminum.

**Answer: What is tin foil?** 

**Answered first by: Jane Morris** 

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bob Wheatley, Lynda Collet, Bob Stevens, Claudia Grimwood, Jim Dandy, Susan Dewar, Sylvia Wiens, Wesley Mann, Nancy Rocca, Lynda Hosty, Hedy Wiebe, Esther VanGorder, Teresa Kaminski, Jen Frendo, Sheila Meloche, **Catherine Clarke** 

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

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

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

**J&S** / Performance

**SALES & SERVICE** 

901 East/West Line, NOTL

HUSTLER

905-468-9735



**CARPENTRY · CABINET MAKING** · BUILT-INS · KITCHENS · FLOORING · RENOVATIONS · BASEMENT CONVERSIONS





facebook.com/notl.carpentry





\*Accounting \*Taxation \*Business Services \*Estate Planning Formerly Lida Kowal Professional Corporation

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.

**Book a complimentary** hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare. amplifon





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









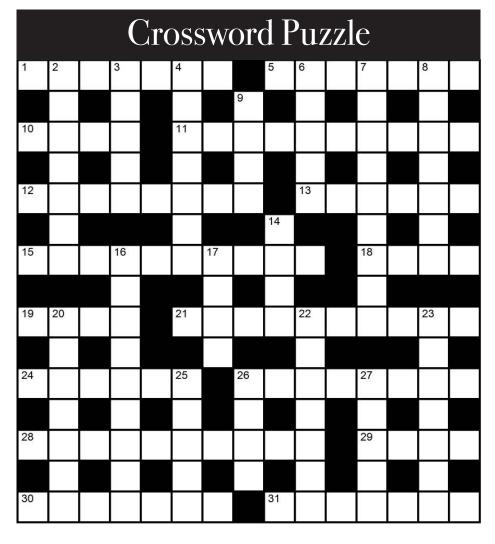
#### **Across**

- 1. Fly traps (7)
- 5. Man's felt hat (7)
- 10. Separate article (4)
- 11. Of the highest calibre (5-5)
- 12. Very large woman (8)
- 13. Sister's daughters (6)
- 15. Lovesick glances (6,4)
- 18. Consumes (4)
- 19. Where Paddington originated (4)
- 21. Brave (10)
- 24. Hedge plant (6)
- 26. Earthy (8)
- 28. Luxury London hotel (10)
- 29. Covetousness (4)
- 30. One who views things as they are (7)
- 31. Silly talk (7)

#### **Down**

- 2. Fast-running bird (7)
- 3. The distaff side (5)
- 4. Stereotypical cowboy characteristic (3,4)
- 6. Ancient (5)
- 7. Viewpoint (9)
- 8. Esteem (7)
- 9. Skills (4)
- 14. Gaze (4)
- 16. Deliberately ambiguous (9)
- 17. Berkshire public school (4)
- 20. Body part pierced for rings (7)
- 22. Flight personnel (7)
- 23. Disentangle (7)
- 25. Corners (5)
- 26. Aquae Sulis, in Somerset (4)
- 27. Give up (5)

# Have some fun



#### Last issue's answers



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







CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



When you CALL GREG, you GET GREG.
GREG SYKES real estate
TEAM

#### COMMENT (%)

## The science of protein disorders and gene editing



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown Columnist

Not so long ago most of the attention in biochemistry focused on DNA and messenger RNA or mRNA.

But in recent years there has been a shift toward proteins reflected in recent Nobel and Lasker awards. Deservedly so, given that proteins are the workhorses of cells.

Hence the recent, some would say revolutionary attention, given to harnessing artificial intelligence for predicting the shapes of proteins based on their structure.

Proteins are constructed of chains of amino acids, the order of selection of which dictates the form, and hence function of proteins and to which other molecular groups such as sugars or nucleotides may be attached to further modify the function of the protein molecules.

