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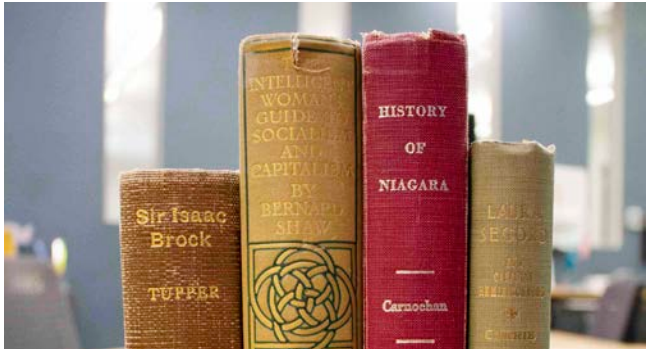
Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



Vol. 8, Issue 42

Canada's most-awarded community newspaper

October 23, 2025



EST. 1800

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Read The Lake Report's commemorative pullout section celebrating the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library's 225th anniversary on **pages 13-20**.

Fall is here, hear the yell

The leaves are turning, and Niagara-on-the-Lake is full of ways to see it happen. For a drive, follow the Niagara Parkway from Old Town through Queenston toward Niagara Falls — it'll be easy to see why Sir Winston Churchill, back in 1943, called it "the prettiest Sunday afternoon drive in the world."

Stop at Queenston Heights for views over the Niagara River, or at the Laura Secord Homestead to take in some history amid changing leaves. Lakeshore Road offers another route, driving past orchards and vineyards near harvest's end.

Walk along Queen Street, dressed for the season, to the gazebo at Queen's Royal

Park. Or, follow the trails linking Butler's Barracks National Historic Site and Fort George National Historic Site, where tree-lined paths across the Commons make for a scenic autumn walk.

For a nice fall hike, Woodend Conservation Area and Niagara Glen both offer forest trails — one perched high on the escarpment, the other tucked deep in the gorge.

And for a bike ride, cycle the 56-kilometre Niagara River Recreation Trail, which follows the Niagara Parkway past wineries, historic sites and stretches of river scenery.

However you travel, the view does the talking.



Michelle Matthisen, Kaitlyn Forbes, and Mallor Mundy of Guelph share a joyful moment at McFarland House, tossing autumn leaves into the air during a selfie session that perfectly captured the spirit of the season. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

School boundary change will send 275 students to Crossroads

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara's school board is redrawing boundaries to ease overcrowding at an elementary school in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The District School Board of Niagara's program and planning committee approved boundary change recommendations this week, with final approval by the Board of Trustees set for the Oct. 28 board meeting.

If approved, many St. Davids students will start at Crossroads in September 2026.

Crossroads Public School would absorb about 275 students by 2034 — some who currently attend St. Davids and some from future housing developments such as Modero Estates and Niagara-on-the-Green, "assuming all housing developments are realized," said the board's report, approved Monday night.

St. Davids — with five portables and a projected enrolment of 462, expected to climb to 519 within five years, in a building built for a capacity of 317 — would send some students to Crossroads, which is operating at about 75 per cent capacity.

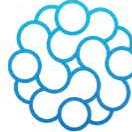
The board said NOTL's projected growth isn't high enough to warrant a new elementary school, though rising enrolment in Welland and Thorold led to approval for three new schools there. Boundary changes remain a practical first step, it said.

Continued on Page 2



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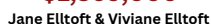
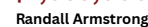
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Council **delays** short-term rental decision

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s freeze on new short-term rental licences will remain in place until at least next year as council presses pause on further changes to its rental bylaw.

At a meeting Tuesday, councillors voted to receive a May staff report on the issue for information only and to defer any amendments until a new round of public consultations wraps up next year, ahead of tourism season’s start.

The existing freeze, first imposed last December, will continue, with one exception for a local operator who was caught in a communication mix-up.

Council also chose not to impose a hard cap on cottage and villa licences, despite ongoing complaints about noise and absentee owners.

Staff had recommended lifting the overall freeze while keeping the number of cottage and villa licences at current levels. That decision, initially expected in July, was pushed back to this week’s meeting.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who put forward the motion to defer amending the short-term rental bylaws,



Norm Arsenault, a directors of the NOTL Residents Association, presented in front of council on Tuesday advocating for action on short-term rentals. DAN SMEENK

said the town should finish its upcoming report on the state of the short-term rental industry, which it’ll start early next year.

“I’d like to see the consultation still take place,” she told the committee.

This report, as clarified by Fire Chief Jay Plato during the meeting, will mainly focus on what limits should or shouldn’t be imposed on the number of short-term rentals that operate in town.

“I think let the staff go away, do the report for us and come back and then we can make our final decision,” Cheropita said.

The new consultation pro-

cess is expected to finish by the second quarter of 2026.

Former councillor and NOTL Residents Association director Norm Arsenault was one of four people to address the committee on short-term rentals during Tuesday’s meeting.

He said the town has already spent enough time studying the issue.

“We believe this is the wrong approach,” he said. “It’s been consulted to death. This is a waste of valuable staff time.”

Others defended the rental industry. Chautauqua resident Mary Marello, who operates a licensed cot-

tage rental, said responsible owners provide a positive experience for visitors.

“To this date, (our neighbours) do nothing but rave about the people we have stay,” she said.

Paul O’Connor, another operator, argued that un-hosted short-term rentals make up a small percentage of local housing and should not be blamed for larger community issues.

During Tuesday’s discussion, council made an exception for James Mitton, co-owner of Luisa’s Suites Retreat, who discovered that only one of his three rooms had been properly licensed after a change in ownership.

Because of the ongoing freeze, staff were unable to issue the remaining two licences.

“We hope that the council recognizes this as a clerical error,” Mitton told councillors.

Members agreed the problem stemmed from a miscommunication and voted to allow two additional licences for his property.

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s short-term rental bylaw was introduced in 2021, requiring all operators to register their properties. It created distinct categories for bed and breakfasts, vacation homes, country inns, cottages and villas.

daniel@niagaranow.com

Museum to get elevator thanks to **\$150K grant**

Dan Smeenk
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is getting a big boost to its facilities from the Royal Bank of Canada — to the tune of \$150,000.

The RBC Foundation is helping to fund the installation of the museum’s first-ever elevator, which is expected to be built within the next year or two, says curator Sarah Kaufman.

The new elevator is part of a larger project currently underway to renovate and expand the museum on Castlereagh Street, nearly doubling its size.

Kaufman said the team at the museum is “very excited” about this latest stage of the expansion project.

“Most people in NOTL are aware that we’ve been working hard to renovate and expand the NOTL Museum and this is a big part of the project.”

The elevator is intended to improve accessibility, allowing visitors with mobility issues to reach the second



The NOTL Museum is getting an elevator. SUPPLIED

floor and basement wash-rooms — right now, those levels are only accessible by stairs.

Once complete, Kaufman said the elevator will allow everyone to access all areas of the exhibition, gallery and collections facility.

The elevator will be built in a new wing being added to the main museum building, which will be added to the existing building on Castlereagh Street, located immediately behind Memorial Hall, the museum’s larger heritage structure.

She noted that incorporat-

ing the elevator into a new addition of the museum helps preserve the heritage features of the existing structure.

“It’s much easier to build an elevator in the new addition,” she said. “With heritage buildings, you don’t want to take away from how they are designed or how they look.”

The new wing will also include a community room, exhibition gallery and storage space for the museum’s collection.

Kaufman said the museum applied for the grant

earlier this year after the RBC Foundation circulated notices through various non-profit channels. Staff learned of the successful application a few weeks before the official announcement.

According to an Oct. 19 media release, NOTL is one of 35 communities across Canada receiving funding through this year’s RBC community spaces grant.

The \$150,000 grant is part of a \$16.7-million investment supporting single- and multi-year projects that involve the construction of new public spaces designed to improve accessibility or reduce environmental impacts.

Of the funded initiatives, 27 focus on accessibility and 19 on sustainability.

Kaufman said the grant’s focus on accessibility aligns well with the museum’s long-term plans.

“It was always a part of our plan to be accessible,” she said. “If you’re planning for people with mobility issues, you’re planning for everyone.”

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Participants gather at Veterans Memorial Park before setting off on the fifth annual Hummel Family Healing Cycle Ride supporting Community Palliative Care and Wellness NOTL. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

Ride raises \$60K for palliative care

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

Cyclists and walkers filled Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday morning for the annual Hummel Family Healing Cycle Ride, raising \$60,000 to keep palliative care services free for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents.

The annual event supports Community Palliative Care & Wellness NOTL, which offers volunteer visiting, bereavement support and equipment lending for people living with life-limiting illnesses and those requiring end-of-life care.

About 40 participants rode the Upper Canada Heritage Trail, cheered on by volunteers and community donors who filled the park with energy and gratitude.

Executive director Bonnie Bagnulo said the fifth annual local ride marks a turning point in community awareness.

The Hummel Family Foundation once again matched donations up to \$25,000, helping the organization exceed its fundraising goal.

“We matched our Hummel family donation and surpassed that mark. We’re blessed with a lot of riders, volunteers and community support. It’s been a great day,” said Bagnulo.

Sponsor Rainer Hummel said his family supports groups that struggle most to attract donations.

“They have a lot of trouble raising money, and our family always tries to donate to things that have the most difficulty raising money,” said Hummel.

“This is just another one of those things that nobody wants to donate to for whatever reason.”

The ride began years ago as part of a provincial fundraiser in Mississauga, but when the pandemic forced events to localize, NOTL’s

organizers decided to keep it close to home.

The Healing Cycle Ride began in 2014 as part of the Healing Cycle Foundation, but during the pandemic, the palliative care group moved it home to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where the local focus caught Hummel’s attention and significantly expanded community support.

“I didn’t like to travel to Toronto, so being able to ride in our own backyard really meant a lot. I’m all about community,” said Bagnulo.

Riders followed the heritage trail from Veterans Memorial Park, passing through Old Town’s quiet roads and farmland on routes ranging from five to 25 kilometres.

Melissa Nixon, the palliative care group’s executive assistant and a board member, said the almost \$60,000 raised will help sustain services that many

residents do not realize are available.

“People always think they don’t need palliative care, but they don’t realize that we can come on right at the onset of a life-limiting illness,” said Nixon. “It’s not just end-of-life.”

Since 1986, Community Palliative Care & Wellness NOTL has provided its programs free of charge for residents across NOTL and the Niagara region.

Local businesses also contributed raffle prizes, with donations from Carpaccio’s, Big Texas, One Earth Boutique and the Niagara River Lions, among others.

Bagnulo said keeping the ride in NOTL has strengthened the ties between donors, families and volunteers who depend on each other during some of life’s hardest moments.

Donations can still be made through the organization’s website, notlpc.com.

andrew@niagaranow.com

Queenston Heights remembered



Bryan Clark, Kevin Lyn, Virginia Hurley, Joel Culliford, Stephen Lyn, and James Tavano take a well-earned break at McFarland House on their return hike from Queenston Heights to Fort George. The group commemorated the 1812 Battle of Queenston Heights by retracing the historic route taken by early defenders.
DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Official plan discussed at open house

Dan Smeen
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's an almost-400-page document that's going to guide the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake for the foreseeable future.

And on Wednesday and Thursday, it got dozens of residents out of their homes to learn what exactly it's all about.

The Town of NOTL hosted a pair of open houses at the community centre to share the details of its updated official plan and hear what those living in the community have to say about the plan, which council expects to adopt early next year.

Town staff were on hand both days to present details, talks to attendees and hear feedback from them. Fiona Main, senior policy planner and one of the plan's key architects, delivered a 15-minute presentation at each session, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Residents attended with varying levels of familiarity but shared an understanding of the plan's scope and influence on town policy.

Tom Smith, who attended Wednesday's session, said he had "very limited" familiarity with the plan and wanted a "basic" understanding of its purpose. He was particularly interested in zoning and property issues.

During the open houses, town staff were posted at stations to fill residents like him in on the details.

Among the topics of discussion was how the municipality is going to keep up with and manage Niagara-on-the-Lake's growing population, with it expected to hit 28,900 by 2051, according to the official plan draft. The 2019 official plan's population projections only went as far as 2031.

In the official plan draft, under growth management, it says the number of additional houses needed to accommodate this growth is 4,600, to be comprised of mainly single-detached and semi-detached houses, at 3,058 units, plus row housing and apartments.

The plan states that the town will direct the "vast majority" of this growth to NOTL's settlement areas, with Glendale a "key focus" for development.

Town staff also went over topics like housing, climate change, cultural heritage, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure during



Fiona Main, NOTL senior policy planner, speaks about the official plan at Centennial Arena last Thursday to a small group of residents during an open house. DAN SMEENK

the open houses.

The official plan, Main said, will lay the groundwork for how the town will adopt new policies. The new official plan is being updated to include guidelines from other plans the town has adopted since 2019, including those for climate change adaptation, transportation management and parks and recreation (that plan is being finalized this fall).

The town adopted Niagara Region's latest official plan back in March, which exists beside the town's 2019 plan.

"Essentially, we do have two official plans right now," said Main.

The town's main goal is to align its new plan as much as it can with the region's, she said.

Two drafts have come out so far of the official plan, the first released in mid-July and the second at the start of October.

She said it's unclear how many comments the town has received since the second draft's release, as the feedback still needs to go through internal review.

"Transportation and infrastructure come a little later," she said, adding that, "for the most part," comments have been "reasonably spread out" by topic.

Norm Arsenault, a former town councillor and director at the NOTL Residents Association, was involved in developing the 2019 official plan. He said he attended to "find out what people are thinking."

"I think we need to make sure that the language is fairly strong," he said. "Sometimes I think the language can be a bit wishy-washy in that."

Heritage preservation was the priority for resident Gracia Janes, who said she appreciated stronger language in the second draft but remained concerned

about long-term protections.

"Even with the most strong planning that you have, how do you protect our heritage district?" she said.

Lidjia Biro, president of Seniors for Climate in Niagara, said she welcomed changes to environmental language in the second draft.

"They've changed some of the language to 'shall,' which is good," she said.

Kassie Burns, the town's climate change co-ordinator, was one of the town's staff members speaking with residents during the open houses. She agreed that, as far as the environment goes, this draft is an improvement from the 2019 version.

"Prior to even the first draft of the official plan that was released, you wouldn't see the terminology of climate change," she said. "There weren't actually really policies indicating anything about climate change."

She described the updated words as more "definitive."

Many attendees also came to learn more about the future of the former hospital site on Wellington Street, which was featured in the open house materials and was the subject of its own twin open houses this week.

Al Campagnola, who attended Thursday's session, said he had little knowledge of the overall plan but was drawn by his interest in the Royal Oak School.

"It seemed to be extremely downplayed as a community school," he said.

Resident Stan Harrington also said he was concerned about the former hospital site and noted the town's lack of a high school.

Following Main's presentation, both she and Kirsten McCauley, director of community and development services, took questions from the public.

A significant number of

attendees at Wednesday's event were from Chautauqua, a neighbourhood where residents have expressed concern about changes from the 2019 plan.

While the previous version committed to a secondary plan for the area, the 2025 draft allows for alternatives, such as a character study.

Resident Kate Sullivan questioned the effectiveness of these changes: "It's vague," she said.

