

Pierre Poillievre visits | Pages 5,6,7,9

The road to resilience



Jodey Porter uses her white cane to navigate the busy streets of Old Town. She says the white cane gave her some independence, but it is humiliating to use and beyond exhausting. COSMO CONDINA

JODEY'S JOURNEY

Jodey Porter
Special to The Lake Report

recapture my life. This is the story of that journey.

I've been mostly blind, most of my life. I started losing my vision at about the age of five. The doctors believed my blindness was caused by Lyme disease.

Through the years, I have learned to survive, even thrive, with very little eyesight. I originally moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1998 because the town was walkable for all the services I needed.

But on my birthday, almost three years ago, after five surgeries to counteract my diminishing sight, I lost all vision. It literally disappeared. These past three years have been a maelstrom of loneliness, tragedy, friendship and growth.

In early March of this year, after months of preparation, I travelled to New Jersey to meet the companion that will enable me to

This is the morning that I leave for Morristown, N.J. It's early March and I'm worried about the weather for the drive.

I will be attending The Seeing Eye, the one of the oldest guide dog schools in the world, for nearly a month of instruction. I'll learn how to partner with my new four-legged furry, sighted guide.

Since I completely lost my vision almost three years ago, my life has been transformed. I think it is the most awful thing that can happen to anyone. Or at least that's what I thought at the time. It was beyond scary.

After a year of horrific crises, I finally found the freedom and capability to move beyond surviv-

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A 2022 Lake Report investigation exposed poor living conditions for workers like Ceto Reid, who didn't have access to laundry facilities. Now the UN is calling for migrant workers to be able to choose their employers. FILE

'A breeding ground for slavery'

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

is highlighting a new report by the United Nations that found "Canada's immigration systems are a breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery."

The UN report, dated July 22 but released to the public this week, echoes what the alliance has long been saying: that permanent resident status would increase freedoms and liberties by, for example, allowing migrant

While history in North America tells us slavery is a thing of the past, some still relate the conditions being experienced by migrant workers in Canada as akin to a real form of bondage.

The Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, which advocates for workers' rights in Niagara-on-the-Lake and across the country,

Continued on Page 2

Zalepa supports building housing on some town-owned lands



A group of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents conducted a detailed survey on seniors' housing needs. The results of the survey were sent to NOTL politicians, including Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. The Lake Report met with Zalepa to learn his feelings about the results of the survey. This is the second in a series of stories exploring the survey results and potential solutions to the problem.

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says Niagara-on-the-Lake needs more housing and support options for its aging population — and one solution could be finding town properties, or other suitable land, that could be developed to meet those needs.

There is the potential of a private or joint venture with the Town of NOTL to re-develop the former hospital site at 176 Wellington St., where Royal Oak Academy now operates.

But before council commits to anything, Zalepa said, it wants to identify community benefits and find out what residents want done with that property.

Council will be going through a process in the fall to create "a set of expectations around redevelopment" of the property, "before we go down the road of asking people what they want to do," he said.

Housing for seniors, whether a retirement home or assisted living or a combination of both, is a viable option for the property, he said — and so is parking.

But before anything is done, he wants council to come up with a plan for the site, rather than just soliciting random proposals with no direction, as was done during the last term of

Continued on Page 3



The former hospital on Wellington Street is a great candidate for seniors housing, says Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. He said the town will be looking at uses for the property that benefit the community the most. FILE

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UN criticizes Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Continued from Front Page

workers to choose their places of employment and housing.

“Canada has a well-deserved reputation for welcoming immigrants,” Tomoya Obokata, the UN rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, wrote in his report’s sub-section on migrant workers.

“However, to make this a reality, where all newcomers enjoy decent work and an adequate standard of living, Canada should end labour migration arrangements that foster exploitation by creating dependency situations that tie workers to their employers and give employers control (over) workers’ housing, health care and migration status,” he added.

Permanent status would also open up the ability for workers to obtain socio-economic benefits such as regular employment insurance payments, for which they currently do not qualify despite having EI deducted from their paycheques.

In Niagara, thousands of migrant farmworkers, mainly from the Caribbean

and Mexico, play a crucial role in the tender fruit and wine-growing industries.

Obokata praised Canada for its efforts to prevent contemporary forms of slavery and its willingness to face underlying drivers such as its colonial legacy,

“Employers argue that closed work permits are necessary to enable them to recuperate the cost of recruiting and transporting workers, which itself creates a de facto situation of debt bondage,”

TOMOYA OBOKATA,
UN RAPPOREUR ON
CONTEMPORARY FORMS
OF SLAVERY

but warned that all those efforts may be overshadowed by its reluctance to address migrant workers’ rights.

“Canada risks failing to live up to its reputation as a global champion of human

rights if it does not act more decisively to reform laws and policies that enable the exploitation of vulnerable workers,” he said.

Syed Hussan, executive director of Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, is applauding Obokata for bringing these issues to the global stage.

“The UN report calls for permanent residence status for all migrants, criticizing the government’s piecemeal attempts to address the exploitation built into the immigration system,” he said in a media release on Aug. 9.