Proteins play key roles, the best known of which include activating and silencing genes, providing the cytoskeletal framework for cells, transport systems for molecules in cells, highly selective transporter channels and receptors in the cell membrane — and hundreds of other functions.

Five per cent of genes are protein-encoding: They provide the molecular blueprint for specific proteins.

Specific genes are transcribed in the nucleus to form matching mRNA, which in turn, is translated in organelles called ribosomes in the cytoplasm, then, into chains of amino acids to form the finished protein.

Such a complex system is prone to mistakes, the most common of which are hereditary or acquired mutations in the proteinencoding genes.

The latter mutations lead to mutant forms of mRNA and therefore mutant forms of proteins that may fail to work at all or poorly.

In the nervous system, there are many examples of mutant genes causing mutant forms of proteins and serious diseases, such as Huntington's disease and the autosomal dominant forms of Alzheimer's disease, both of which cause dementia, and neuromuscular diseases such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy and myotonic dystrophy.



All are serious and hard to treat, even in the present era of gene editing, which held the promise of fixing mutant genes responsible for the mutant proteins that cause these and hundreds of other protein-related diseases.

Unfortunately transforming theory into practice is difficult. For example, in the case of Duchenne dystrophy caused by a mutant version of the largest gene in the body, it's hard to package enough CRISPR gene-editing tools into enough viral vectors, and to get enough of the latter into enough muscle tissue, to make an obvious difference clinically.

To that sobering list of linked hurdles must be added the fact that the process can't be repeated — the initial dose prompts the

development of antibodies to the viral vector that carries the gene fix.

Gene editing using CRISPR technology, which seemed so promising a few years ago, turned out in this example, to be impossible.

Fortunately, there are other ways to edit genes. Why not silence abnormal protein-encoding genes by attaching methyl groups to the genes in much the same way that nature attaches methyl groups to genes to silence them?

That's precisely what a team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or MIT, recently set out to do.

They used zinc-finger proteins small enough to fit into benign viral vectors to activate enzymes capable of adding methyl groups to DNA, thereby silencing targeted genes in mice.

Sonia Vallabh, one of the scientists working on epigenetic gene editing, inherited the genetic mutation, which causes fatal insomnia.

Her looming fate adds urgency to the MIT team's effort to find a way to disable her mutant genes before the disease becomes apparent in Vallabh.

The group is also interested in using a similar epigenetic approach to silence genes in other diseases characterized by the buildup of abnormal proteins.

These include Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other diseases associated with buildups of misfolded or unfolded proteins.

The latter proteins, called prions, spread to other parts of the brain by changing normal versions of proteins into similarly malformed proteins in a manner that simulates infection.

If gene editing using similar epigenetic methods proves to be practical and effective, it may offer the first real glimmer of hope for treating horrible prion diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, Kuru, fatal insomnia, and mad cow disease in humans.

This effort at MIT and other centres seeking novel means for editing genes is yet another illustration of how science works. In 2020, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier won the Nobel Prize for pioneering work on gene editing, which adapted an ancient technique bacteria had evolved for killing off viral invaders.

A flurry of studies followed in the wake of their pioneering work to use CRISPR Cas9 or modifications to that technique to treat hereditary diseases such as thalassemia and sickle cell anemia with some success, but in other applications was less successful because of formidable biological and technical barriers.

Then, as in this case, other methods were developed to edit genes.

That takes time and illustrates how science works — long periods of relatively hard slogging, followed sometimes by novel breakthroughs and yet new challenges, requiring new solutions and perhaps other breakthroughs.

All depend on hard work, only a tiny fraction of which hit the headlines and lead to Nobel Prizes or their equivalent.

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.