McCauley pointed to site-specific policies for Chautauqua, which could include landscaping guidelines. She said these could eventually develop into a secondary plan but noted such plans are intensive and that protections could be achieved through other means.

During the second session, resident Scott Kirby asked about future development and population growth. McCauley pointed to Glendale as a key growth area.

"We want a mix of housing," she said. "We need different housing options for different family sizes, different lifestyles, where you are in your life cycle — all of those things."

The second draft includes sections on secondary plans for areas like Queen-Picton, Glendale and Chautauqua.

The town is updating its 2019 official plan to align with Niagara Region's 2022 plan and Ontario's 2024 planning statement.

A statutory public meeting is scheduled for November, with council expected to adopt the official plan in February.

The official plan serves as the town's guiding policy document for managing population and job growth, agricultural land use, and secondary plans for key areas. It is reviewed every five years but can be amended by council in the interim.

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‘Doors Open’ offers a peek behind the curtains

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

Thirteen spots around Niagara-on-the-Lake propped open their doors last Saturday and welcomed in dozens of visitors for an exploration of the town’s historic and cultural landmarks.

From the Shaw Festival Theatre to the Niagara No. 2 Masonic Lodge, Doors Open NOTL, held Oct. 18 as part of the provincewide Doors Open Ontario event, encouraged visitors to sate their curiosity about the places they often pass by every day but rarely enter.

The NOTL Museum’s finance and marketing director, Amy Klassen, co-ordinated the townwide event, which the museum also participated in.

She said it is her favourite weekend of the year because it brings people face-to-face with local history.

“We’ve really seen a lot of appreciation for the heritage of the community and people who just want to learn more and get to see these great buildings,” she said.

For her, the day’s deeper purpose is about connection.

She said Doors Open helps smaller institutions remind locals why preservation matters and how historic spaces can continue to serve the community in new ways.

“For smaller organizations, people say, ‘I’ve been coming here for years and didn’t know you existed,’” said Klassen.

She noted that the day’s success depends on both staff and volunteers, who help manage visitors across multiple sites. Balancing schedules is one major challenge for attracting small businesses and heritage organizations to participate in Doors Open.

“Sometimes it’s difficult for businesses to take on extra visitation when they’re already busy,” said Klassen.

At the Shaw Festival Theatre, visitors were guided below the stage and through the costume department by volunteers eager to reveal what audiences never see.

“We love it,” said Warren Bain, Shaw Festival education supervisor. “It’s a way to showcase our backstage tour and the festival. Maybe 50 of the people here are on stage, but the majority of the work happens behind the curtain.”

Festival staff shared that about 600 people work each season to create Shaw’s productions, from set builders and electricians to costume makers and technicians. Tours on the hour allowed guests to see how those crafts combine to create live theatre.

Across town on King Street, the Niagara No. 2 Masonic Lodge opened its historic meeting room, once the site of Upper Canada’s first legislature and the first hospital in Newark.

Visitors admired the artifacts and memorabilia while learning how the lodge is balancing their society’s traditions with public outreach.

“We used to say we were a secret society, but now we’re a society with some secrets,” said Paul Kent, lodge historian.

He said the invitation to join Doors Open was an easy yes, considering how the lodge has no intent on mystifying their presence in the community.

“The more people understand what we do, the more respect and understanding we generate,” said Kent.

Beyond this weekend, the NOTL Museum is focused on its expansion project, which includes incorporating the neighbouring building on Castlereagh Street to create more space for exhibits, programming and accessibility upgrades.

Fundraising is underway, with new announcements expected later this fall.

Klassen said the aim is to ensure the museum grows along with the town it represents and keep local history open to everyone year-round.

andrew@niagaranow.com



Lorna Henderson, head of wigs and makeup at the Shaw Festival, styles a wig for White Christmas. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVE VAN DE LAAR



Louise Van Nest admires a collection of famous Canadian paintings at RiverBrink Art Museum, reflecting the country’s rich artistic legacy and natural beauty.



Left: Jeremy Bowen of Thorold views a bronze statue of Sir Jacob Epstein at RiverBrink Art Museum. The sculpture is part of the museums collection celebrating influential figures in art and history. Middle: Dave Drennon of Whitby studies a painting by Tom Thomson at RiverBrink. Right: Visitors peruse various historic items at the Niagara Apothecary.



Left: Julianna Farna crochets in the Governess Room of McFarland House. Mid-left: Terry O'Brien, worshipful master of the Niagara Lodge shares the rich history of the organization with visitors. Mid-right: At Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, Elizabeth Oliver-Malone portrays Jarvis Hamilton who was born in 1797 and died in 1888. Right: Brother Hans Vetter.

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Postal worker retires after 45 years in Virgil

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For 45 years, she kept the Virgil community in Niagara-on-the-Lake connected. Now, the beloved postmaster is taking a well-earned bow.

After decades of service at the Canada Post location on 2 Lorraine St., Cindy Andrews-Friesen is beginning a new chapter — one that includes more family time, reading and, as she puts it, sleeping in.

Andrews-Friesen retired as the post office's postmaster last week, closing a career that began in April 1980.

"It feels good," she said. "I love sleeping in. It's nice, I can do what I want — pick my grandsons up at daycare if I want to."

Becoming postmaster in 2014, Andrews-Friesen, now 65, said what stands out most from her decades on the job aren't specific projects, but the people she worked with and served in the community: "They're still friends."

Andrews-Friesen said,

besides the fact that stamp prices have gone up tenfold since she started, the job kept the same spirit over the years, so she never considered doing anything else. Postal strikes, she said, never affected the Virgil office.

An accomplishment for her has been watching many of the people she mentored grow and succeed in their own paths, she said.

"I really don't want to pat myself on the back, but I mean, a lot of the people that have worked for me — and I've kind of trained them — have now become postmasters themselves," she said.

To those just starting out at Canada Post, her advice is simple: "Be kind to people."

"With the world we live in now," she said, "I just think if you're kind to people, people will be kind to you."

That outlook, she said, is especially important in a small town like NOTL.

Over her decades at the Virgil office, Andrews-Friesen came to know generations of families, many who came in daily to collect



Cindy Andrews-Friesen is retiring from the Virgil post office after 45 years serving the community. PAIGE SEBURN

their mail and chat.

Asked what she will miss most, Andrews-Friesen didn't hesitate: "The people," she said, one of them being her longtime colleague and friend Brenda Ferguson, assistant to the postmaster.

Their friendship began when Ferguson moved to Virgil in 2016 and got a P.O.

box at the office, where the two first met.

A year later, Ferguson joined the staff and worked alongside Andrews-Friesen until her retirement — a friendship that has lasted ever since.

"Every other day I'm on the phone with her," Andrews-Friesen said.

Ferguson told The Lake

Report that Andrews-Friesen cared about her team beyond the workplace — always checking in, listening and making sure everyone was doing well both on and off the job.

"I'm raising kids," said Ferguson. "If I was going through something with teenagers, she would, kind of, tell me her stories."

"She always just made it feel like it's okay."

During hectic pandemic days, Ferguson said Andrews-Friesen would remind the team to slow down and remember, "There's tomorrow."

She was known at the office for her thoughtful acts of kindness: giving seniors rides home during outages or checking in on customers after a fall, Ferguson said.

"She didn't second-guess it," said Ferguson. "She did these things because she cares about people."

"She'll say she's not, but she was like, the best teacher," added Ferguson. "She really wanted to make sure that everyone else around her succeeded."

Ferguson said her supportive, calm and patient

approach helped many colleagues go on to become postmasters themselves.

When asked how the team will carry on that perspective, Ferguson said they now joke and ask themselves, "What would Cindy do?" whenever challenges come up.

She said what matters most "is going back and thinking about all the things that she's taught us."

Now retired, Andrews-Friesen plans to celebrate with the people who turned workdays into friendships. "We're all going out for dinner in a couple weeks," she said.

She said she has no plans to leave NOTL, the community that made her career so meaningful, she said.

"I never even think of moving," she added. "Unless my kids moved far away."

As she looks ahead, her deliveries take a different form — a hug for a grandchild, a call to an old coworker — each one likely marked by the same care that left an impact on everyone who crossed her path.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com

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NOTL women turn \$100 donations into big local change

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A newly formed community group in Niagara-on-the-Lake is bringing women together to pool their donations and support local charities.

A new 100 Women Who Care chapter in NOTL, co-founded by Julia Buxton-Cox, Penny Milligan and Audrey Pellett, held its first meeting Wednesday night.

The model, founded by Karen Dunigan of Michigan in 2006, brings together women in a community who each donate \$100 multiple times a year.

At each meeting, members nominate charities, hear short presentations and vote on where the total donation will go, creating a single, large gift with immediate local benefit.

“To have the impact of \$10,000 would just be life-changing for a lot of these organizations that rely on, you know, a shoestring budget,” Pellett said in an

interview.

The group has already surpassed its goal of 100 members, meaning the first donation will be even larger — over \$14,000.

Each member must live in NOTL and commit to donating \$100 quarterly, with meetings held in October, January, April and July.

“Members are able to nominate charities. It is an open-nomination period,” said Pellett.

After collecting nominations, three members’ charities are drawn, at random, by Buxton-Cox and herself. Milligan then reviews each one to confirm the organization is a registered Canadian charity — “one of the requirements that we have,” Pellett added.

The three members whose charities were selected then present short pitches and the group then votes to decide the recipient.

“It goes directly to the charity,” said Pellett. “We’re not depositing \$10,000 into a bank account and then turning around writing a



From left, Julia Buxton-Cox, Penny Milligan and Audrey Pellett are behind the launch of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s new 100 Women Who Care chapter. SUPPLIED

check for \$10,000.”

She said the idea “intrigued all of us, I think, separately.”

Milligan was a founding member of the Saint John, N.B., chapter and was already familiar with the model, while Pellett’s sister is involved with the Cambridge group.

“We were just chatting one day and we said, ‘Well, let’s let’s do this.’ And we’ve done it,” Pellett said.

Milligan provided “a wealth of knowledge” from her experience, Pellett said. “It’s actually been really,

really beneficial.”

She said the system helps ensure fairness and transparency, since members will not know which charities have been drawn until the meeting.

“It also stops people from joining that have an allegiance to that organization,” she added.

The selected charity must return at the following meeting to explain how the funds were used.

This time, that will be in January.

“Just a five, 10-minute speech,” said Pellett — “an

opportunity for our members to actually see, ‘Look, this is what happened.’”

Buxton-Cox said the experience has shown her the strength of local women when they unite behind a common goal.

“I’m so proud of how quickly this group has come together and how eager everyone is to give back,” she told The Lake Report.

“What I love most is how connected everyone feels — not only to each other, but to the causes we’re supporting.”

The initiative is tradition-

ally women-led. “We have just decided to go along with that,” Pellett said.

However, men interested in starting a similar group should “build a 100 Men Who Care,” she said. Collaborations between the two “would be a discussion for the future,” she added.

This first meeting will set the tone for how the group grows, Pellett said. “We will say, ‘What went well, what didn’t go well?’”

The three nominees are selected for Wednesday and sign-ups remain open. New members weren’t able to attend this week’s meeting in person, due to space restrictions at the venue, though their \$100 was accepted “with heartfelt gratitude,” Pellett added.

There are no plans to cap membership unless attendance outgrows space normally available in town.

The group isn’t limiting its support to any specific cause or sector.

“These days, everyone has need,” Pellett said.

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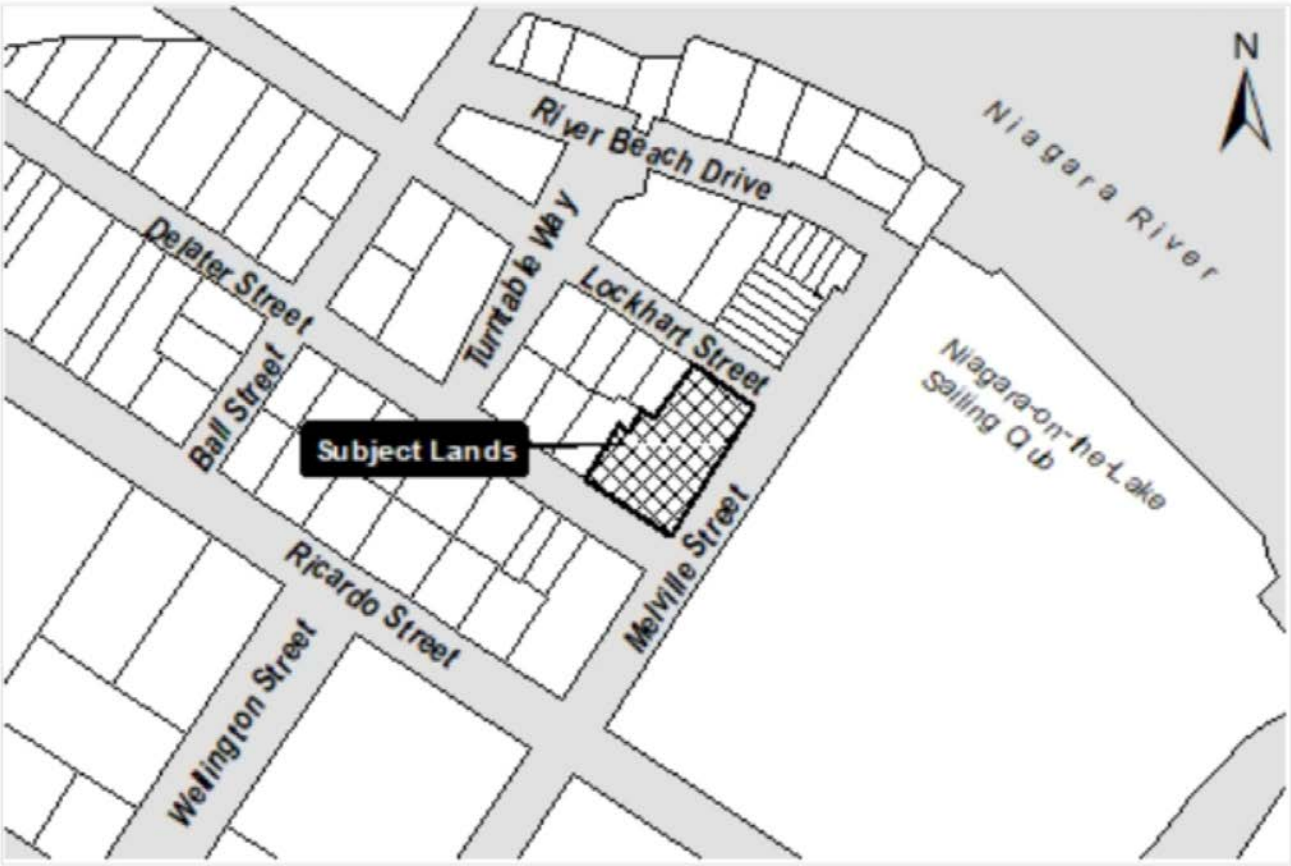
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

What: Notice of **Intention to Pass an Amending Zoning By-law to Remove Holding (H) Symbol**
(under Section 36 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990 as amended).

Regarding: File No. ZBA-13-2025 – 61 Melville Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

What is this?