Canada’s system is based on quotas and caps rather than human rights and the government is bowing to racist pressures and rising anti-immigrant rhetoric, Hussan added.

Kit Andres, a Niagara-on-the-Lake-based organizer with the alliance, expanded on Hussan’s assessment of the government’s stance.

“I think the Canadian government is watching very closely to what’s happening in countries in Europe and seeing this rise of anti-immigrant racist



The UN is calling on Canada to give more rights to foreign workers when it comes to choosing employers. Being able to choose workplaces could help prevent abusive situations and stop a pattern of debt bondage. FILE

violence,” Andres said in an interview.

“And they are covering to these racist lies about immigration and then use that as a reason for not fulfilling their promises.”

In his report, Obokata further criticized the Canadian government by calling out its migration policies that put control into the hands of employers, a lack of communication between itself and migrants, and creating a system that fosters debt bondage.

“Under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, workers’ migration status depends on an employer-

“Employers argue that closed work permits are necessary to enable them to recuperate the cost of recruiting and transporting workers, which itself creates a de facto situation of debt bondage,” wrote Obokata.

Many workers go into debt over the costs associated with participating in the programs and rely on their Canadian wages to repay their debts, the report said.

Many of the hardships facing migrant workers could be reduced if the government simply took the time to communicate with workers in a meaningful and direct manner, Obokata added.

“The government does not seem to proactively and effectively inform workers about their rights apart from publishing information online and providing ad hoc funding to civil society organizations for migrant rights education, although it does provide outreach sessions to employers, consulates, migrant worker support organizations and authorities on workers rights.”

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Old hospital, former high school properties to be looked at for housing

Continued from Front Page

council.
“We want to identify community benefits. So, I think that housing is one of them — I think. I need eight more councillors to feel that way,” he said.

“I believe in our (strategic) plan, the conversations we’ve had around the table — housing is priority. So I think that that site is a definite opportunity for this community to do something really well.”

“I think there are other community benefits that probably need to be married to that as well,” he added.

The redevelopment could include a joint venture, a full sale, partial development or a land lease, he said.

But whatever option it is, the community benefits need to be identified first.

“I think the past mistake they made was they went to ask people what they wanted to do, and I don’t think the community had committed to say what they wanted yet,” Zalepa said.

“So, they got a bunch of good ideas. And then, unfortunately, they failed to kind of pick one. I don’t know why — I wasn’t a part of that — but they didn’t pick one.”

He said he is in favour of housing, with the possibility of some acute care on-site.

The seniors housing survey results are a good example of seeing what the public might want done with the property, since the need for more housing is clear, he said.

There are also other parcels of land and other options for the town to explore, he said.

Some properties, such as the land behind Royal Elite Academy (formerly Niagara District Secondary School), could be ideal for housing development, but come with challenges.

That land specifically, he said, is in the Greenbelt and is not serviced, so developing it is difficult.

There are opportunities to review what land is part of the Greenbelt, he said, but that won’t happen for two years.



The old hospital is one of many town properties the could see housing in the future. FILE

“There is a review where at some point the municipality has an opportunity to identify properties to pull out. That’s probably a good candidate. So that’ll go on our list,” he said, adding that he feels it is likely a good site for something like mixed senior housing.

“You could do a campus concept. You’ve already got a school that’s there anyway.”

Zalepa said the town is also just starting its recreation master plan review, during which the town will do an inventory of its assets.

“What do we own? What are we not maybe using the 100 per cent correctly? And how could it be repurposed to do something better?”

“Sometimes our community has a really hard time having a sensible conversation around what’s needed.”

LORD MAYOR GARY ZALEPA

He said there are some parks and soccer fields that don’t get much use, which the town could turn into housing.

“So, what I’m hoping the review looks at is: are there some pieces of land that we’re just not leveraging enough? And can we repurpose that?”

Asked how many parks the town really needs, he said, “I’m gonna let the process tell me that.”

“There are other properties in town that I think would be really interesting, too. There are parcels owned by organizations such as churches and community organizations like

the Lions Club and the Legion.”

Other municipalities have successfully redeveloped similar sites to produce housing.

“One of them was St. Catharines, really close, in Port Dalhousie — wonderful redevelopment of the Legion site. We’d love to help groups like that. But that’s private property. They’ve got to figure that out.”

He said there would be a public process for any disposition of town land.

“I think that all that is doable, with excess land that we own. So if it was identified that some of our land could be better leveraged, I think that we’d be really interested in properly doing that.”

The next step for the seniors housing group is to meet with some “key” staff people at the region and make a presentation to regional council and town council, he said.

““We think those (three) things will help elevate the awareness of the issue in the public, because we get some attention, the media, it’ll get some attention with council, some discussion around that,” Zalepa said.

He said it’s also helpful in the town’s “formalization” of its official plan.

“I think some of this work really ties nicely into that. That’s going to give some policy direction on some larger parcels.”

That will also factor into the review of the town’s zoning bylaws.

In that sense, he said the seniors housing report is “really timely.”