## Being a legion member can be exhausting – but it's worth it



**Ross's Ramblings** 

Ross Robinson Columnist

After many decades of excusable and nonchalant procrastinating, on Aug. 11, I became an associate member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 124 here in Niagara-on-the-Lake

Situated on prime real estate on King Street near Mary Street, I have passed by literally thousands of times on the way here and there

Next to the old Niagara Nursery School, and near the Memorial Park tennis courts, the Legion often seemed to be hopping with activity, and the permanent temporary sign was continually being updated to announce upcoming social and fun activities.

With a very strong family military background stretching way back to the First World War, it was way past time for me to join.

My uncle Alexander Ross was in fact the brigadier general who played a very significant role at Vimy Ridge, and in fact coined the phrase, "I was witnessing the birth of a nation."

After returning home to Canada and Saskatchewan in 1918, he spent several years lobbying the federal government for benefits for veterans and their widows and the thousands of orphans across Canada.

He was an early president of the Royal Canadian Legion, and helped set up the British, Australian, New Zealand and American legions.

Enough of this history —



From left, Legion members Paul Dolby, Dave McCurdy, Henry Adamowski and George McCormack volunteer in the kitchen at the weekly fish fry. ROSS ROBINSON

in the next month or two, I will ramble in detail about why I had never joined the Legion. Uncle Alex understood and never pressured me.

Back now to the local scene.

The good people of the NOTL Legion work so diligently and enthusiastically to organize social events and fundraising projects. I quickly learned that the activities and social events are almost never-ending.

Whether it's the weekly fish fry (all welcome) on Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m., or the live music and dinner every Friday, regular karaoke or the monthly open mic featuring brave local talent, the good times never seem to stop.

The welcome is unfailingly warm and the beer is perfectly cold. Perfectly cold and so reasonably priced, served up promptly by the effervescent Shannon and Sandra behind the bar. A fair selection of lagers and ales, and I continue to lobby for the addition of our local Oast House Barnraiser (I don't give up easily, eh? Like Chinese water torture. Drip, drip, drip).

Let's ramble back to the multitude of activities. Music trivia regularly, and euchre and darts leagues for those so inclined.

The annual veterans dinner is on Nov. 9 this year and on Nov. 30, the Christmas craft show. See what I mean? Whew.

Back on Sept. 22, the annual golf outing was a big sold-out success. Some 44 golfers, and happily, a happy George McCormack won the grand prize.

Not for low net, longest drive, longest putt or closest to the hole, but a very egalitarian prize won strictly by luck. What a great concept!

In charge of the BBQ, fork and tongs in hand back at the Legion was a smiling Mark Derbyshire. Arguably the best lefthanded or right-handed golfer in town, the fun of 44 golfers being served by the primo golfer seemed just so politically correct. In what other town in Canada would this happen?

So, soon "the Legion" will be a featured entrant in the Dec. 14 Santa Claus Parade. Be there to cheer for our float.

Just last Sunday, Megan Vanderlee worked her unique magic to produce the annual Mrs. Roper's Romp, with about twenty fun-loving women on a pub crawl around town.

My thick thesaurus doesn't include sufficient colourful adjectives to describe the scene in front of the old Court House, or as the orange-haired fun lovers stormed into Corks Wine Bar and Eatery on Queen Street.

For good times, think about becoming a member of the Legion here in our



## EXPLORING HISTORY WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## October, 1813

As mentioned in last week's post, following Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock's death at a Queenston home, his body was later taken back to the Town of Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake's Old Town) where he lay in state at the Government House. The home, pictured here in a painting by Elizabeth Simcoe, was built in 1793-94 and was the home of David W. Smith, the provincial surveyor general. In 1798 the house, located on the full block bounded by King, Queen, Regent and Johnson streets, was purchased from Smith as quarters for the commanding officer at Fort George. Smith was heading to the new capital of Upper Canada, York (today, Toronto). Brock would have lived here during the War of 1812 and on Oct. 13, 1813, upon hearing the cannon fire of Fort Niagara, would have rushed through its doors to Queenston Heights. After the battle, Brock, and his aidede-camp, John Macdonell, laid in state at the home until their burial service on Oct. 16, 1812. Brock was honoured with a prominent funeral procession and was buried in one of the bastions at Fort George. He was later moved to Queenston Heights where the first monument was established. The Americans at Fort Niagara fired a cannon salute and blank charges to honour Brock and Macdonell.