The Zoning By-law Amendment Application proposes to remove the Holding (H) Symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through site-specific Zoning By-law 4316-EX-23, as approved by Town Council on October 24, 2023. The Holding (H) symbol shall not be removed until such time as the submission of an archaeological assessment(s) and associated acknowledgement letter(s) by the Ministry, and submission of confirmation of the filing of a Record of Site Condition with the Ministry, to the satisfaction of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Removal of the (H) Holding Symbol will permit the development of a 3-storey, 12-unit apartment building on the subject lands with the existing site-specific Zoning By-law provisions.



The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the **October 28, 2025** Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting. Under Section 36(3) of the Planning Act, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

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

If you wish to participate electronically to make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Council meeting, you must register in advance with the Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266). You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the Council meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

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

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

For more information:

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall. Please contact Alex Boekestyn, Planner II, at 905-468-6430 or via email at alex.boekestyn@notl.com if additional information is required.

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

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, **October 23, 2025**
Grant Bivol, Town Clerk



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

What: Notice of **Intention to Pass an Amending Zoning By-law to Remove Holding (H) Symbol**
(under Section 36 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended).

Regarding: File ZBA-22-2025 – Lands located on the northwest side of King Street, south of Cottage Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake



What is this?

The Zoning By-law Amendment application proposes to remove the Holding (H) symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through site-specific Zoning By-law 4316FF-24, as approved by the Ontario Land Tribunal on April 26, 2024.

The Holding (H) symbol shall be removed upon final approval of a stormwater management approach. The required stormwater management documents have been reviewed and approved through a separate ongoing process with the Town (File SP-01-2025). Removal of the Holding (H) symbol will permit development of a 3-storey, 17-unit apartment building with the existing site-specific Zoning By-law provisions.

The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the **November 18, 2025** Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting. Under Section 36(3) of the Planning Act, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

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

If you wish to participate electronically to make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Council meeting, you must register in advance with the Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266). You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the Council meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

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

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

Please contact Christopher Mazerolle, Development Coordinator, at 905-468-3266 Ext. 334 or via email at christopher.mazerolle@notl.com if additional information is required.

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notice> or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, ON).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, **October 23, 2025**

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

WELCOMING OUR NEW RMT

Kristina Tzetskova

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST & FASCIAL STRETCH PRACTITIONER

Kristina Tzetskova is a Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) with a Massage Therapy Diploma from the Ontario College of Health and Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Brock University. She also holds certifications in Essentrics, NeuroKinetic Therapy, Fascial Stretch Therapy, Myofascial Release, and Cupping—reflecting her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. With over eight years of experience as a Fascial Stretch Therapist, Kristina specializes in improving mobility, enhancing flexibility, and restoring functional movement. Her background as a Bootcamp Instructor at Ridley College (2014–2023) and as an Essentrics Instructor since 2014 has strengthened her ability to help clients improve strength, mobility, posture, and overall body awareness. Kristina takes a comprehensive approach to care, combining detailed assessments with an understanding of each client's health history and personal goals. She focuses on identifying and addressing the root causes of dysfunction rather than merely treating symptoms. Her compassionate and educational approach empowers clients to maintain their results through customized home care strategies—promoting long-term wellness that extends well beyond the treatment room. In her free time, Kristina enjoys cheering on her son and daughter at their track meets.



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Men's leaguers showcase skills in **golf finale**

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's popular Thursday men's league wrapped up its season with a bang last week with a banquet and prize giveaway — plus an opportunity for some of the talented big dogs to strut their stuff.

Pro shop manager Darren Smith introduced skills competitions this year, showcasing some of the heavy hitters and short-game sharpshooters among the league's 172 participants.

Twenty-four-year-old Nick Elia proved to be the long drive champ in the open division, clobbering a massive 288-yard tee shot on the first hole. He was 14 yards better than Smith, the runner-up.

That effort earned Elia not only bragging rights but \$200 in prize money. All participants kicked in \$20 for three chances off the tee and the winner scooped all the cash.

Elia, who has 9.9 handicap index and has been playing since age 10, credited his new Titleist TSR3 driver for his stellar performance, but noted the wind and 11C temperatures could have cost him a few yards.



The winners of the NOTL Golf Club's annual match play competitions were honoured at last week's closing ceremony. From left: Dan Regan (Carmichael Cup), Bill Smethurst (Wettlaufer Cup), Stephen Warboys (Jim Brown Cup), Devon Neudorf (President's Cup) and Stephen Jenkins and Ricky Watson (Goldup pairs). SUPPLIED

He said his booming drives generally max out at 300 to 310 yards, but that he reached the green on the 320-yard first hole a few times this summer.

In the senior division — age 55 and up — the luck of the Irish might have been with Patrick Craig, whose tee shot travelled 244 yards, edging out Dan Regan by just three feet. Craig also earned \$200 for his effort.

In the closest to the pin contest, hitting from about 105 yards out, a couple of lefties dominated.

Jim McMacken showed why he is always dangerous around the green, crafting a shot to just two feet nine inches from the hole.

That shot was worth \$260.

Mike Clarke, another lefty, was close behind at five feet three inches and won \$155, while Smith was third at six feet two inches, winning \$105.

In the putting contest, the first person to knock it in from about 33 feet won the whole prize pot.

Cal Cochrane was the eighth to try and by mak-

ing the putt he took home \$280.

Winners in the season-long match play competitions also were honoured during the evening's festivities.

Stephen Jenkins and Ricky Watson were crowned champs in the Goldup pairs category, Devon Neudorf won the President's Cup, Regan took the Carmichael Cup, Bill Smethurst was Wettlaufer Cup champ and Stephen Warboys won the Jim Brown Cup.

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The Lake Report



The NOTL library has changed locations over time, but the organization was established in 1800 and remains a vital part of town today. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

EST. 1800

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

As our library celebrates 225 years, staff and patrons reflect on how it has grown and diversified over two centuries

David Hemmings
NOTL Historian

More than two centuries ago, on June 8, 1800, a group of 41 residents of Niagara gathered to form a subscription library, pledging “to pay annually a sum not exceeding four dollars” to purchase books.

Andrew Heron, a merchant and land speculator who had lived in Niagara since 1785, led the initiative and played a key role in the library’s founding.

Along with Martin McClellan, he collected subscriptions and ordered the first books, which arrived in March 1801. Among them were about 80 titles on religion and history, available to the 76 original subscribers.

Initially, the library collection moved among subscribers’ homes. Under Heron’s stewardship, the collection steadily grew.

By 1805, it held 344 volumes and welcomed non-subscribers. That year, the Niagara Agricultural Society contributed its 49-volume collection in exchange for borrowing privileges.

By 1812, the library held 827 books. However, during the War of 1812, when American troops oc-



Gerda Molson, librarian at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, checks the collection with children’s librarian Gerrie Barnim as they prepare for Ontario Library Week in 1987. NOTL PUBLIC LIBRARY

cupied Niagara, many books were borrowed, lost or destroyed. Though meetings resumed in 1815, support declined and the library ceased operations in 1820.

A resurgence came in 1833 with the formation of a new library at St. Andrew’s Church, again associated with Andrew Heron.

Meanwhile, another early collection — belonging to Rev. Robert Addison — survived the 1813 burning of the town because it was housed

“Today’s library balances tradition with transformation. Books, quiet reading areas, and journals remain essential, but so too are digital access, creative workshops and community events. The 21st-century public library is no longer just a place for reading.”

DAVID HEMMINGS
NOTL HISTORIAN

safely at Lake Lodge, near today’s Konzelmann Winery.

The foundation of the modern Niagara Public Library system began in 1848 with the establishment of the Niagara Mechanics’ Institute, which promoted science, learning and public lectures.

The first library was housed beneath the Judges’ Chambers in the Courthouse, and by 1857, the collection numbered 922 books. The library grew with community

support, despite competition from emerging school libraries.

Throughout the late 1800s, individuals like Rev. Dr. William H. Withrow and historian Janet Carnochan worked to sustain and improve the library. Carnochan, in 1882, completed the library’s first proper classification and catalogue, documenting a collection of 2,500 books.

In 1895, she helped dissolve the Mechanics’ Institute and co-founded the board of management of the Niagara Public Library.

She later reflected on the significance of a public library by quoting John Ruskin: “We may have in our bookcases the company of the good, the noble, the wise.” She added her own thoughts: “Judge, then, how much the people of this vicinity owe to the proprietors of the Niagara public library.”

The library’s physical location changed over time. Initially housed on the Courthouse’s third floor, it moved in 1896 to a more accessible location — the former covered market at the rear of the building, which it shared with the local fire brigade.

When the firefighters moved out in

Continued on Page 2

8 reasons to LOVE your community library

Susan Elliott
Library board member

I once was given a fridge magnet with a quote from Cicero: “If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we have both: food, farms and flowers everywhere and a library celebrating 225 years of community service.

Here are eight reasons to love your library.

Free access to knowledge, with great staff support, so everyone can discover the joy of finding out more: Through books, e-books, audiobooks, research journals, archives and databases, all of us have the resources to navigate the sea of information that rushes at us every day.

Our library staff are tech-savvy and have the skills to help us figure out how to do it, so we can go beyond short clips to find validated, trusted information. It’s free and welcoming for all.

The library is the hub of community education: For our youngest community members, early education and literacy programs give everyone equal access to reading skills and life-long learning.

Daycare spaces with licensed early childhood education programs can be hard to find and unaf-



Connor Booth, Chris Bjorgan and Emerson Bjorgan check out some interesting books in the children’s non-fiction section. The library is a great place to learn.

fordable. Canada is rolling out nationwide affordable child care, but it’s taking time and, in the meantime, libraries offer essential free and regular programs for little ones and their carers.

At the library, kids gain from early literacy and language development activities, and they make new friends. Our library has a full range of children’s programs, starting with Tales and Tunes to help get our youngest involved in play, stories and songs.

This summer, the Niagara Falls Public library was awarded the contract to deliver EarlyOn, a well- resourced and staffed early education program that includes partnership at the Niagara-on-the-Lake library. And learning doesn’t stop when kids grow up and finish school — at the library there’s life-long learning for all ages.

Free wifi and digital Access: Equity is at the heart of public libraries. People looking for jobs or new skills and opportunities need a place where wifi and access to digital tools are free. Access also gives people a chance to learn the newest digital skills so essential in today’s economy.

Libraries are civic hubs and great community hosts: It is hard to single out an

job search, tax workshops and information about government services.

This is economic empowerment — important to youth at risk, newcomers to Canada and any of us who need reliable information. The library is a trusted place to learn and grow skills.

Libraries build awareness of local culture, diversity and heritage: In honour of its 225th anniversary, the library hosted a Live and Learn event with local historian and author David Hemmings: “The Heart of our Town — the library at 225.”

He underscored how Niagara-on-the-Lake is significant to Canadian history — part of our national as well as our local identity. And he showed how the library deepens our sense of place, with access to books, archives and events that bring this history to life.

In this age of misinformation and fake news, learning to do research using primary and secondary verified materials reinforces critical thinking. The library helps us understand the past — this helps shape our common future.

Libraries support mental health and well being: Our library’s recreational and creative workshops help build skills, imagination and friendships. It’s still

a library with quiet and comfortable reading spaces — but it also has room for hubs of lively discussion and activity.

The library’s children’s art program, supported by the generosity of famed artist Trisha Romance, is already a favourite for kids. The Hive is the place for people of all ages to learn skills such as how to get the most out of your new iPad.

These programs, as well as book clubs and events, build our community — connecting people through activities and ideas. Statistics Canada reports that one in 10 Canadians feels lonely all the time and three in 10 feel lonely often.

The library can help. It is a safe, open, supportive space for all to enjoy.

Public libraries are symbols of democracy: The library is one of the most democratic institutions in our society. It promotes the common good and is open and accessible to everyone — for free.

In our area this can include newcomers, migrant workers and those who don’t have access to technology and resources at home.

It’s no coincidence that the new logo for the Niagara-on-the-Lake library emphasizes the word “public.” Our library’s 225 years is truly something to support and celebrate.

NOTL Public Library turns the page on 225 years

Continued from Page 11

1912, the library expanded again. Key figures in this development included Mayor Henry Paffard and author William Kirby, both long-serving board members.

By 1903, the library had more than 4,500 books and a growing membership. Dedicated librarians such as Thomas Eedson, Miss Winterbottom and Alfred Ball contributed to its success.

The collection grew steadily and deficits were covered by community subscriptions.

During the interwar years, membership waned again. To secure funding, the Town of Niagara voted in 1938 to make the library a free public institution.

Government grants followed and board members were appointed by town council and the board of

education. In 1942, William D. Caskey passed the reins to Mary Duddy. Helen Greaves and then Gerda Molson followed, with Molson serving as chief librarian for 35 years.

Under Molson’s leadership, the library embraced digital tools and community programming. A children’s area, storytelling, the Janet Carnochan Collection and public Internet access (launched in 1996) were added.

Molson famously stated, “Knowledge is absolutely essential if we are going to have a democracy that flourishes.”

By 2000, the library required a more modern space. Despite initial opposition to moving from the centre of Old Town, a new facility opened at 10 Anderson Lane during the library’s bicentennial year. Membership soared and

today more than 10,000 residents are registered members.

The current library is more than just a building — it is a welcoming space at the heart of the community.

Its services have expanded far beyond books to include flourishing book clubs, engaging programs for children, interesting lectures and workshops, a growing Library of Things and opportunities for social connection across all ages.

Whether discovering new ideas, borrowing tools, attending a talk or simply finding a quiet place to read, residents experience the library as a place where curiosity is encouraged and community thrives.

Dr. Seuss once said, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”



Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library staff member Tess Roberts-Ramos reads a story to young patrons attending a summer program at the library.

That sentiment holds true in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where the library remains a trusted and inclusive resource for learning, connection, and discovery.

Today’s library balances tradition with transformation. Books, quiet reading areas, and journals remain essential, but so too are

digital access, creative workshops and community events. The 21st-century public library is no longer just a place for reading — it’s a space for sharing, creating, and engaging.

As Groucho Marx once quipped: “I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set,

I go into the other room and read a book.”

Thanks to generations of visionary leadership and community support, Niagara-on-the-Lake’s library continues to offer that very room.

This article is a revised version of an original paper by David Hemmings.

EST. 1800

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Scan to check out highlights from the library's 225th anniversary celebration!

Celebrating 225 years together



Laura Tait
CEO, NOTL Public Library

The library and I are both celebrating big milestones this year.

For the library, it is 225 years of service to Niagara-on-the-Lake. For me, it's my first year as CEO after 16 years working here.

I began my journey with the library in 2009 and over the years I have had the privilege of seeing it grow, adapt and thrive. Being entrusted to lead an institution that has been such a meaningful part of my life and of our community is both humbling and inspiring.

From our beginnings in 1800 as a small subscription library, to the modern, welcoming community hub we are today, our mission has remained the same: to connect people with ideas,



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa hosts a storytime at the 2025 annual Summer KickOff celebrating the NOTL Public Library's 225-year history. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

stories and each other.

While much has changed over two centuries, the heart of the library is still built on relationships, curiosity and the joy of learning.

What makes our library truly special is not just the books, programs or buildings. It is the people.

Every day I am grateful for our dedicated staff, whose creativity, skill and hard work make the library

a place where everyone feels welcome.

I am also deeply thankful for our library board, whose vision, guidance and unwavering support ensure we remain strong, forward-thinking and rooted in our community's needs.