“And the other thing, I hope it helps: sometimes our community has a really hard time having a sensible conversation around what’s needed,” he said.

“And I understand people resist change in form of housing. I get it and sometimes they came from other places that they saw some maybe not-so-good planning there. Maybe.”

“There’s no doubt this municipality needs variety in housing form going forward” and it needs it to be dispersed throughout the community, Zalepa added.

“It can’t be all in Glendale. Not everybody wants to live in Glendale. People want to live in Old Town, people want to live in Virgil, people want to live in St. Davids.”

So the town needs to figure out where it could be “and get some realistic expectations around that it’s going to look different than your single-family home.”

That’s not easy, he admits, but he hopes there can be a respectful a conversation about it.

“I really feel there’s a groundswell of support of people that go, ‘I get it. We need to do it.’ “

“It just needs to be fair in the community, but there’s going to be build-ings around houses, because there has to be,” he added.

“And when I talk to people one-on-one, I really get the sense that people get that, they understand that, and they want their family members who live in this town to be able to stay in this town.”

He noted NOTL housing won’t be “affordable from a social housing perspective.”

“That’s where the hospital has an opportunity.”

Part 3: What do the developers say? If NOTL seniors have money for high-end accommodations and health care, why aren’t developers building it? What can the town do to help?



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Shades of Rosé

Michelle Burdick, from Saratoga, N.Y., blows bubbles during the Shades of Rosé dinner that took over Queen Street on Sunday night. Hundreds of people came out to dine and party outside the Court House. DAVE VAN DE LAAR **Find more photos of the Shades of Rosé dinner at niagaranow.com**

Pierre Poilievre visits Vineland Growers

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

MP Tony Baldinelli said it was an “absolute thrill” to welcome Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday.

During his introduction of the party leader, Baldinelli said Poilievre, the adopted son of two high school teachers, will work to bring back a country where hard work pays off.

“He wants to bring home the country we knew and loved,” Baldinelli said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens was invited for the presentation and said that Vineland Growers Co-operative on East and West Line was a great choice for holding the campaign-style visit.

“We’re an agriculture town and I’m glad that he came to speak to farmers,” Wiens told The Lake Report.

Wiens said he had a chance to speak to Poilievre one-on-one and was pleased to hear the politician was in support of several NOTL projects.

Poilievre promised continued support of irrigation, Wiens said.

“He also promised assistance with infrastructure money to help with all of our drainage issues, so that made me feel good,” he said.

Poilievre said he chose the co-operative for his appearance because it gave



Coun. Erwin Wiens was there to welcome Tory leader Pierre Poilievre during his campaign-style stop at Vineland Growers in NOTL last Thursday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

him a chance to showcase a NOTL operation that supports families.

“People can’t afford food and I wanted to highlight a co-operative that is working hard to deliver affordable, nutritious food to Canadian families,” Poilievre told The Lake Report.

As part of his preparation for the next federal election, Poilievre made stops across the Niagara region, including NOTL, St. Catharines, Welland and Stevensville, to speak about his “common sense Conservative plan.”

It wasn’t a public rally. Access to the tightly controlled event was invitation-only.

Poilievre said his plan focuses on axing the carbon tax, building more homes, fixing the budget and stopping crime.

To a room of about

two dozen NOTL voters and politicians, Poilievre explained how the Conservatives plan to make those ideas a reality.

He claimed the largest cost on homes in Canada today “is bureaucracy.”

“When you buy a new home, more of your payment goes to the bureaucrats than the carpenters, plumbers and electricians who actually built the place,” he said.

Poilievre’s plan is to build more homes and back the trades, along with requiring municipal governments to “speed up permits” and cut development fees.

During his speech Poilievre also discussed “jail not bail,” which means anyone with a “long rap sheet of serious offences” will be ineligible for bail, parole or house arrest.

He also promised in-

creased border security with high-powered scanners, which will be purchased by cancelling Bill C-21, a policy enacted by the Liberal government to ban some handguns.

Poilievre said a Conservative government would ban hard drugs, stop giving out “tax-funded opioids,” prohibit all MPs from any involvement in the World Economic Forum and repeal what he called censorship laws.

“We will cut back on aid to terrorists, dictators and other multinational bureaucracies. That foreign aid should be brought home and put into our military,” he said.

His speech was well-received by the small Conservative-friendly crowd in attendance. It was followed by a photo-op with supporters.

Huge crowds enjoy NOTL Peach Festival

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s annual Peach Festival made its return to Queen Street on Saturday with crowds like never before.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., sunny skies and warm weather kept the streets packed full with NOTLers and visitors alike, taking in the fruit-flavoured treats, live music and a live-judged peach pie contest.

Some residents said the huge crowds were larger than they ever remembered with cars parked on streets nearly a kilometre from the festival as people struggled to find a spot.

But all the visitors were a positive for the NOTL businesses and vendors along the street — and for the charitable organizations set up along the routes to the festival, including the NOTL Fire Department.