## The Brock Chronicles: Brock's second monument

Standing 56 metres tall

from the ground to the

top of Brock's hat, this

in Queenston Heights,

165 years later. BROCK

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

second monument is still

One of those most revered names from the War of 1812 is that of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock. Referred to as the "Saviour of Upper Canada," Brock has roads, churches, universities and towns named after him — but why? Through this chronicle, we are going to delve into who Brock was and why he was so beloved in both life and death.

Gavin Watson Special to The Lake Report

Following the destruction of the first Brock's Monument, a committee of prominent citizens was formed to oversee the construction of a new and grander monument befitting the legacy of Sir Isaac Brock.

Among its most prominent members were Sir Alan Napier McNab, lawyer and politician who himself fought in the War of 1812 as a 15-year-old boy, and William Hamilton Merritt, a businessman and politician who led the Troop of Provincial Dragoons during the war and who was also instrumental in the construction of the first Welland Canal.

By 1842, two years after the destruction of the first monument, the committee advertised a contest for prospective designs with the winner receiving £25.

The committee received 35 plans in total, but Thomas Young of Toronto was ultimately chosen as the winner with his Egyptianstyle obelisk.

Unlike the first monument, this design featured neither an interior stairwell nor an observation platform.

With the absence of government funds available to contribute to the second monument, the onus of funding this approximately £5,000 design fell upon public donation.

The project seemed to be going well, as by September 1842 the committee reported that more than £3,200 had been collected by public subscription.

These funds were raised by the contributions of private citizens, a group representing the citizens of Montreal, militia groups in both Canada West (Ontario) and New Brunswick and many Indigenous nations, who gave the largest donation contributions per capita of the British North American population.

The Chippewa, Huron, Munsee, Moravian, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mississauga, Mohawks from Teyendinaga and Oneida of the Thames, all contributed what they could, several of them having fought alongside Brock in that first year of the war.

Despite this support, further donations were limited and Young's design faded out of popular memory over the next few years.

By 1848, the United States had announced its plans to erect a national monument to its first president, George Washington, in Washington D.C. — an obelisk design as well.



The monument committee resolved that Canadians could not very well honour their national hero with the same design the Americans

With this development and the lack of funds, the project stagnated.

used to honour theirs.

It was not until 1852 that fresh momentum revitalised efforts to rebuild the monument

The initial fund had swelled to £5,794 through further contributions from the public and interest gained through successful investments.

With the first design pushed to the wayside, a second competition was advertised requesting designs for Brock's Monument.

This time, only six designs were received, potentially due to a boycott of architects unhappy with the lack of respect in the change of design and the results of the first contest.

Young proposed another design to this contest: This time, he used a Grecian Doric style, which he described as "chaste and affective [sic] in character."

Also submitted was a Gothic cross design described by a competing architect as "a Gothic mausoleum of most wretched character and miserably rendered."

The committee did not choose Young's new design, nor the "wretched" Gothic cross, but rather paid special attention to two designs submitted by William Thomas, the same man who designed the Niagara District Courthouse in Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto, who would go on to design the Don Jail, located east of the Don River in Toronto, after his work on Brock's Monument.

Thomas submitted

two designs: One was an archway with an equestrian statue of Brock atop and the second was a large column on a tall pedestal, intricately and triumphantly decorated.

The latter was Thomas' favourite and the design the committee ultimately selected.

The monument would stand as a composite order column atop a pedestal decorated with lions, a symbol of British Empire, and Brock's coat of arms.

It would stand 56 metres (184 feet) tall from the ground to the top of Brock's hat, the statue of Brock itself standing 16 feet tall.