And I am grateful for the close and collaborative relationship we share with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, whose ongoing

partnership allows us to serve our residents effectively and plan confidently for the future. Together, our staff, board and municipal partners form the foundation for everything we achieve.

Our 225th anniversary has been a year of transformation.

We introduced a refreshed visual identity that honours our history while embrac-

ing the future. This new look reflects the warmth and inclusivity we strive for in everything we do.

At the same time, we launched a redesigned website that makes it easier than ever to discover programs, explore our collections and connect with staff, whether you are at home, on the go or in the library.

Looking to the future, we are expanding our services to the villages of NOTL. This will make it easier for residents in all parts of town to access the same high-quality resources, programs and collections that our main library offers.

I'm excited to launch Read It Forward, a new campaign that lets you honour someone or something meaningful while contributing to the library's collection.

With a minimum donation of \$30, the library will place a personalized bookplate in a new title from our collection, creating a lasting tribute while enriching our shelves for the whole community. You can choose a subject area that reflects the person being honoured, such as Canadian fiction,

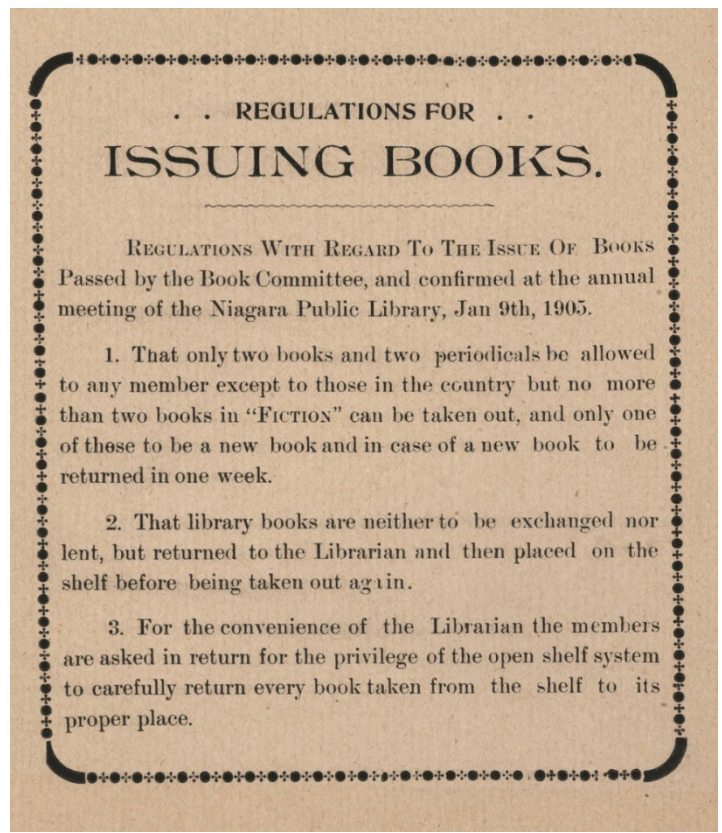
home & garden, history, science & technology, sports, or art.

Each honouree or their family will receive a card acknowledging your gift and you will receive a tax receipt and notification of the book(s) purchased.

Whether celebrating a birthday, retirement or anniversary, or remembering a loved one, Read It Forward is a meaningful way to give back, support the library's collection and ensure stories are shared with the community. For more information, visit the library's website or stop by and talk to one of our staff.

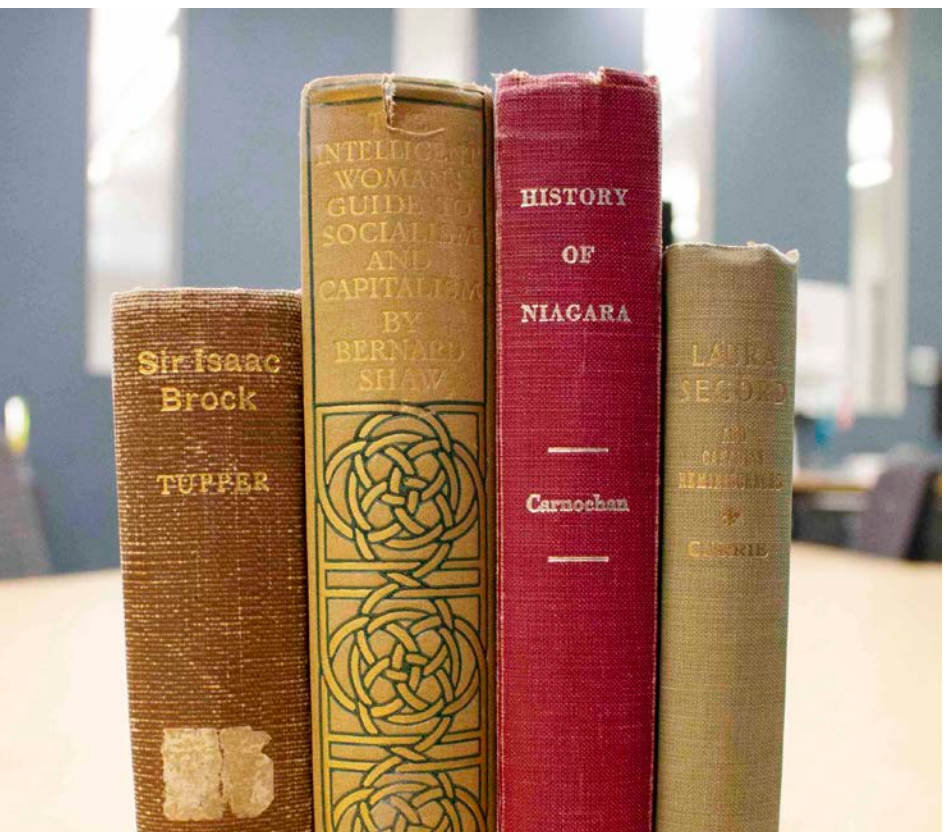
As we mark our 225th year, this campaign is just one example of how we celebrate where we've been while looking ahead to where we're going.

I see a library that will continue to evolve, guided by our values, strengthened by our partnerships and inspired by the needs of our community. Thank you for being part of our story. I look forward to writing the next chapter together.



Left: Strict rules were in force at the library in 1905. Patrons could borrow a maximum of two books and two periodicals at a time, unless they lived "in the country."

Right: The library's collection started out with just 80 titles. By 1805, the collection had grown to 344 volumes, including a wide range of works on religion and morality, literature, history, geography, and travel. Some of those are now in the NOTL Museum, but familiar titles remain, including books by historic figures like Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock and library founder Janet Carnochan.



So much to love about NOTL's library

What do you love and appreciate about the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library? The library asked patrons and visitors for their thoughts and reflections. Here is a selection of what they had to say.

So many memories doing homework in the old library in the town hall (old courthouse) before it moved to the NOTL Community Centre.

I love our library because it's a calm and fun place also filled with the best books.
— **Regan, age 1**

I love the library because it's relaxing and full of knowledge.
— **Sarah**

I love our library because when we come here I like to find a new adventure in a book, and this is a place to come to enjoy.

Many events happened in the Queenston Library (as I knew it growing up), a library, square dancing, Queenston Art Show every spring, community meetings, celebrations, voting station, bake sales, and I am sure I am missing some. Lots of cherished memories.

I love our library because there are lots of books and I love to read. Each time I come I hope to find a new adventure.
— **Nelly, age 10**

You get to see new books!
I love the library because of the awesome books and fun activities.

The NOTL library is the one place I can truly relax and find peace. It is my comfort — my happy place. Thank you to all the fantastic staff.

I moved to town six years ago and one of the first things I checked out was the library. I've always loved libraries and ours is a delight. It's so spacious, airy and welcoming. There's a great selection of books and even more that can be ordered from other regional libraries. The staff are great, very friendly and helpful.
— **Sylvia Kaptein**



Author Linwood Barclay signs books for patrons at a sold-out Wine & Words fundraiser event at Caroline Cellars in May 2025, organized by the NOTL library.

The library is not just a building that houses books, computers or audio/visual material but rather a peaceful place to relax, learn, interact and enjoy the privileges of borrowing without the expectation of spending money. It is a community within a community where individuals can meet any time to socialize or exchange ideas and talents. The library is a welcomed escape from the busy world outside.
— **Lois Stevens**

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful library in our town.
— **Rosemund Hennessey**

My kids just love their programs with Miss Sharon! Thank you @notllibrary.

I love our library because there are very nice books that I can read and kid-friendly activities.

Amy will be missed. She gets me great reads.

I love our library because its activities and books make it another exciting world full of adventure.
— **Cain, age 12**

There are lots of books and colouring.
— **Seth, age 4**

It brings the community together.

Laura is always kind and helpful.

I love the selection, the staff and I have a nine-year-old so the kids' programs are wonderful. She gets to explore and find new creative ways to express herself.
— **Meaghan Garth**

There are always events happening, there is always something to do. Even if there isn't, there are so many books to choose from.

I really like the wide contrast of books, I get books here all the time and they are all really good. I like how you can get books from all the libraries and send them here, So when I am deep into a series it's not just one spot I can get the books from. I can get them from anywhere.

I like the library because you don't always have to read a book. There are other options, like colouring or going on an iPad or doing other things.

My daughter and I love coming because there are lots of books but it also just feels like an extension of home. Everyone knows us and it just feels really comfortable and fun to come. My daughter loves coming to Creative Station, which she calls art class and we make sure that we come every single week.

I love that they share stories. I love Book Buzz with Miss Sharon.

I like the art programs and books.

We love coming to the library, all the programs are fantastic, my kids are always happy to be here. Everybody is all so welcoming!

I love reading books and coming to art class every week and colouring.

I love that the library is always so peaceful. There is always stuff going on. It's not like a boring library. There are always new books to check out!

There are too many things to count. The atmosphere is always so welcoming, the staff is fantastic and just the fact that not only can you borrow books but you can borrow magazines, audiobooks and so many other items.

I love that the library is local and free. It's a place you can't put a price on.

It is a community hub and there is always so much going on here. I'm impressed at how the library is expanded into the community and being in other parts of our villages.

The staff is always friendly and helpful.
— **Carol**

A great environment for learning and socializing.

Provides fabulous programs that are great fun.

Social Interaction.

You can ask staff to obtain any book from other libraries in Ontario and they can usually get it for you.

It's just about the only indoor public place where you can visit and spend time free of charge (and without music), peacefully following your curiosity and interests.

The library provides our book club with copies we ask for and has been doing so for almost 10 years.

My brother and I spent many happy hours in the basement of the courthouse library, especially on Saturdays when we would walk or ride our bikes to town and choose our books from the library. Happy memories in libraries like this one cemented my desire to become a librarian when I grew up.

It has always been a welcoming place where I could take my children, whether for toddler time, maker space or paint workshops, the summer reading program, papercuts book club, or just to get out of the house on a rainy day. I am an avid reader and I love the ability to get interlibrary loans when our location doesn't have the book I want. We've been regular patrons of the library since moving here 20 years ago and we love it.

Read It Forward

Celebrate someone special by sharing the joy of reading with your community.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can get involved!



EST. 1800

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library has connected community



Above: When Mary Duddy became NOTL's librarian in 1942, the collection had reached 10,070 books.
Right: Col. John Butler Public School Choir performs at the library's bicentennial celebration on Queen Street.



Left top: A friendly moment between chief librarian Gerda Molson and staff member Ingrid Regier.
Left bottom: Children's librarian Gerrie Barnim and chief librarian Gerda Molson, along with fellow staff members Linda Potter and Adrie Janzen during the last night at the library's courthouse location.
Above: Chief librarian Gerda Molson describes some of the library's features (old courthouse expansion 1973) to MPP Bob Welch, MP Ken Higson and Niagara-on-the-Lake's lord mayor at the time, Jacob Froese.



Board members share why they love the library

Members of the NOTL library’s board of directors reflect on why they love the library.

Wayne Scott:

“As an avid reader, I cherish the books, of course, but what truly excites me are the wonderful programs where authors and experts share their wisdom and experience with us in intimate, small-group settings.”

Daryl Novak:

“Public libraries continue to evolve, and ours is no exception. Libraries were never about books. That was the only way to share information and now we have so many formats!”

Dr. Robin Williams:

“Our NOTL library is magical. The shelves are lined with books which through their words stimulate thoughts and ideas in our brains — all in a beautiful sunlit space with a symphony of young and old voices. I love our community library.”

Susan Elliott:

“When I walk into our library, I enjoy the fact that I’m about to read, discuss, learn or discover something new that makes me think.”

Heloisa Varesio:

“The library was the very first place my family visited when we moved to the region. Everyone is so helpful and welcoming, we felt at home right away.”

Katie Wiens:

“What I love about the library is that it shaped my childhood and now enriches our family through programs, books and history. It is where we learn, belong and grow together.”

Benoit Beausoleil:

“I like the library for The Hive, family events, social activities, and diverse books. It brings people of multiple generations together, inspiring creativity, learning, and community connection.”



A portrait of NOTL Public Library founder Janet Carnochan by E. Wyly Grier, done in 1920-21. COURTESY OF THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM.



Congratulations to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library on an incredible milestone. Thank you for 225 years of stories, learning, and community!



Library used to be in old Court House

Clockwise starting from right:

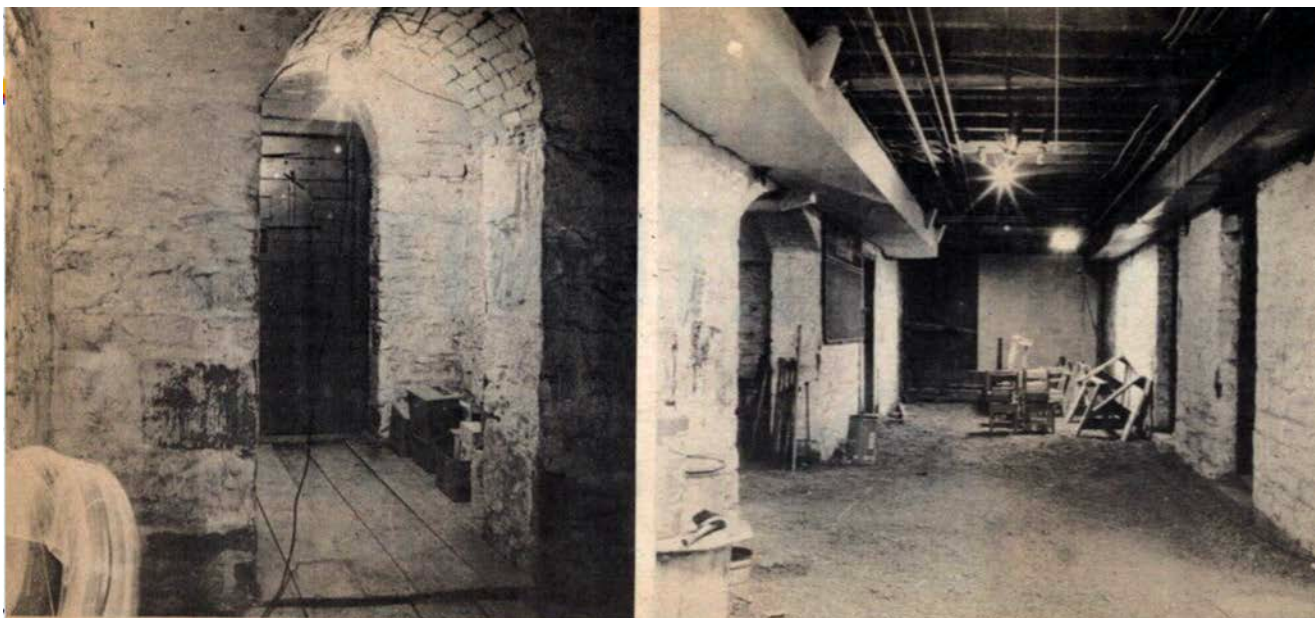
These two newspaper photos show some of the 1973 expansion at the courthouse.