All day long, firefighters stood at all entrances to the festival collecting donations in their boots for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

“We’ve been doing it for 40 plus years. We missed a



Things were more than peachy keen for Marisa Mariella after she was declared the winner of the peach pie contest during Saturday’s festival. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

couple due to COVID, but we’ve raised over \$280,000 total to date,” district chief Dayton Kruitbosch said.

Collecting donations is always a fun time and allows the firefighters to connect with the community, he said.

As of Wednesday morning, the total collected stood at \$10,730.77.

And the fire department wasn’t the only group hard at work fundraising.

Realtors from McGarr-Revel Realty partnered with Lepp Farms to sell peaches in support of Red

Roof Retreat.

Red Roof provides quality respite care and programs for children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families across the region.

“Instead of just a real estate information booth, we saw the opportunity to give back to the community and that was possible because of the generosity from the farm,” realtor Joy Miele told The Lake Report.

More than \$5,000 was raised for Red Roof throughout Saturday’s festival.



“Giving back to the community and volunteering — that’s something that’s important to all of us,” Miele said.

On Sunday, the big crowds made their way to St. Vincent de Paul Church for its annual festival, where visitors enjoyed fruit and treats, along with live music and a bazaar selling books and antiques.

Volunteer Terry Choules said the day helped raise money for the parish.

“Whatever we make goes toward the renovations at the hall and the church itself is going to be 200 years old in 2026, so some of the money will be used to prep for that,” Choules said.

He thanked all of the volunteers who helped organize the event.

“We have such a great group of people every year and we have a lot of returnees,” he said.



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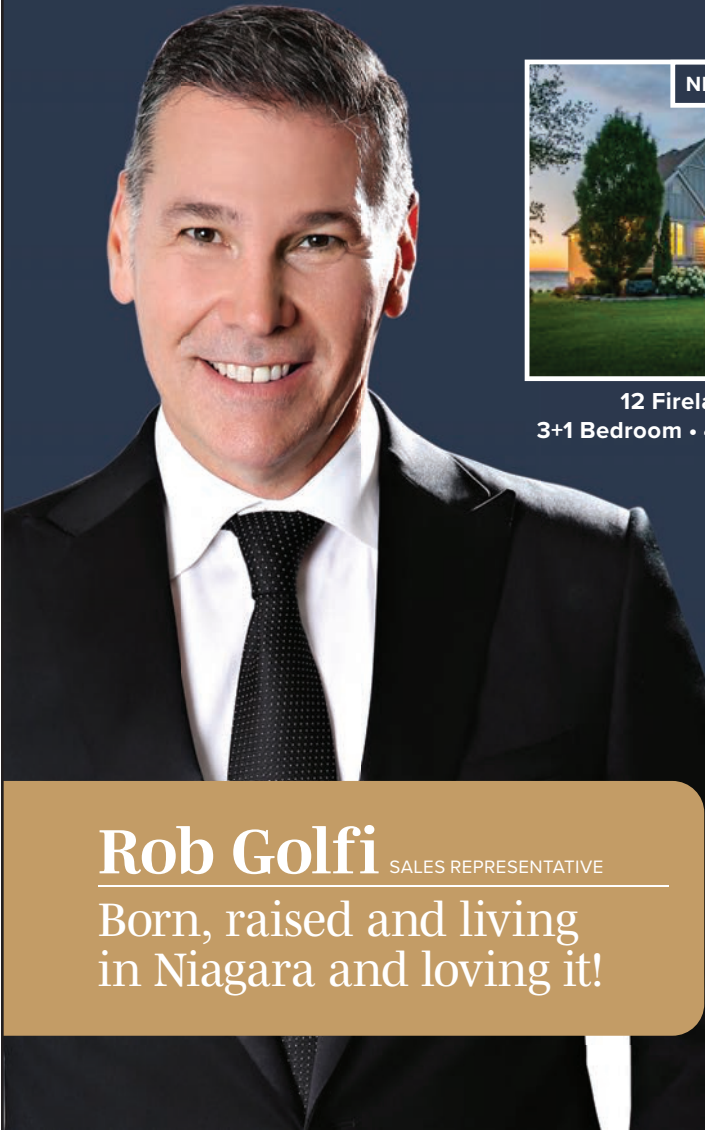
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Poilievre says he'll force towns to allow more homes to be built

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre says if he is prime minister after the next election he will ramp up home construction and reduce red tape.

Speaking in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday, Aug. 8, on a campaign-style swing through the region, he said a lot more homes will be built if he is in charge.

“Build the homes by getting rid of bureaucracy, speeding up permits, cutting development taxes so people can put an affordable roof over head,” he told The Lake Report in an interview.

When compared to other places, Canada has the slowest building permits application process and the most land restrictions, he claimed.

He also said that municipalities will pay a big price if they do not follow his

plans to address the housing crunch.

“They will have to do it or they won’t get their federal infrastructure money,” he said.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, calls for a pushback on development for residential use is heard loudest in communities such as St. Davids and Queenston, where many homeowners in those areas are directly blaming over-development and a lack of infrastructure spending and upgrades as the cause of recent flooding.