The capital atop the column would be decorated with winged victories, the Greek personification of victory, and other decorations of war including shields, cannons, and more lion heads.

There would be a spiral staircase through the column culminating in an interior observation deck to best preserve exterior aesthetics.

This monument would stand as the second tallest of its kind, after Christopher Wren's column to the Great Fire of London.

It would be notably taller than any monument raised to a military figure in the British Empire, including the similarly designed Nelson's Column in London.

In 1853, the burial tombs of Brock and Macdonell were completed and a fourth and final funeral was held in the attendance of 12,000 to 15,000 people.

The rest of the monument was built atop their burial site and as the pillar rose, completion was expected in 1856.

The opening was delayed, principally to complete the landscaping around the monument, for which the government granted money toward the clearing and fencing of 40 acres of property, planted additional trees and erected a large, impressive gateway and stone lodge on the old portage road.

On Oct. 13, 1859, 47 years after the Battle of Queenston Heights, Brock's Monument opened officially to the public in a ceremony that featured speakers from the committee and Sir William Fenwick Williams, a prominent British general during the recent Crimean

That day visitors could pay one shilling to climb the 235 steps to the top of Brock's Monument.

Today, the monument atop Queenston Heights stands as a testament to the dedication and effort of all those who contributed to it — the donors, builders, engineers, building committee, architect and the men buried below.

Gavin Watson has worked for the Friends of Fort George as a heritage interpreter for the past three season. He is currently in his second year of teachers college at Brock University, with a focus on history and drama.

## Tokens in hand, community gathers for annual Ham and Turkey Roll

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

The aura of anticipation filled the air at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on Saturday, as community members gathered for a chance to take home a turkey or ham for this year's Thanksgiving dinner.

The Ham and Turkey Roll began at 2 p.m. on Oct. 5. It was open to the public, with tokens available at \$2 each.

Fifteen turkeys and five hams were up for grabs this year and people purchased tokens for the draw.

The draw has become a cherished tradition at the Legion, with a history spanning many years, said Maurice Pam, a member of Legion Branch 124.

He was the man entrusted with the important task of spinning the wheel.

"We do it also for Easter and Christmas too. It's just a thing we've done for years," he said. "It's a longtime tradition."

Every ticket had a number between one and 120. Pam would spin the wheel, and whatever number it



Mark Derbyshire helps out with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 ham and turkey roll on Saturday. PAIGE SEBURN

landed on revealed one of the lucky winners.

Pam said the Ham and Turkey Roll is a way to bring people together and hopefully get them a good meal at a low cost, adding that community involvement has always been a key component of the draw. The thrill of winning brought smiles to many faces as attendees eagerly awaited their chance at the next big win, he said.

This annual draw is a staple in the Legion's calendar. So, you might not need to go shopping for your next holiday dinner — just buy some tokens.

## All things guten at Ironwood's Oktoberfest celebration

Paige Seburn The Lake Report

Edward and Demi Nasello say they were pleasantly surprised as they stepped into the Ironwood Cider House on Saturday for its third annual Oktoberfest celebration.

"It's our first year here," said Demi Nasello, her eyes scanning the scene filled with laughter, music and the aroma of German fare.

After discovering the Oct. 5 festival on Facebook, the duo decided to check it out — Demi Nasello said it was a great way to embrace both summer and fall.

Eager to explore the culinary delights, she said they were eyeing the Sicilian eggplant from one of the food trucks.

The day offered not just a feast for the senses but also an opportunity for community connection, said Edward Nasello.

"We like the atmosphere, and we like meeting people and getting connected with the community," he said.

In celebration of German



Ryan Crawford serves up some schnitzel and coleslaw for the Oktoberfest celebrations at Ironwood. PAIGE SEBURN

culture, attendees enjoyed classic beers alongside their German fare.

The Itty Bitty Farm Co. offered staples such as sausage on a bun, schnitzel on a bun, flammkuchen, soft pretzels and woodfire chicken.