The Jack Lutz house on Creek Road was used as a temporary library location in Virgil during the renovation of the courthouse. A group of women from Virgil volunteered their time at this temporary site.

The Children's section was tucked away in the basement of the courthouse.

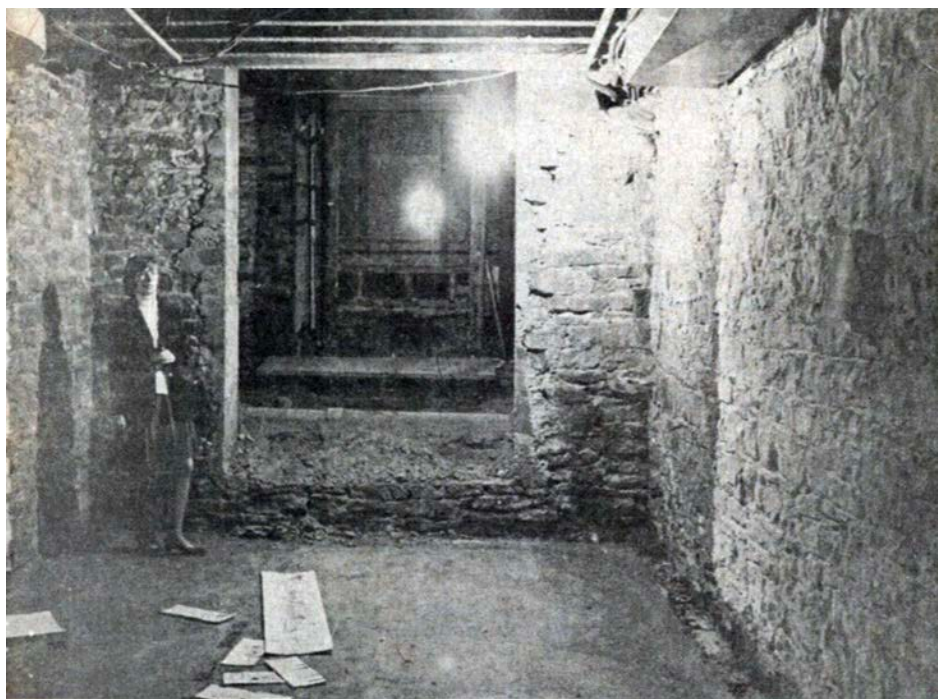
The Adult section at the courthouse library site. "The lofty, spacious room, once the Market Building with its Doric pillars formerly marking the position of the stalls, gives now an air of Grecian architecture," according to Janet Carnochan.

Gerda Molson stands in the expansion site of the courthouse library in 1973.

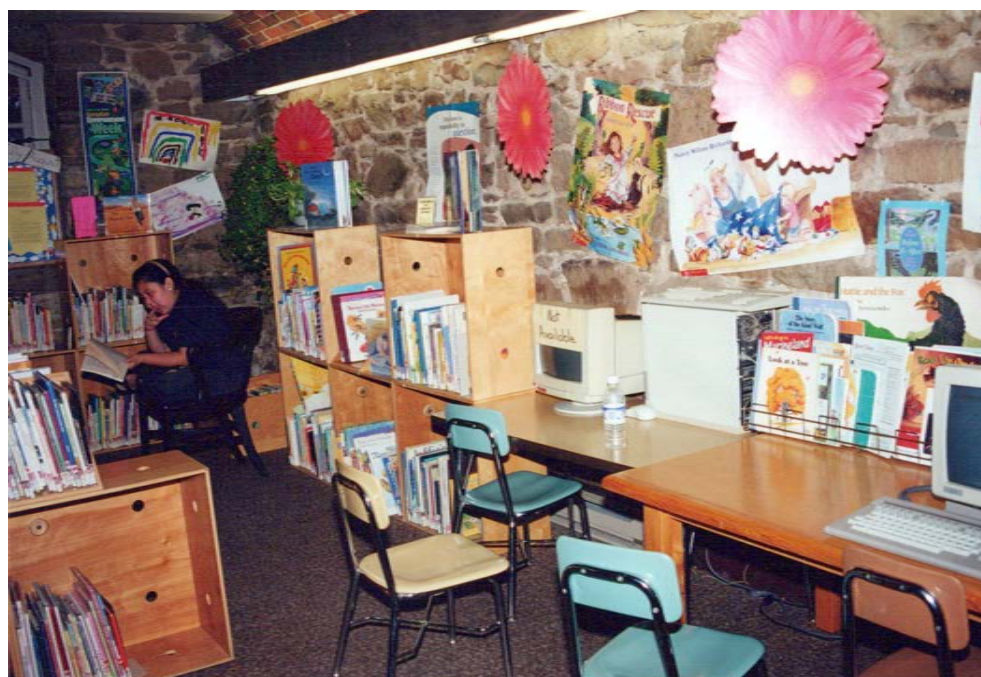


Both front and back areas of the Town Hall are undergoing extensive rehabilitation work. The front portion is being renovated to become a Civic reception centre while the rear alterations are being done to expand the Library. Both projects are aided by LIP grants and local Town Council grants. Photo at left shows one of two prisoners' cells used in the days when the Town Hall was the County Court and jail. Note the perfect brick archway. So the rooms in which 19th century peace-breakers languished will now be used to store some rare volumes in the possession of the library where

browsers may browse and historians carry out their research. Photo at right depicts a former rifle range used by the old High School. This will now become an auditorium where arts and crafts will be taught and will be used also for various community exercises such as lectures, film shows, meetings and similar events. It is expected there will be accommodation for about 100 persons. The photographs were taken to illustrate progress of the work under the LIP program. Photos, Courtesy of the Library.



This is Jack Lutz house which will serve as a temporary library for Virgil residents. The library will be opened on Thursday Feb. 15, and tentative arrangements are for opening hours from 2 to 4:30 and 7 to 8:30 p.m., every Thursday thereafter. Members of NDSS Drama Club recently engaged themselves in painting the interior of the building.





THANK YOU

to all our partners, volunteers, and donors for your incredible support of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. We couldn't do it without you!

Special section sponsors below:



Greaves congratulates the NOTL Public Library on 225 years of stories, learning and community! Here's to many more sweet chapters ahead.

GREAVES JAMS & MARMALADES
55 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The
Lake Report

CONGRATS ON 225 YEARS.
HERE'S TO 225 MORE!



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

UPPER CANADA'S OLDEST LIBRARY.
A PART OF OUR LOCAL HERITAGE AND FUTURE.





TONY BALDINELLI
MP | NIAGARA FALLS—NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca • tonybaldinelli.mp.ca • 905-353-9590



**225 years of tails at
the NOTL Library?**
Nice work!
(That's like 1,500 cat years)



**Message cordially approved by DaBoss and Catsby*

1630 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil
905-468-9555



**ALWAYS READ
ON A FULL
STOMACH.**



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

What: Notice of a **Public Meeting** for the **updated/revised Official Plan**
(under Section 26 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, as amended)

When: **Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

Where: In-person at Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, or electronically via the directions below.

Regarding: Official Plan Update – Final Draft Official Plan

What is this?

In 2019, the Town adopted a new Official Plan; however, this Plan was not approved by the Region at the time. With the many changes to planning policies at the Provincial level, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is now reviewing and updating the 2019 Official Plan as required under the Planning Act to ensure conformity with Provincial policies and plans, as well as the Niagara Official Plan (now the Official Plan of the municipality following removal of planning responsibilities at the Regional level). The community’s vision for growth and development is implemented through an Official Plan which is a land use planning document for the entire municipality. Town Council must conduct an Open House and Public Meeting to receive comments on the proposed revised Official Plan. The Open Houses were held on October 15 and 16, 2025.

The Official Plan Update supports the theme areas of: Growth Management, Housing, Employment/Economy, Climate Change, Natural Environment, Cultural Heritage, Agriculture, Indigenous Engagement, Transportation/Infrastructure, and Urban Design. Previous Public Information Centres for the Official Plan Update were held in March 2025, April 2025.

Dialogue is encouraged:

You are invited to attend the Public Meeting to gather information and provide input regarding this matter. **Public Meetings can be attended in-person or electronically.**

To **participate electronically** at the Public Meeting, you must register in advance with the Clerks Department (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266). You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the Public Meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone. You are encouraged to register as soon as possible, but prior to 12 noon on Friday November 24, 2025.

To **participate in-person**, please attend the meeting as scheduled above. Registration with the Clerk is encouraged to help facilitate the meeting, but not required. Please note that those registered will be first to speak.

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

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

For more information:

A copy of the Final Draft Official Plan may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/official-plan-review>, the project webpage at <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/officialplan>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall.

Please contact Fiona Main, Senior Policy Planner, at 905-468-3266 ext 331 or via email at fiona.main@notl.com if additional information is required.

Following a decision of Council to adopt the Official Plan, the Plan will be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.

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

The Notice of Public Meeting of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Draft Official Plan is pursuant to Section 17 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, as amended.

The Final Draft Official Plan was prepared pursuant to Section 17 and Section 26 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, as amended.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 23, 2025

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk



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



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 144 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



#50: Bring the handwritten ‘thank you’ card back. It offers a greater gift of kindness when you hand write a thank you. It is so nice to receive these.

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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“If there is one thing that is constant in this world, it is the power of music.”

- Josh Groban

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

Have a lead on a story?

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



Autumn rolls in like a cool breeze

Autumn welcomes guests at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where Thanksgiving decorations — pumpkins, wreaths, and fall blooms — grace the heritage entrance of this 1864 landmark.

DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Opinion

Rebels target ‘worst council ever’



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist

Soon a murderous excavator and dump trucks will move onto a prime street in Old Town. Then it’s curtains for a heritage property, an expansive home and garage, plus half a residential block.

When the iconic, historic streetscape sports a hole with hoarding around it, things get real. The next three years could be hell on wheels for Queen Street businesses, everybody living between there and the water, plus all the nice people visiting from Pittsburgh.

The guys we elected to oversee heritage (arguably the biggest asset NOTL has) voted to demolish these properties. Full council did, too.

The houses will be pulverized so the hungry machine can then chew through the historic Queen Street-facing Royal George, plus the heritage property beside it. Victoria will be toast.

So far the Shaw’s \$50-million plan to erect a towering, boxy, massive industrial-theatrical complex in the middle of our most precious preserved vintage real estate has cruised through the process



The first heavy equipment in the Shaw mega-project rolled onto Victoria Street on Monday morning. GARTH TURNER

without a political whimper. Without an approved site plan. And no construction plan.

Trust us, they say.

“NOTL is well past the point of no return and this clown council has many more months to further its decline,” says a steamy note in my inbox.

“Furthermore, in spite of the sideline efforts to attract a new slate of candidates for the next municipal election, I predict, with their well-oiled email machine and support group lists, the majority of the cabal will be re-elected.”

Well, don’t count on it.

By election day, Old Town will be a war zone. The Parliament Oak hotel will be rising in the middle of a residential block, the glassy Garrison Village airport hotel with its 42 rental vacation townhouses will be jammed with cars, the old hospital site will still be a reminder of what community health care used to be while \$600-a-night unhosted tourist rentals

will be forcing out renting families.

And, amid it all, will be the rebs.

Almost exactly a year before the next election a quietly rebellious throng is organizing, plotting and swelling.

Last night the NOTL Residents Association chose a slate of directors. Its membership has gone from zero to almost 400. A list of 19 potential rebellious candidates has been drawn up. Many have been contacted. Some have already said they’re eager for the fight.

“We’re not waiting until the last minute to take this action,” says founder Stuart McCormack, “because that just doesn’t make sense.”

“What I’ve heard from people who are long-term residents — and I’m talking second- and third-generation families in Niagara-on-the-Lake — is that this is the worst council that we’ve ever had.”

Developers hold too much sway, residents say. The lord mayor is a part-timer and

career real estate executive. Heritage watchdogs have turned into compliant demo bunnies. Whole streets have been hollowed out of residents and replaced by folks in SUVs with Ohio and Michigan plates. Condo towers threaten to turn Glendale into Milton. And the excavator tracks closer.

The NOTL rebels’ plan is to have candidates identified and in place well before the race. There may be a slate. There will certainly be public engagements — forums, Q&As, debates. There will be money, as well as passion.

“The whole raison d’etre of the organization,” says McCormack, “is that people feel they haven’t been heard. And that feeling continues.”

The rebel leader (and lawyer) vows this won’t bring party politics to our bucolic little garden. But it will bring change. And transparency.

Meanwhile the resistance continues. The group is raising the legal alarm over water and flooding on the Parliament Oak site. It is scrutinizing the legality of the Royal George approval process. And it is building a new model of governance. From the bottom up. As local leadership should be.

“Like the mayor of New York once said,” McCormack adds, “the people don’t care about politics. They just want the streets cleaned.”

Town hall, too.

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

garth@garth.ca



MOVIE NIGHTS DESERVE BETTER CHAIRS



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Town crier embodies the spirit of Old Town

Dear editor:

This town sure has its landmarks, but what truly gives Niagara-on-the-Lake its soul are the people who bring its history and spirit to life. One such person is our town crier.

Clad in his crimson coat and brass-buckled hat, bell in hand, he marches down Queen Street with the confident swagger of someone who owns the moment.

His voice booms with authority, yet his eyes twinkle with mischief, delighting visitors and loyal locals alike. He turns every proclamation into a performance.

Bold and theatrical, he is a one-man stage production and the heartbeat of this town. A blend of historian and entertainer, he embodies the town's spirit in every dramatic pause and emphatic shout, his performance a living echo of history.

But beneath the public flourish, there's a depth and quiet intrigue that hints at a person as layered as the town he calls to.

As a tour guide, I have the joy of bringing visitors from far and wide to experience the charm of Old Town. Without fail, the highlight



Letter writer Debra Rowe has nothing but praise for town crier Tom Pekar, who she says is a staple of Old Town.

of every tour is when our town crier hops aboard my chartered bus at the Fort George parking lot to offer his spirited welcome.

"Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! My lordships, my worships, my parsnips, and my fish and chips... my earlesses, my dutchesses, my princesses, and my mistresses!"

In full regalia, he rhymes off the many sights and unique treasures of our postcard-perfect town, leaving every visitor instantly aware that they have indeed arrived somewhere very special.

As part of his welcome, he paints a vivid picture of what makes this town so beloved — "The prettiest

town in North America, home of the Shaw Festival, a rich variety of music and art and cherry, peach and strawberry festivals..."

He invites visitors to bicycle to local wineries with gourmet restaurants, golf at the oldest golf course, take a horse-drawn carriage through streets steeped in history, or simply people-watch while enjoying an ice cream or a coffee.

In doing so, he becomes a living billboard for the small businesses that make Niagara-on-the-Lake flourish.