“Why is it so cheap on the American side of the border?” Poilievre said.

“Look at MLS.com versus MLS.ca. It’s very simple: You can drive across the border. You can buy a beautiful home for 200 grand and the Canadian side it costs, since Trudeau doubled the cost, it can be as much as three times the cost for the same house on the Canadian side.”

“So, how do you build the homes? Get the bureaucracy out of the way,” he said.

Poilievre, the hopeful next prime minister of Canada, met with a Conservative-friendly crowd of about two dozen people Thursday morning at Vineland Growers on East and West Line.

He promoted his party’s “common sense” platform, which includes topics such as tax reform, his axe-the-carbon-tax stance, a cap on government spending, crime, gun control and battling inflation.

In a one-on-one interview following his address, Poilievre was asked about issues that reflect the concerns of many residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Those include things such as the skyrocketing home prices, particularly worries about next-generation affordability, overuse of land by home developers and the enhancement of human rights protections



Pierre Poilievre threatened to take federal infrastructure money away from local governments that don’t obey his plans to build more homes, if elected. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

for migrant farmworkers by providing them with the ability to become a bigger part of the local economy and Canadian culture, by granting them permanent resident status.

Migrant workers Advocates for migrant workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake and around the province have long been calling for enhanced human rights for the people they believe are among the most precarious of all members of this region’s workforce. Migrant workers do not

have the ability to apply for permanent residency in this country, which is a right that advocates argue would grant them more freedom, security, mobility and job opportunities.

In turn, that would further stimulate local economies and strengthen communities, they say.

As a permanent resident, but not a Canadian citizen, migrants can receive benefits like health coverage, they can live, work or study anywhere in Canada and are granted protection under Ca-

nadian law and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

As migrant workers with no permanent status, they face restrictions such as being bound to one employer for the duration of their stay in Canada, they cannot apply for regular employment insurance benefits and up until this year, proper internet and laundry services weren’t required in employer-provided housing.

Poilievre said he will consider permanent status for migrant workers under some specific conditions.

“I am open to it for people who have come legally, who have worked the entire time that they have been here (and) who have, or are learning one of the two official languages,” he said.

“In principle, I have no problem with the idea of temporary foreign workers who have proven themselves to be strong, net contributors to our country staying permanently and becoming members of the Canadian family,” he added.

The next federal election must be held no later than Oct. 20, 2025.

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Tory leader **questions** government support of local journalism

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre doesn't believe outlets that serve the nation's "news deserts" deserve financial help to continue giving Canadians the important and accurate information that affects the areas they work and live.

The man who hopes to be the next prime minister of Canada said the Local Journalism Initiative, which provides rural and small community news outlets with funding to hire reporters to cover specific areas outside the reach or interest of large media organizations, is nothing more than a sounding board for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's liberal government.

"It is terrible ... how local journalism has done under nine years of Trudeau," he told The Lake Report in an interview last Thursday after



Pierre Poilievre tells reporters he will repeal the Online News Act if elected — a law created to ensure news agencies are fairly compensated by giants like Meta and Google, which have greatly benefited from the sharing of Canadian news. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

speaking to a Conservative-friendly crowd at a NOTL food co-operative. "He's tried to take it over and basically wants everyone to work for the government so that he can have regurgitated propaganda paid for by taxpayers." News deserts — areas that have little or no regular

news coverage — have grown enormously over the past 15 years as scores of newspapers have closed. Launched in 2019, the Local Journalism Initiative gives grants to independent publishers, such as The Lake Report. Those organizations then hire reporters to

cover specific areas, such as agriculture or civic government. Those reporters have no connection to the federal government nor does the government tell the publishers what stories should be covered. Publications pick and choose what news items to cover without threat of

reprisal from any form of government.

The Lake Report, for example, often tackles issues that do not align with the federal Liberals' agenda and messaging.

Poilievre claimed the program threatens free speech and when asked what he would do with it if elected prime minister, he did not directly answer.

"I am looking into it. But more important than that, the question is how do we bring back free speech," he said.

"The answer is journalists getting eyeballs so they can sell subscriptions and advertising, get sponsorships and do what media have done for, I don't know, 3,000 years."

"How has the media funded itself for 3,000 years?" he asked. "Subscriptions, advertising, sponsorships. That's how it has worked for 3,000 years."

Today's journalists have to contend with the internet, where stories are

often shared by people not trained in journalism and whose ethical standards or motivations may be suspect. Their work is often distributed free via social media and digital platforms.

This practice, combined with online giants like Google and Meta sharing legitimate news items on their platforms without compensating publications for the content, has deeply dug into news organizations' bottom lines.

Poilievre seemed fine with letting what is often illegitimate news be the source of information for Canadians.

"Media and journalism is stronger than ever today because we have the internet, which allows for more voices to reach Canadians and that competition is positive," he said.

"We can't have the government try to shut down the competition just to favour those who favour the political viewpoint of Justin Trudeau."