Brian Crawford from the Itty Bitty Farm Co. said the stunning weather and great turnout was a delightful change from last year's downpour.

He mentioned this was their third year participating at Oktoberfest.

"It's always nice to be at Ironwood," he said.

Oktoberfest originated in Germany as a royal wedding celebration in 1810 and has since evolved into a worldwide festival celebrating culture, food and beer.

# Call the brand that NOTICED! gets your home



Rob Golfi SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Born, raised and living

in Niagara and loving it!



22 Creekside Drive 2+2 Bedroom • 3 Bath • \$1,469,900



12 Firelane 11A Road 3+1 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$2,850,000



10 David Lowrey Court 4 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,999,900

- **\*1** Real Estate Team\*
- **\*1** on Google Trends
- **\*1** in Client Service\*\*\*
- #1 in Web Traffic\*\*\*
- **#1** RE/MAX Team Canada
- **\*2** RE/MAX Team Worldwide
- **\*2** on Toronto Real Estate Board\*
- Million-dollar marketing system!

**FREE HOME EVALUATION!** 



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



"Rob Golfi, Sales Representative. "Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2021. "" Source: Google Trends and Google Reviews "Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Tear Residential, 2022. "Source: REDATUM Agents by units — listing and selling combined performance in TRREB Jan 1 - June 30, 2022. RE/MAX Escarpment Golfi Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.



## Finding fantastic fall foliage



#### GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young Columnist

Autumn is my favourite

I know, for some it is just a sign winter is coming, but as long as it lasts, we need to enjoy this wonderful weather and the changing of leaf colours.

What is there not to like? The leaves slowly become more and more colourful, taking on shades of gold, amber orange and vivid reds

Here are a few of my favourite plants for their fall colour:

#### Black gum (Nyssa sylvatica)

The black gum tree (aka tupelo) is another native to southern Ontario especially along the shores of Lake Erie.

It is one that has not been used as much in the industry but should be used more often.

The black gum is a moderate tree that can eventually reach about 60 feet tall.

Its smaller, oval, dark green, glossy leaves add an interesting texture in the summer months.

In late spring, the tree bears small clusters of whitish green flowers that attract bees and other pollinators.



Black gum trees are native to southern Ontario.

Its small, half-inch fruit provides food favoured by foxes, pileated woodpeckers and wild turkeys.

In the fall, the leaves will turn a bright reddish orange to wine red, depending somewhat on the variety of black gum.

The brilliant colour, along with the horizontal branching habit, makes this tree a great addition to any garden.

#### Fothergilla (Fothergilla gardenia)

A shrub that does not get near the attention it deserves is fothergilla.

This slow-growing, deciduous shrub bears fragrant, white, bottlebrushlike flowers in late April or early May.

The flowers alone make this worthy of space in your garden. Its fall colour never disappoints either. The fall leaves are a mix of gold, bright orange and wine-red tones.

The shrub does well in full sun or part shade and in a well-draining soil.

It is a compact-growing shrub reaching three to four feet high. Pruning is seldom required!

#### Narrowleaf bluestar (Amsonia hubrictii)

Most perennials are not known for their fall colour, but the narrowleaf bluestar has an outstanding goldenyellow fall colour.

It is native to the Ouachita Mountains in central Arkansas and Oklahoma, where it was discovered in the early 1940s by Leslie Hubricht.

A slow grower, it may take one to two years before

this plant's true beauty can be seen.

It forms erect clumps with feathery light green foliage, making it an excellent backdrop for low-growing annuals and perennials.

In late spring through early summer, it produces clusters of powdery blue star-like flowers followed by slender, elongated seed pods.

It is prized for its great fine texture and bright yellow fall color.

Bluestar is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. It will tolerate poor soils and some drought.

The plant will become floppy if grown in too much shade or too rich soils. Use in borders, rock gardens, open woodlands, and in mass plantings.