To me, he is Old Town. His booming voice, infectious enthusiasm, and love for this community weave

together the living history that makes Niagara-on-the-Lake so enchanting.

When I think of this town, I think of our town crier standing proudly on the Courthouse steps, part of the same beloved landscape as the gazebo by the lake, the cenotaph, the gracious homes, and the beautiful gardens that define Old Town.

One day, his voice will fall silent — and when it does, we will miss that which completed our picture-perfect postcard and how deeply it was woven into the spirit of this town.

Unlike the heritage buildings we can protect for future generations, unique treasures like our town crier must be appreciated in real time. Once he is gone, we cannot resurrect what he brought to life. His presence, his spirit, his persona — they are irreplaceable.

Let's celebrate him now, with the appreciation and affection he has wholeheartedly earned while we still have the privilege of hearing his voice ring out through Old Town.

**Debra Rowe
NOTL**

Hospital feedback doesn't represent everyone

Dear editor:

I recently attended the NPG Planning Inc. open house at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, expecting to see a presentation of the online survey results and an opportunity to ask questions in a public forum.

Instead, the consultation consisted of a series of storyboards, each summarizing portions of the data. While the materials were visually well presented, the event felt more like a display than a discussion.

In the hour I spent there, only a handful of people came through, and few opportunities were provided to engage in meaningful dialogue.

What was not immediately clear from the information presented is how limited the participation actually was.

Only eight people took part in the community



Letter writer Jennifer Reimer says the town needs to listen to all about the former hospital site at 176 Wellington St.

walks. The morning town hall session in the summer was cancelled because too few participants attended, and the later session drew only 18 people.

If town council and the lord mayor intend to base major decisions on this consultation, the process should truly reflect the views of the broader community.

There were also no safeguards in place to

prevent individuals or interest groups from submitting multiple surveys, and nothing in the presentation addressed how this risk was mitigated.

Even more concerning, 80 per cent of survey respondents were aged 54 or older and reported having no children.

Considering that only 54 per cent of the community is aged 54 and older, these

survey results are not representative.

While older residents are a vital part of our community, this demographic alone does not represent the full spectrum of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents.

We should be cautious in treating this data as a definitive measure of community opinion. It is incomplete and skewed toward retirees.

Council would be wise to weigh these results against other recent surveys, studies, and public feedback gathered over the last few years.

The former hospital at 176 Wellington St. is far too important, both the building and the public land, to determine its future based on such limited and unbalanced information.

True consultation means listening to the whole community, not just a fraction of it.

**Jennifer Reimer
Old Town**



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

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

Last issue category: IN THE MOOD FOR

Clue: Recipes for Piedmontese bagna cauda dipping sauce call for these little fishies.

Answer: What are anchovies?

Answered first by: Sue Rautenberg

Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Jane Morris, Kimberly Amaral, Bob Wheatley, Lynda Collet, Jim Dandy, Nancy Rocca, Esther VanGorder, KC King, Jeff Lake, Edna Groff, Claudia Grimwood, Ken Dewar, Sheila Meloche, David Spencer, Katie Reimer, Sylvia Wiens, Howard Jones

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

Special Performance - One Night Only!

Anne of Green Gables, now in her 60s, delves into her journals to reminisce and reflect on her colourful life and her personal losses during World War 1.

"WW1 part is beautiful, sad and thoughtful."

Legion

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NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

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~Older & Wiser~

'Green Gables' treasured memories come to life!
Includes WW1 Sing-a-Long

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for both shows

Maja Bannerman
Music: Rusty McCarthy

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Takeaways from Brian MacKay-Lyon’s lecture on **good design**



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

I was privileged to attend a lecture by the eminent Canadian architect, Brian MacKay-Lyons at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts. For those unaware, MacKay-Lyons is the recipient of multiple awards for his work and is internationally recognized for his unique architectural expressions which he once described as being “rooted in culture, but contemporary.” In his 2015 acceptance speech of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada’s Gold Medal, MacKay-Lyons asserted the importance of this award is “to reaffirm a way of making architecture about place — its landscape, climate and material culture” and, “because it recognizes a body of work rather than the fashion of the day.” And, as the content of

his presentation illustrated, these two tenets are central to the philosophy expressed in his own portfolio. Generally describing architectural design geared to the fashion of the day as terrible, he blamed an education system that promulgates expression of ego over the discipline of the craft, informed by a sense of place. He spoke of establishing an educational summer design-build program as an effort to save young architects from having “their souls swallowed by corporations” by big developers’ requirement for assembly-line mediocrity at the expense of good architectural design. It’s telling that MacKay-Lyons, whose main body of work is unabashedly contemporary, adheres strictly to a sense of place derived from understanding its existing (or historic) vernacular materials, building culture and forms. Consider his design of the B2 Lofts building in Lunenburg, N.S. — a superb example of a contemporary interpretation of traditional vernacular building in that “place” — which MacKay-Lyons introduced by saying, “I hate gambrel roofs but, in this place, it was the right decision.”



The owner of a property at 240 Gate St., a circa 1820 Georgian house, is planning two additions to the home. Columnist Brian Marshall says it needs to be rethought. SOURCED

Moreover, I observe that not only does his body of work invariably speak to “place identity” as outlined in this column on Oct. 8, but each one and every one of his projects incorporates all of the core principles of “good” design as we defined Oct. 16. Simply put, he is both a credit to his discipline and a creative tour de force. Would that more architects might follow his example. Which brings us to considering an architectural design proposed for our town. As a preface, I have made it a rule in this column not to “house-shame” an owner-occupied residential building — no matter how inappropriate or bad the

architecture happens to be. However, proposed architectural plans are just lines on paper and remain subject to both criticism and owner-directed change. Let’s take a look at a design proposed for the property at 240 Gate St., brought before the municipal heritage committee in their Oct. 1 meeting. As background, the applicant had presented and received a permit to add two additions to this circa 1820 Georgian house in 2020. However, due to the contemplated hotel expansion on the easterly shouldering property, the owner(s) wished to revisit the permit to create a larger separation “wall” between their resi-

dential property and said expansion. Therefore, a new design was offered to the committee, increasing the addition’s height and length. While the owner’s desire to create separation is completely understandable, the new design should have taken this application completely off the rails. The 1820s building has a gable roof and the 2020 permitted western (right) addition has a gambrel roof but the new design proposes adding a third roof style (mansard) on the easterly addition — adversely impacting at least six of eight core design principles. It will result in a disjointed, haphazard and cluttered street presentation.

The new design proposes a front dormer on the easterly addition, completely out of scale with the size of the addition’s contribution to the facade. Furthermore, the full height openings (replete with the Juliette balcony element) dwarf and adversely minimize the modest openings on both the historic facade and those on the western addition while diminishing the heritage assets of the historic 1820s building. We could go on, but suffice it to say, the new design has little that will result in a good piece of built architecture. But, despite an alternative design offered by one qualified committee member to correct the shortcomings of the proposal, it was recommended without change. Say what? So, I would implore the owner to take a sober second thought vis-a-vis the design. Right now it’s just “lines on paper” but, once built, you (and everyone else) will have to live with the building’s legacy in the neighbourhood. Brian Marshall is a NOTL realtor, author and expert consultant on architectural design, restoration and heritage.



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A short drive to Elora, but a **total change of attitude**



ROSS'S RAMBLINGS

Ross Robinson
Columnist

I picked up a copy of the Wellington Advertiser at our wonderful community centre, and enjoyed a relaxed read of Wellington County's weekly paper. Yes, less than two hours away, driving through areas of Ontario we tend to take for granted. In fact, we generally have no idea what is going on over there. Sort of around Guelph, including the wee towns of Elora, Erin, Puslinch, Hillsburgh and St. Jacobs, to name just a few of many. Wellington County is a county and census division located in southwestern Ontario, Canada, and is part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Are you impressed yet? The county

consists of two towns and five townships, with its seat in the City of Guelph, which is geographically within the county but administered independently. To a humble Rambler, this sounds like a sure fire excuse for several bureaucracies. All of the employees hopefully endeavour to deliver services to seven unique towns and townships, as well as some to the City of Guelph. Whew. By now, you may be curious about the direction of this week's column. Easy. The diametrically different attitudes of The Lake Report and the Wellington Advertiser. Our local NOTL journal tends to be replete with important issues reported by professional journalists and no shortage of well-qualified experts on many subjects: The Niagara Regional Native Centre facing challenges, the future of the old hospital site, and strongly worded letters to the editor regarding property development issues. Brian Marshall and Architext, and Dr. William Brown,



Ross Robinson says NOTLers need to chill a little bit when it comes to development and other things. SOURCED

dragging us up to a higher level of thought about artificial intelligence. And so much more, often with a hint of aggressiveness. Residing here is certainly not for the intellectual or philosophical faint of heart. Over in Wellington County, the front page of their weekly paper featured a complete and inspiring description of the town of Erin's 175th fall agricultural fair. A big and happy picture of young Lottie Whyte and her cow Maisie getting ready to head into the show barn for the championship judging and awarding of colourful ribbons. On page seven, there was an interesting article describing how the Puslinch councillors hope the automated speed enforcement cameras will stay in place, as the program is working to create safer streets. Here in NOTL, we cut them down. The general tone of the Wellington Advertiser was positive. "We are all in this life together, so let's work together and give each other the benefit of the doubt." There was only one brief mention of recent shenanigans during a recent meeting of the Elora Business Improvement Association. Have you visited Elora?

Like our NOTL, people from far and wide become effusive while talking about how much they love the unique ambience of the town. As an aside, NEOB Lavender has retail outlets in both towns. And, a fabulous farm here in our town. Out by the airport, on Niagara Stone Road. Are you wondering where this edition of Ross's Ramblings is heading this week? Simply put, to the word "attitude." Things happen, and our attitude generally dictates our reactions to the events. Over in Wellington County, articles in their weekly paper clearly indicate a populace generally satisfied with their lives. It seems like people respect each other, are content with the decisions and directions of their elected officials, and get out and about to enjoy what is available. A headline on page nine of their paper read "No objections to residential development at Puslinch public meeting." Just imagine such a headline here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. OK, so we will not hold our breath.

And a help-wanted ad for 260 chicken catchers and chicken hangers to work in various parts of Ontario, placed by Moonfleet Poultry Services Ltd.. This must be a big business enterprise, whereas we in Niagara tend to think the agricultural world revolves around vineyards and greenhouse agriculture. It's only a couple of hours' drive to Wellington County, but a sea change in attitudes are reflected in The Lake Report and The Wellington Advertiser. Here in Niagara, we seem to be impatient, unhappy and often down on each other. Often a bit mean. So much more respect, civility, empathy and patience over in Wellington County. Reading between the lines of their weekly newspaper, one senses a certain contentment. They know they have a good thing going, and visitors reinforce this feeling. Spend some time with me on Queen Street, watching and listening to visitors. I hesitate to use the word again, but let's determine to be kinder to each other here in Canada's prettiest town.

Time for Ford government to **get serious**



Wayne Gates
Special to The Lake Report

On Monday, Oct. 20, the Ontario Legislature finally returned to work after a 19-week summer break — one of the longest in provincial history. That's 133 days away from Queen's Park. So far this year, we've only sat for five weeks total. While the Ford government was away from Queen's Park, families across Ontario were facing overlapping crises: a health-care system stretched to the breaking point, skyrocketing costs of living, and new uncertainty in trade relations with the U.S. that threatens tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing. This was no time to be away. Front-line health-care workers have been sounding the alarm: burnout, overcrowded ERs and long wait

times. Over 100,000 people in Niagara are without a family doctor. Families are paying more for food, rent, and fuel, while wages cannot keep up with the cost of living. Farmers, small businesses, and tourism operators are struggling to stay afloat. Meanwhile, U.S.-Canada tensions are putting pressure on Ontario jobs, industry and cross-border trade. While people faced these challenges, the Premier took five months off from the legislature. Ontario families didn't get 19 weeks off. Neither did health-care workers, farmers, or tourism workers. When I returned to Queen's Park this week, my message to Doug Ford was simple: the break is over. It's time to get to work. For me, that work starts with Niagara. Our economy relies on agriculture, viticulture and tourism — industries that define who we are. But rising costs and labour shortages threaten their survival. Supporting these sectors isn't just good for Niagara; it strengthens Ontario's economy. That's why I'll keep



MPP Wayne Gates says vacation time is over for the Ford government.

pushing for full, two-way, all-day GO Train service to Niagara. This isn't a luxury — it's essential infrastructure that would bring visitors, support businesses, ease congestion, protect the environment and connect people to jobs and opportunities. Promises have been made for years. It's time for shovels in the ground and trains on the tracks. Health care remains the top concern in Niagara. Roughly 140,000 people here don't have a family doctor. Too many wait hours in ERs or travel outside the region for basic care. Our health-care workers have done everything they can with limited resources. They need support now.

Ontario must invest in recruiting and retaining doctors, supporting nurses and properly staffing hospitals and clinics. This can't wait. Beyond these priorities, I'll keep fighting to pass my private member's bills: providing prostate-specific antigen testing for prostate cancer to save lives through early detection, creating an Ontario caregiver support benefit to help unpaid caregivers, and fixing the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board deeming system that leaves injured workers living in poverty. This work is urgent. But none of it can happen if the government keeps taking months off from Queen's Park while Ontarians struggle. People are tired of broken promises and political games. They want a government that shows up and delivers real solutions. The summer break is over. It's time for the Ford government to get serious. Ontario can't afford more delays. Wayne Gates is the member of provincial parliament for the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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Old hospital’s fate will define NOTL’s future

Dear editor:
David Israelson’s editorial captured exactly what so many of us in Niagara-on-the-Lake have been thinking but haven’t said loudly enough (“Community cultural hub is best use for old Wellington hospital,” Oct. 16).

The future of 176 Wellington St. is a defining moment for this town. The decision will show whether we value the public good or allow a handful of private interests to dictate what happens to one of the last significant parcels of community-owned land in Old Town.

Mr. Israelson is right to remind us that this handsome, historic site belongs to the people. It was built by the community to serve its residents, and it still can.

The idea of transforming the property into an arts, education, and cultural centre represents precisely the kind of forward-thinking, community-based use this town desperately needs.

As a working mum of a young family, I came to this



The Town of NOTL is seeking feedback on what people would like for the old hospital on Wellington St.

town with high hopes for my children. I love everything good that this town represents. The sense of pride and community is an inspiration.

I want my children to grow up here and be raised in this town. We have been fortunate to meet many young families, too. Our children will be the future of this town and it is essential that we be part of the town’s plan.

The alternative proposals are not without merit, but private residences and

medical offices can be developed on countless other sites.

What cannot be replicated is the spirit and purpose of a community landmark that has gathered First Nations on its grounds for thousands of years, located in the centre of historic sites such as Fort George, the Commons, and the Indian Council House.

The proposed arts and learning centre would bring together institutions that already define the best of Niagara — Shaw Festival,

Bravo Niagara, Yellow Door Theatre, the NOTL Museum, Niagara Parks, and many others — under one roof, in partnership with Indigenous leadership and programming that would finally bring this region’s full story to light.

This is such a pivotal planning decision. It’s about what kind of community we want to be, not just today but for future generations.

Do we plan for the few, or do we plan for everyone — families, seniors, artists, educators, and the millions who come here to experience Niagara’s beauty and culture?