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Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.” – Francesca Reigler

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Heron hangs out in St. Davids

Photographer Frank Hayes captured this close-up image of a black-crowned night heron on Saturday, at the pond at Line 9 and Concession 3 roads in St. Davids. The birds are most active during the evening and night, when they leave their nests to forage in wetlands. They live in fresh, salt and brackish wetlands and are the most widespread heron in the world, according to allaboutbirds.org.

Opinion

Dividing our world into left and right solves nothing



THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner
Columnist

Rory and his squeeze moved to St. Davids two years ago. Everything was cool until I started writing this column.

“When I saw you were now doing a weekly comment,” he wrote me a few days ago, “I said to my wife, oh no, Turner’s back.”

Apparently Rory, who is of the conservative persuasion, remembers me as a Harper-era MP who was ejected from caucus for transgressions I recently recounted. (Blogging about stuff and opposing 0 per cent down, 40-year mortgages.)

My failure here in the pages of The Lake Report?

“You fit right into the mould of most Canadian reporters, total focus on the U.S. totally ignoring the massive incompetence we have going on in Ot-

tawa with our three want-to-be leaders. Trudeau, Freeland and Singh,” he says.

“I really don’t want our local paper to become a media outlet for the Liberals. You can quit anytime as far as I’m concerned. I used to enjoy picking up our paper.”

So there. Despite having been elected as a Con and even running to be leader of the Progressive Conservative party (remember them?) I’m now a lefty schmuck. And that comes from a column published here detailing what might happen to Canada if Donald Trump were elected.

(To refresh your memory, this includes a trade war and corporate tax cuts leading to higher stocks, more inflation and fatter interest rates, say economists. The deficit and debt would jump and deporting 10 million people would rattle labour markets. A leading bank economist says all this would push Canada into recession and raise our interest rates by almost 2 percentage points. Ouch. Imagine what mortgages at 7 per cent would do.)

Well, lots has changed in the past couple of weeks. Biden’s toast. Harris is ascendant. The election is a

horse race. So what would a Kamala victory mean for we little beavers on this side of the river?

Rory will be happy. It’s not all good.

“She is no moderate,” says Scotiabank’s chief economist Derek Holt, a man I have respected for decades.

“She has been a highly divisive voice with natural tendencies aligned toward the far left end of the Democrats.”

Whazzat mean?

Free trade with us could be impacted since Harris opposed the current deal as being too weak on the environment.

“Her stance could well make her no friend to Canada,” Holt says. She would reverse the Trump-era corporate tax cut, which would certainly whack stock markets for a while.

She’d increase taxes on the wealthy, regulate AI and start taxing financial transactions. Plus a lot more social spending, including a Canadian-style health-for-all plan.

This stuff curls the toes of Trumpers. Economically, it also suggests inflation and higher rates may return.

America is already staggering under almost

\$35 trillion in debt. And remember that our Bank of Canada follows the Fed 93 per cent of the time. Rates zip higher there, they swell here, too.

OK, now what about Rory’s charge of obsessing on the U.S. and letting the bums in Ottawa go uncriticized?

First, we don’t have an election. They do.

Second, what happens there ends up happening here.

Third, it’s not the media’s job to pick sides.

Fourth, flushing out the government in Canada actually doesn’t change the fact houses cost too much or 8,000 people in NOTL have no doctor and the fine woman on Queen Street who gives Cody treats every morning was told to wait a year for a simple MRI.

Dividing the world into left and right, as the Americans are doing (and we’re following) solves nothing. One side is not right and good, the other wrong and evil. Trust me. I’ve been on both.

And that’s why Rory hates me. Tough.

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

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Editorial

Poilievre is truly great — at pandering

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

Pierre Poilievre made a stop in Niagara-on-the-Lake last Thursday.

Here is a leader who at first might seem informed, capable of holding rational arguments and making good points.

But what he's really the best at is pandering, lying and misleading.

He panders to a crowd that's so anti-Liberal, they're willing to eat up and digest anything he says. He's hoping that voters so dislike Justin Trudeau that they won't see beyond his rhymetic, bumper-sticker rhetoric.

Here are a few examples of just how good Poilievre is at spinning webs of lies that sound, to the ill-informed, like truth.

And warning, there's a lot of purposeful misleading and contradiction to unpack here, but it's all closely related. So bear with us.

Firstly, we asked him what his party would do to ensure it supports local journalism.

His answer?
“Free speech.”

“I am going to repeal the censorship laws, make it possible for Canadian news to be visible again on Facebook, Instagram and all other social media platforms,” he said.

“And get rid of the terrible censorship laws that have taken those news stories down from the internet and deprived independent local media to have a voice.”

OK, let's digest this: there's no such thing as a censorship law. Full stop.

We assume he's referring to the Online News Act (Bill C-18), which is aimed “to ensure that dominant platforms compensate news businesses when their content is made available on their services.”

In other words, when big players like Google or Meta share news content created by Canadian media companies, and benefits from the billions of views those stories produce, then companies like Google must pay for that privilege.

The law is simple, fair and in the best interests of Canadian journalism organizations — and something Google has agreed to, by the way.

The only “censorship”

being done is solely by Meta (which runs Facebook and Instagram).