#### Boston ivy (Parthenocissus tricuspidata)

Boston ivy is a fastgrowing, clinging vine with large, dark green glossy leaves.

Following small, inconspicuous creamy white flower clusters in late spring, clusters of purplish-black berries begin to form, ripening and remaining on the vine in fall and into the winter months.

In autumn, these large leaves turn shades of orange, burgundy and wine

Great as a clinging vine or groundcover, especially when you need to control soil erosion.

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

#### Obituary

#### Gerald "Gerry" Mackay



MACKAY, Gerald
"Gerry" Murray, May 23,
1947 – Sept. 30, 2024
Gerald 'Gerry' Murray
Mackay passed peacefully
after a short illness on
Sept. 30, 2024 at Niagara
Falls General Hospital on
Monday Sept. 30, 2024
in his 77th year. He is
survived by his wife Myrna
for almost eight years. He
is also survived by his

cousin Stephanie Jackson and family in Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Gerry is pre-deceased by his parents Ruth and Murray Mackay, and his first wife Margaret Mackay.

Gerry being born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia made him an outdoors person. He was an avid cyclist and loved hiking the Bruce Trail and other nature trails. He was an alumnus of the Berklee College of Music. He drove all the way from Vancouver to Toronto to pursue better opportunities for his jazz music. He also became a teacher for various school boards full-time and supply teaching.

Gerry will be remembered as a devoted husband and loved every moment he spent with his wife travelling Europe and North America or just having coffee at Tim Horton's almost everyday. He will be remembered for his gigs all over Ontario and his passion for jazz, blues and flamenco music.

The family would like to express deep thanks to the staff at Niagara Falls and St. Catharines General Hospitals and EMS Niagara Region for their compassionate care.

A visitation for Gerry will be held at Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home - Thornhill on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024 at 2 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m.

A funeral service for Gerry will occur at Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home - Thornhill on Friday, October 11, 2024 at 10:00am. Following the funeral service there will be a reception on our second level of the funeral home. A burial will occur at Barrie Union Cemetery (338 Sunnidale Rd, Barrie) on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024 at 2 p.m.

A mass in his honour will be held by the family at a later date.

For online condolences and livestream details please visit the Kane-Jerrett Thornhill website at www.kanejerrett-thornhill.ca.

Every Detail Remembered Dignity.

## Monarch butterflies emerge before migration for south

"Every year, monarch butterfly caterpillars can be seen munching on the milkweed plants in my garden. When they metamorphose into a chrysalis, they usually stay on the plant, hidden from view. But this year, one wandering caterpillar chose a slat on our fence. For two weeks my neighbours and I waited as the chrysalis slowly changed from emerald green to black. I was there when the butterfly emerged. A rare and delightful treat! As I watched this new creature fan its delicate wings before its journey south, I was reminded of how fragile and precious our natural world is."

- Kate Sullivan, Chautauqua





# 25% of all homes over \$2.5 million are sold by US!!!



# NOBODY SELLS NOTL LIFESTYLE LIKE REVEL!!



**Evan MacDonald**Sales Representative

Jessie MacDonald Broker

289-969-7568

## **EXPERIENCE MATTERS!**



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

Proud member of LuxuryHomes.com

#### HERE IS WHY...

- 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 will be globally listed gaining world wide exposure and will be seen on 48 real estate boards in Ontario
- Home renovation experience < experienced >
- Help Elderly Relocate
- Passionate to be of service
- We offer a 24/7 open line of communication
- Several testimonials and 5 star reviews
- Exceptional sales record
- Respected by colleagues and community
   NO OBLIGATION FREE HOME EVALUATION

## ANGELIKA IS THE TOP 1% REALTOR WITH THE MOST SALES. NIAGARA AND BURLINGTON \*\*









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





OFFICE 905-468-8777

ANGELIKA ZAMMIT
REALTOR® / OWNER / TEAM LEAD



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\*