Mr. Israelson’s call to “get to the hub of the matter” is exactly the kind of civic courage we need right now.

Council has the chance to protect a community asset that belongs to the public and should stay that way. Let’s not sell off another part of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s story. Let’s build something that honours its past and invests in its future.

Syreeta Larkan
NOTL

The past is a foundation for the road yet travelled

Dear editor:
David Israelson’s recent editorial struck exactly the right chord (“Community cultural hub is best use for old Wellington hospital,” Oct. 16).

The future of Niagara-on-the-Lake depends on how wisely we choose to use the few remaining public assets that belong to everyone.

Redeveloping the former hospital into an arts, education and cultural centre would do more than resurrect a building; it would restore a long-standing gathering place for residents of all ages.

The recent storyboard presentation by NPG Planning Solutions was a start to spark discussion, but the respondent profile tells its own story: 80 per cent of respondents were aged 54 or older with no children.

While their voices are essential, our planning for NOTL cannot end there. We need spaces that bring together families, children, and grandparents — places where shared experiences in learning, performance, creativity, and history bind us as a community.

As a mother of two grown sons who attended Parlia-

ment Oak, I’ve watched generations of children grow up here with fewer and fewer places to gather beyond sports fields or seasonal events.

A repurposed hospital could become a welcoming year-round home for recreation, arts and education — where the story of Niagara is told, and where new stories are written by those who live, learn and create here.

To know the history of one’s region is to live intentionally — to see the past not as nostalgia, but as a foundation for the future.

The people of NOTL built the hospital to care for their residents. That spirit of service and connection should continue. It is a community asset, and it must remain one.

Mr. Israelson’s call to imagine a more inclusive, forward-looking future is exactly what this town needs. Redeveloping 176 Wellington is an opportunity to reinforce that Niagara-on-the-Lake is not only a place to retire, but also a place for all generations to live, learn, connect and belong at every age.

Toby Simmonds
Old Town

Revolting developments go all the way to the top

Dear editor:
Here are a few recent headlines from the Niagara-on-the-Lake weekly paper, The Lake Report:

“Developer given permit after beginning work illegally” (Oct. 2); “Developer seeks town’s help in \$1.4 million restoration” (Oct. 2); “Residents dispute Four Mile Creek apartment proposal” (June 5); “The Turner Report: ‘Corruption and democratic erosion.’ Not Trump — here” (June 12); “Arch-i-text: Analyzing the Shaw’s plans for the Royal George Theatre” (June 19); “The Turner Report: Chasing the elusive: Leaders who will listen” (May 22); “Developer threatens to sue councillors personally over Rand Estate” (May 15).

Niagara-on-the-Lake (once touted as “the prettiest little town in Canada”) has undergone a sea change in

the last 20 years.

Now the Old Town has become a textbook example of how a handful of mega-developers can turn a national heritage centre into a developer’s theme park.

Even the Shaw Festival has gone more than a little crazy in its efforts to tear down two historical houses in order to expand its secondary theatre.

These things just don’t happen. Not in a genuine democracy anyway. But, in Canada, our two big competing political parties have been playing leapfrog over the grim remains of a once proud nation.

As one article’s title above indicates, all this is a sorry story of political corruption, which goes along with the erosion of democratic modes of government.

And it is very significant that our Ontario premier

appears to have his finger, if not his whole hand, in the changes which are afflicting Niagara.

Doug Ford and his Royal Republican advisors have played a key role in the war against farmlands, wetlands, woodlands, heritage properties, affordable housing and the fabric of Ontario society.

Many people may be addicted to many things, but Ford appears to be addicted to the company of multi-millionaires and billionaires. He is all over them like a huge, fuzzy Care Bear.

Ford spends an inordinate amount of his time passing laws and giving speeches encouraging the decimation of the environment, the gutting of libraries and health-care systems, the high-signing of shock developments, and the need for

ordinary citizens to back off from all these matters.

He has become the role model for Niagara’s mayors.

On the other hand, Ford is all over environmentalists, concerned citizens, democratic safeguards, and the rule of law like a gorilla. While he blesses friendly billionaires with the same unction as the Pope blesses the faithful at St. Peter’s, he has no use at all for anyone who tries to defend their democratic rights.

These revolting developments in Niagara-on-the-Lake are such blatant examples of functional illiteracy in the pursuit of billions that they need to be held up in front of the faces of the voters of Ontario, that is, in front of the remaining people in this province who still read, think and care.

Kevin McCabe
St. Catharines

New hotel nail in the coffin for NOTL’s idyllic past

Dear editor:
I was recently in NOTL, my hometown, for a brief visit.

Fond memories live with me always of an idyllic childhood in our beautiful town. I was a student at Parliament Oak and Niagara District Secondary School,

spent several nights at the hospital with broken bones, and lastly visited my mother at Upper Canada Lodge.

I was absolutely appalled and saddened to see the destruction of Parliament Oak, and more so to hear that a hotel is being constructed on the site.

It’s bad enough that Queen Street is completely given over to tourists. Permitting a hotel to be constructed in the quieter, more residential area of town is a huge nail in the coffin for a once coveted location away from the madness.

Council should be

ashamed and question deeply their commitment to ensuring NOTL remains a liveable place for its citizens.

No schools, no hospital, no seniors’ residence, no brains, no heart, no vision.

Greg Davis
Ottawa



This old wine town

This Old Wine Town
Where the folks’r up as soon as the sun,
Paints the oaks a honey-sweet dun,
A tangerine amber canary that stuns—
I might just settle down
In this Old Wine Town.

Where the vineyards’r green as green can get,
Where the workers gleam with golden sweat,
Their familial love in every step—
I might just settle down
In this Old Wine Town.

Where the grapes’r sweet from Mother Earth’s palm,
Where Four Mile Creek keeps runnin’ along,
Where birds oft sing that old wine country song—
I might just settle down
In this Old Wine Town.

Where I go in my mind when missin’ warm June,
Where orchards and pines swayed in cool afternoons,
The home that I found under this Harvest Moon—
I might just settle down
In this Old Wine Town.
My heart has settled down
In this Old Wine Town.

Amélie Merrill



NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND OPEN HOUSE

What: Notice of **Complete Application** and **Open House** for a **Zoning By-law Amendment** (under Section 34 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13*, as amended).

When: **Open House: Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: Open House: Electronically via the directions below

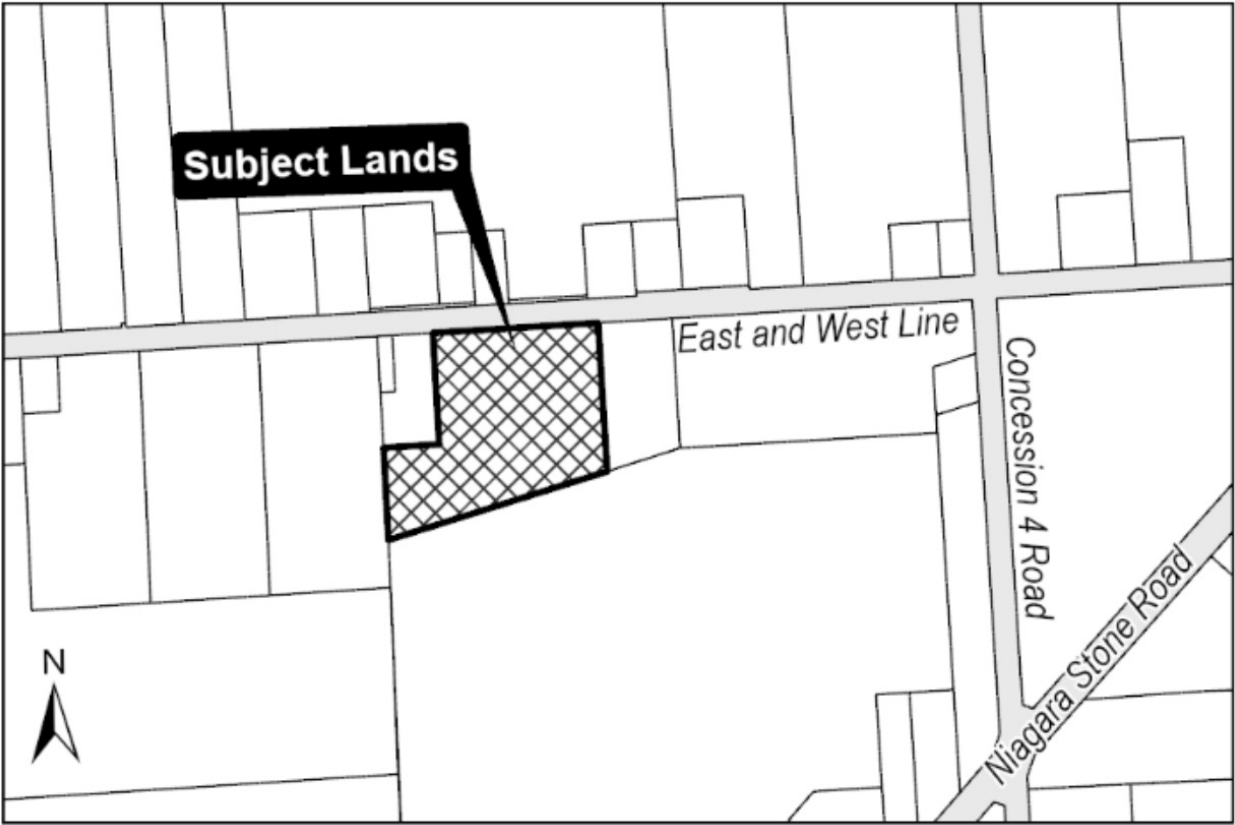
Regarding: File No. ZBA-21-2025
727 East and West Line, Niagara-on-the-Lake

What is this?

An application has been received for a Zoning By-law Amendment on the subject lands (see location map).

The application has been submitted to facilitate the severance of the existing dwelling as a residence surplus to an agricultural operation on lands known municipally as 727 East and West Line. The remnant land is proposed to be used as an agricultural supply and service facility (agriculture-related use).

The Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to amend the "Rural (A) Zone" under Town Zoning By-law 500A-74, as amended, to add site-specific provisions to permit an 'Agricultural Supply & Service Facility' and to prohibit residential uses on the remnant lands.



Dialogue is encouraged:

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

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

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

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

- **Open House** – Alex Boekestyn (alex.boekestyn@notl.com or 905-468-6430)
(register as soon as possible but prior to 12 noon on Monday, November 10, 2025)

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

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

For more information:

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall. Please contact Alex Boekestyn, Planner II, at 905-468-6430 or via email at alex.boekestyn@notl.com if additional information is required.

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

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

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

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 23, 2025
Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

- Across
9. Wiggler (9)

10. Eight singers (5)

11. Curtain calls (7)

12. Trap (7)

13. Debatable (13)

20. Equipment for the reproduction of very good sound (2-2)

21. Set apart (5)

22. Irish county (4)

23. Unpredictable (13)

32. Tolerate (7)

33. Sustain (7)

34. Awaken (5)

35. Appraising (9)
- Down
1. Gem (5)

2. Dealer in foodstuffs (6)

3. Winged child (6)

4. Sweet dessert (6)

5. Simple life form (6)

6. Dwarfed tree (6)

7. Capital of Canada (6)

8. Speak (5)

13. Publish (5)

14. Intense hatred (5)

15. Hire (5)

16. Island awarded the George Cross (5)

17. A tenth part (5)

18. Celestial body (5)

19. Faithful (5)

24. General escape (6)

25. Maxed (6)

26. Make over (6)

27. Wretchedness (6)

28. Son of one's brother or sister (6)

29. Very handsome young man (6)

30. E.g. the Romanovs (5)

31. Male deer (5)

Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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13 O U T F L O W

14 L O A D E R

15 P A

16 E R A C

17 H A S S L E

18 N E I T H E R

19 O N H P T D A

20 R O Y A L I S T

21 S U V A

22 G M I T U G L M

23 A M O N G

24 A L T E R N A T E

25 N R H K A O G R

26 S P E C T R E

27 H A W K E R

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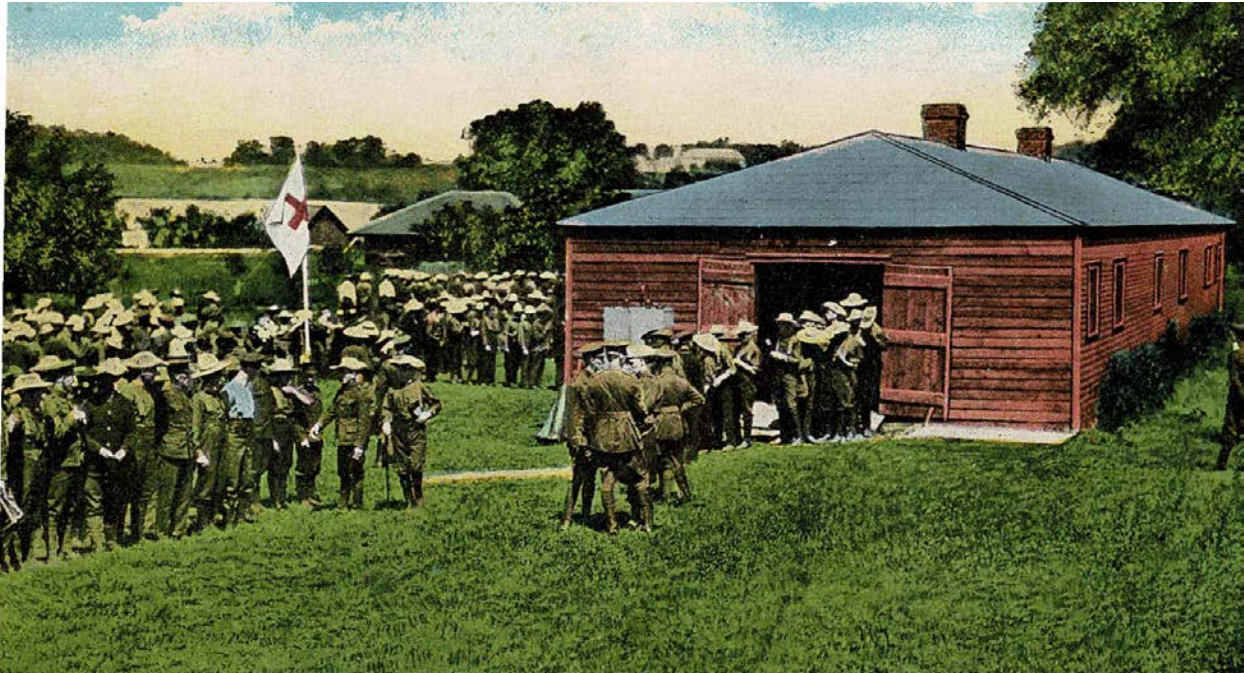
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*Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential, 2024. *Conditions apply. RE/MAX Escarpment Golfi Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.

EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Flu shot season is upon us

For many, the fall weather signals a time to get your annual flu or COVID shots. This week’s photograph shows soldiers at Niagara Camp during the First World War getting their obligatory inoculations of smallpox and typhoid (a lovely three-step process). Many of the soldiers dreaded inoculation, but it was necessary to keep them healthy. One soldier confessed that he “would sooner be in the trenches than in the inoculating room.” I hear you, fella.