The company has not agreed to pay its fair share and in response to the laws Canada passed to help ensure journalism organizations get paid, it has banned Canadian news on its platforms.

This shows the core values of companies like Meta are not to help you, but to exploit you.

So recap: Poilievre calls Bill C-18 a censorship law, which it absolutely is not. He's being blatantly misleading. And to the average, uninformed voter who doesn't understand it, it could seem true.

We mean this with as little offence as possible, but he's relying on his voter base to not be smart enough to know the difference.

It might sound good and pander to the right people to say he's fighting for “free speech.” But in reality, in Canada we already have freedom of expression thanks to the Charter of Rights.

“It is terrible how ... local journalism has done under nine years of Trudeau ... And now, of course, media and journalism is stronger than ever today.”

PIERRE POILIEVRE
CONSERVATIVE LEADER

The next of his lies ties directly in with the lies we just discussed.

We asked a question about the future of the Local Journalism Initiative — a government-funded program that pays salaries of many journalists across the country.

His response?

“It is terrible how ... local journalism has done under nine years of Trudeau. He's tried to take it over and basically wants everyone to work for the government so that he can have regurgitated propaganda paid for by taxpayers.”

This is completely false.

The Trudeau government has funded the Local Journalism Initiative, yes.

But let's digest this, too.

As editors of a journal-



Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre delivered a plethora of lies during his visit to NOTL, forcing The Lake Report to respond with the longest editorial it has ever published.

ism organization, we can simply say it's not “terrible” how local journalism has done under nine years of Trudeau. In fact, the LJI program is one of the reasons local journalism can thrive in small communities, often called “news deserts” because they have no local coverage.

They don't have a big newspaper and often issues go uncovered because of a lack of reporters covering the area.

Secondly, the notion that Trudeau wants everyone to work for the government and has “propaganda” placed in newspapers is simply ridiculous.

Firstly, LJI reporters don't work for the government. They work for the news organizations that receive the funding. The only person who ever tells reporters what to write about is their editor.

Notably, several conservative-leaning news outlets receive the same funding.

And secondly, the notion that any legitimate newspaper would simply print “propaganda” for any party is ludicrous.

We won't even print a news release without asking questions and vetting the information — as some local NOTL media organizations regularly do.

You will never find verbatim Liberal or Conservative news releases in our paper. Or from any party.

If we did, the majority of

the paper would be Conservative MP Tony Baldinelli's constant criticism of the Liberals, and the Liberals constantly tooting their own horns.

“One of Poilievre's tactics is to throw out so much misinformation, that it's almost impossible to fact check it all, especially on the spot.”

RICHARD HARLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THE LAKE REPORT

(Note how we just criticized Baldinelli's approach, even though he advertises with us. That's how journalism works. Advertising with us buys you an ad, not favourable coverage.)

The reality is local news is the least partisan news you'll find anywhere because we report on municipal council and local politicians, who are not beholden to any political party.

Our ideals are our own. They are carefully thought-out, with the best interests of the whole community in mind, and have nothing to do with funding from a government program.

For Poilievre to suggest newspapers like ours are only Liberal-leaning because we receive funding

from the LJI program is insulting, out of touch with reality and just another way to pander to people who lack critical thinking skills.

Does he think that if he keeps the program running, news outlets are going to magically turn Conservative because we're so grateful?

It's almost cute, how ignorant he must be.

He would like you to believe Justin Trudeau is funneling orders to organizations like The Lake Report. It's simply not true — and the worst part is that Poilievre must be smart enough to know it. He's just hoping you buy his baloney.

Perhaps he is afraid that with a healthy media he will continue to be called out on his lies and misleading statements — exactly like what we're doing here.

Next we asked him again point blank what he plans to do with the LJI program.

His answer was that media should be funding itself “and do what media have done for, I don't know, 3,000 years?”

Simply, we have to ask, how out of touch can a person be, when from one side of their mouth they're saying they would repeal laws that give media fair compensation from giants like Google and Meta, and on the other side he says those organizations should be funding themselves entirely?

With one hand he's cutting our income flow and giving it to billionaires, and with the other he's criticizing media for not being able to make enough money and saying the government shouldn't be helping keep an essential democratic function alive.

He goes on: “And now, of course, media and journalism is stronger than ever today because we have the internet, which allows for more voices to reach Canadians and that competition is positive. We can't have the government try to shut down competition just to favour those who favour the political viewpoint of Justin Trudeau.”

Again, there's a lot to unpack here.

Firstly, did he just say media and journalism is doing better than ever? We thought he just said how much we're all suffering under Trudeau?

Can't this guy make up his mind?

He's just pandering again. So don't take anything he says too seriously, people.

Secondly, the government isn't trying to shut down anyone. The government is trying to help keep local journalism organizations alive, largely because real journalists are the only ones who will give you the whole story.

“Citizen journalism” like you see on TikTok and Facebook, created by amateurs who don't really know what balanced journalism is, is often littered with untruths, accompanied by half-baked opinions and in general isn't really news.