THE WATERFRONT

November

Website 

EVENT CALENDAR

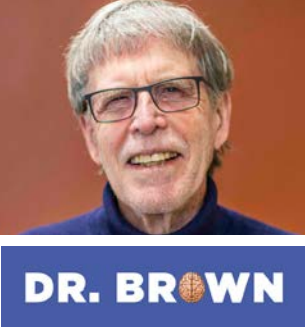
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
2	PRIME RIB DINNER 5-8:30 pm		CARD NIGHT Poker 7-9pm	Karaoke with AJ 7-9 pm	British Pub Night 5-9 pm	Date Night 3 Course Menu with Wine Pairing
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9	PRIME RIB DINNER 5-8:30 pm		CARD NIGHT Euchre Tourny 7-9pm	Music Trivia with Ryan 7-9 pm	Smoked on the Water 5-9 pm	Date Night 3 Course Menu with Wine Pairing
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16	PRIME RIB DINNER 5-8:30 pm		CARD NIGHT Cribbage Tournament 5-9 pm	Karaoke with AJ 7-9 pm	Bavarian Night 5-9 pm	Date Night 3 Course Menu with Wine Pairing
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23	PRIME RIB DINNER 5-8:30 pm		CARD NIGHT Euchre Tourny 7-9pm	Trivia with Heather 7-9 pm	When in Rome Night 5-9 pm	Date Night 3 Course Menu with Wine Pairing
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						

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Upcoming Nobel series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake library



Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Beginning in November 2017, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library has showcased the year’s Nobel Prizes, announced in October, usually beginning with the prizes in the sciences — physics, chemistry and medicine — followed by the economics, peace and literature prizes.

To no one’s surprise, peace prizes are often the most controversial, and the literature prizes sometimes bewildering or disappointing, especially if a writer with a popular following in largely English-speaking countries fails to win, such as Margaret Atwood in recent years.

The Nobel Prizes in the sciences began in 1901, and despite the emergence of a host of other worthy prizes in mathematics, engineering and recently the computer sciences, it remains the gold standard — the one, more than any other award, that is held in the highest esteem

by most scientists and engineers.

The reason is simple: the Nobel committees responsible for choosing winners in the sciences consult widely with experts around the world and do their homework.

They also have an eye toward the future and make best guesses about where fields might be going, such as quantum computing and past or current work, which lay the groundwork for certain-to-be very important goals in the future.

One example of this is this year’s prize in physics, which highlights quantum tunnelling for work carried out in the 1980s and 90s, but which is one of the keys to understanding limits to the design of silicon chip computers now and possibly the way forward in the design of quantum computers in the future.

The chemistry prize this year also represents a trend in developing tools for unravelling the structure of existing proteins by harnessing artificial intelligence, as last year’s laureates did with help from Google, or creating novel proteins or molecules for tasks as varied as creating tiny atom-molecule-sized tools or a new class of materials called metal-organic frameworks.



Nobel prize medal for medicine, Sweden, 1945.

The latter work by this year’s Nobel winners in chemistry began in the 1970s and continues to today’s growing industry with designs to trap poisonous gases, clean up pollution, capture water from dry desert air and a host of other worthy uses.

This points to another goal of the Nobel prizes: the work should be of benefit to humankind, directly or indirectly.

And so most prizes have been. That applies to all the Nobel Prizes, but is perhaps easiest to see in the peace prize and sometimes in the economics prize when they highlight how economic factors affect the lives of ordinary people — not just

Albert Einstein’s theory of general relativity was indeed correct and predicted the structure of black holes.

That was wonderful, as was the year that quantum entanglement at a distance was highlighted and revealed that Einstein’s final challenge to quantum mechanics was wrong and a reminder that even the brightest can be wrong and that Einstein and Niels Bohr could remain close friends despite arguing about the nature of quantum physics — a debate that was never resolved in their lifetimes.

The drama of that debate and the seriousness with which both men pursued it without animosity, only respect, was an amazing lesson that we can disagree while respecting and admiring others.

I was captivated, too, by the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics because it revealed what Einstein had predicted many years before — when massive objects such as black holes collide, they create ripples in space-time as Einstein imagined it in his magnum opus, general relativity.

Here was evidence yet again about how bright the man was but also how talented and committed the scientists and engineers were in the United States who over several decades spanning different presi-

dents and members of the house and senate managed to secure funding and carry out the project to detect gravitational waves so faint that they changed the length of a four-kilometre track by less than the width of an atom.

Think about that. That was an incredible engineering feat supported by a country in those days that supported big ideas and the determination and skills of so many scientists and engineers.

In 2015, the first collision was observed between two black holes and reason enough for awarding a Nobel prize in 2017. The Nobel committee made much the same decision in 2020, a year after the first black hole was actually seen and seen, worthy of a Nobel but tragically too late for Stephen Hawking, who had died.

Do I enjoy the Nobels? You bet — and you might too, when the 2025 Nobel for physics is discussed at the Niagara-on-the-Lake library on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. You might want to come and see what this Nobel was all about.

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.



Visitors browse outdoor vendor booths during the Cider n' Sweaters market at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery in St. Davids, which featured 35 makers both inside and outside the venue. ANDREW HAWLITZKY

Cider n' Sweaters wraps up Little Hearts market season at Ravine Vineyard winery

Andrew Hawlitzky
The Lake Report

More than 35 small businesses filled Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery in Virgil on Oct. 19 for the final Little Hearts Market of the year.

The Cider n' Sweaters market drew steady shoppers throughout the day, offering local makers a vital sales boost as the Canada Post strike and U.S. tariffs continue to complicate online business for Niagara artisans.

Co-owner Alex Harber said Ravine staff had to brew a second batch of cider mid-event after running out around 2 p.m. because of the large turnout for both the market and the cider tastings.

"We created a new batch just for today because the market next door took everything we had out of retail. It's a good problem to have," said Harber.

Organizer Ashley Langohr, co-founder of Little

Hearts Markets, said the event was focused on giving small businesses space to connect with customers face to face and showing customers the value of supporting these pop-up markets.

"Skip the shipping and come out, visit the vendors, and take it home the same day," said Langohr. "There's a savings on both ends, and it supports everyone."

Langohr said the partnership with Ravine has become an annual fixture for the vendor collective, now in its third year at the York Road winery. She said the venue provides artisans with visibility that online sales cannot match.

For vendors like Sarah Milan Bianconello, of Sarah's Soaps, that connection matters as the ongoing Canada Post strike and U.S. tariffs have been a bump in the road for her operations.

"We've managed to ship through the Canada Post strike using other couriers,

but with the tariffs in the States, it's tricky getting to U.S. customers," said Bianconello.

She sells natural skincare products and said the markets have become a reliable way to sustain her sales through the uncertainty.

"It helps to support your tiny little community," said Bianconello.

Taylor Rice of Dreamy Haven agreed: the in-person setting gives businesses a chance to thrive while reinforcing local ties.

"Even aside from the financial, building a local community is more important than ever," said Rice.

Rice sells handmade bookmarks and book-themed stickers, creations that began as a stress-relief hobby and have since built a loyal following among local readers and collectors.

"Things seem more and more divided, and the best part about doing the markets is the local community you're building with everyone."

Part-time knitter and full-time teacher Michelle Azzopardi of Stoney Creek said she relies on markets like this to balance her career with her creative business.

"Without events like this, there wouldn't be as many small businesses in this area," said Azzopardi. "Especially right now, it's so important that we buy local."

Artist and retired teacher Cindy Goldrick of Bench Artisans, who creates one-of-a-kind "junk journals" from vintage materials, said the market offers exposure that online shops can't match.

"It's great to create a platform for artists to meet people and sell their stuff," said Goldrick.

As the season ends, Langohr said Little Hearts will take a short winter break before returning in the spring with new vendors and another round of community markets.

andrew@niagaranow.com

Obituary

Kathleen Clark



CLARK, Kathleen Anne
November 4, 1947 -
October 15, 2025

What fun we had, whether it was arriving at a foreign destination with just one night's accommodation and winging it from there to restoring a cottage on Snake Island, or creating a wonderful garden at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Kathie was always ready to make it happen.

Kathie travelled the world with her husband Bill, but her favorite times were doing Dental Outreach Programs in Africa, Central and South America. There she worked as a dental assistant in places that ranged from modern clinics to barns with hens and piglets running between her legs. Kathie was always game.

Kathie's family meant the world to her, children David, Kelly (Alex) and Kevin (Rebecca) and grandchildren Emily, Owen, Leah and Brooke.

She always made family occasions very special with her cooking, games and fabulous decorations.

Her creativity and humour always shone through, which made being with her such a wonderful experience.

Kathie graduated from Branksome Hall, Western University and attended Teacher's College in order to receive her Primary Specialist's Certificate. This allowed her to teach younger students, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

She will be remembered for her intuition, cooking and sense of adventure.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Peller Estates in the Barrel Cellar, 290 John St. East in Niagara-on-the-Lake. All are welcome.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



Have an opinion
you want heard?
Email us.



Join the singalong, stay for the cabaret this Saturday at the Legion

Paige Seburn
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

This Saturday, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 is trading quiet pints for sing-alongs, theatre and a chance to hit the dance floor.

The Legion will host a three-part evening, featuring Maja Bannerman and her husband, Rusty McCarthy, with whom she often shares the stage for their various projects.



Maja Bannerman and Rusty McCarthy will close out Saturday's show at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 with their Rusty & Maja's Kitchen Party Cabaret show.

The show invites Niagara-on-the-Lake to journey from wartime sing-alongs to Bannerman's dramatic "Anne of Green Gables" performance, "This is

Anne, Older & Wiser," and ends with a lively cabaret set.

The evening kicks off at 7 p.m. with a short set of First World War songs led by

McCarthy, with lyric sheets on hand for anyone who wants to sing along.

"This is part of the reason of doing it at the Legion around this time of year, because of Remembrance Day," Bannerman told The Lake Report.

After the sing-along, Bannerman will then perform a one-woman play, portraying Anne Shirley Blythe of "Anne of Green Gables" in her later years, looking back on her life.

About 90 per cent of the

script draws from Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic 1908 novel about the spirited red-haired orphan from Prince Edward Island, Bannerman said. The 50-minute play also features live music and soundscapes by McCarthy.

Following another short intermission and costume change, the couple will return to the stage for Rusty & Maja's Kitchen Party Cabaret — an upbeat show blending original and classic pop songs with audience

participation. "They love to dance at the Legion," Bannerman said. "It feels more like, 'OK, this is the cast party.'"

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at 410 King St. and tickets are \$20, with proceeds supporting the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

Tickets can be purchased at the Legion bar or by e-transfer to legion124@gmail.com and charcuterie boards and a cash bar will be available.

paigeseburn@niagaranow.com



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

What: Notice of **Intention to Pass an Amending Zoning By-law to Remove Holding (H) Symbol**
(under Section 36 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990* as amended).

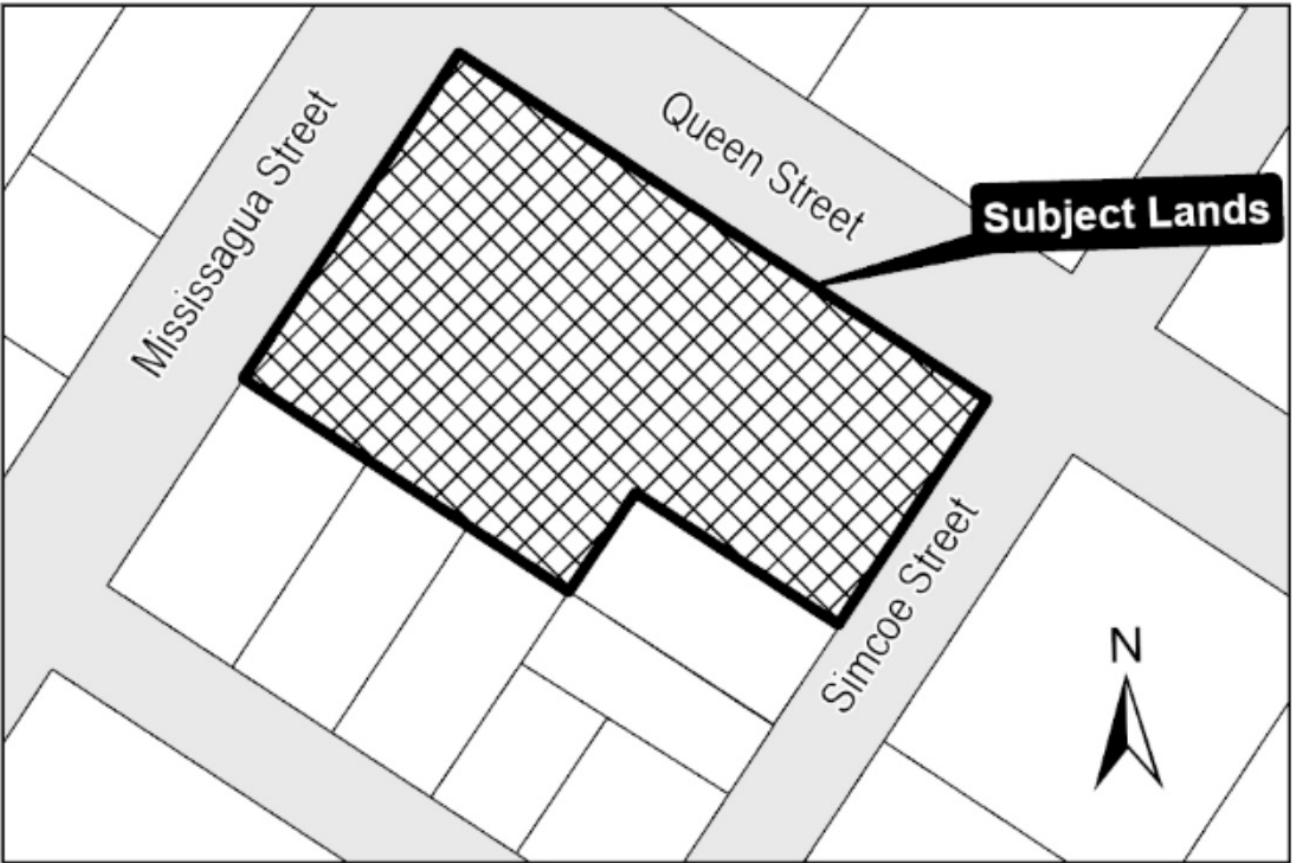
Regarding: File No. ZBA-18-2025 – 228 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

What is this?

The Zoning By-law Amendment Application proposed to remove the Holding (H) Symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through site-specific Zoning By-law 4316-FK-24, as approved by Town Council on May 28, 2024.

The Holding (H) symbol shall not be removed until such time as the lands merge in title, as verified through the submission of a parcel register and PIN map, to the satisfaction of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Removal of the (H) Holding Symbol will allow for the intended development of an 81-room hotel development on the subject lands with the existing site-specific Zoning By-law provisions.



The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the **November 18, 2025** Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting. Under Section 36(3) of the Planning Act, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

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

If you wish to participate electronically to make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Council meeting, you must register in advance with the Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266). You will receive an email on the date of the meeting with instructions to connect to the Council meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

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

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

For more information:

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website at <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices>, or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall.

Please contact Alex Boeckestyn, Planner II, at 905-468-6430 or via email at alex.boeckestyn@notl.com if additional information is required.

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

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, **October 23, 2025**

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

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