Citizen journalism — a term that shouldn't even really exist because it isn't journalism — doesn't usually cover council meetings. If it does, it often comes with bias.

It doesn't continue to follow stories to the end. It often convicts people before a court can.

There are a litany of problems with citizen journalism and Poilievre's mindset that journalism is doing just fine because every Bob and Sue can post on Twitter is not appropriate for someone who wants to run this country.

Run it into the ground is more like it.

We realize this is probably the longest editorial we've ever published. Yet, it might be one of the most necessary editorials yet.

Because one of Poilievre's tactics is to throw out so much misinformation, that it's almost impossible to fact check it all, especially on the spot.

It's why he often appears to eat journalists and other politicians alive. Because he's on another planet and it's almost impossible to have a rational conversation with someone who just makes things up.

So it's our duty as a free press — one that isn't going to take anything at face value from any political party — to call out Poilievre's dangerous lies. Or his inability to comprehend the truth.

Either he's lying to you and knows it. Or he's just incompetent.

And because he's not a stupid man, it's not hard to figure out. If you think critically about what he says.

187 Queen plan **diminishes** cultural landscape



Brian Marshall
Columnist

So, if you thought the battle to preserve the Chrysler-Burroughs property at 187 Queen St. was done with town council's close-fought vote that defeated the owner's rezoning application to allow for this historic, heritage designated property to be carved up and significantly altered ... think again.

This week the application, supported by a staff report — significantly enhanced from previous iterations — recommending acceptance, is scheduled to come before the town's committee of adjustment.

The application by the owner of the property, Rainer Hummel, proposes to sever the original historic lot into two parts, create a new driveway off Queen Street to service the proposed front lot compromising the 19th century contextual orientation of the house and land, while profoundly impacting the designated home's facade and historic presentation with a two-storey addition that includes garage doors fronting on Queen Street.

Now, for contextual purposes, let's visit the history of this property.

Completed circa 1822, the dwelling — very likely designed in the cubic form Regency style — was constructed as the home of R.M. Crysler, a prosperous merchant here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and member of Upper Canada's notable Crysler family.

Originally, the facade of the house probably fronted on Queen Street. However, when the property was sold in the late 1830s, the new owner, Charles Hall, embarked on a substantial project to remodel the home

in the latest architectural style — Greek Revival. An addition was built on the easterly wall which altered the dwelling's square footprint to rectangular. Fluted pilasters with carved ionic capitals were installed to visually support a substantial cornice set with modillions that wrapped the entire house.

To complete this remodel, an impressive entry way was introduced into what had been the side wall of the house (possibly because the proximity of the house to both Queen and Simcoe streets would not allow for the construction of a statement portico in keeping with its new Greek Revival style).

Importantly, this alteration established the building's facade orientation into the lot as it still presents, 187 years later.

Some eight or nine decades later, the portico — no doubt in substantial need of repair — was rebuilt in the then-popular Classical Revival style while the rest of the building retained its Greek Revival elements.

This historic gem has anchored this section of the Queen Street streetscape for 202 years.

And, its deep original lot — as surveyed in the late 1700s — has served to echo and enhance the open space opposite on Simcoe. Moreover, located as it is, open to view from the street, it provides a very rare glimpse into the historic land requirements of 19th-century town dwellers to grow food for their tables.

Therefore, I would argue that, combined, the land and dwelling fulfil virtually every requirement to be classified as a critical component and vitally important element of Old Town's cultural heritage landscape and history.

Indeed, this is why, according to the Burroughs family (who had the property designated in 2002), the inclusion of "the lands" in the designation was done. They viewed the entirety of the land and building as inextricably conjoined in terms of heritage.

Hence, the document in



For 200 years this house and property has anchored the cultural heritage landscape at Queen and Simcoe. A history which may be under the chopping block. BRIAN MARSHALL

Schedule B under "Designation" reads: "This designation applies to the lands and more particularly to the entire exterior facade and structure of the house, the exterior doorcase and entrance portico and to interior features including the early trim and doors on the first and second floors, all existing fireplaces and mantels, original pine floors and both the main and rear staircases."

But, to no one's surprise, town staff do not see it that way.

Indeed, while they admit that the designation document states that it "applies to the lands," they argue that because "the lands" are not specifically identified as an individual heritage attribute (included again after the words "and more particularly") then "the lands" are not intrinsic or "contribute meaningfully" to the property's cultural heritage value or interest.

Finally, working from this premise, they suggest that "severing the property does not diminish" its heritage or cultural importance.

It is a patently fallacious argument based on the completely untenable position that the words "more particularly" can be used to

limit or quantify the existent heritage attributes that contribute to this property's cultural heritage value or interest.

But let's move on ... The second last paragraph of Section 5 (Discussion/Analysis) reads:

"Staff are of the opinion that the policy framework has been sufficiently addressed by the applicant through the submission of supporting documentation, and do not anticipate adverse impacts to the heritage character of the dwelling, adjacent properties and the overall character of the neighbourhood."

Since I am not a planner, let's accept that the author of this report, with a university degree and four years of work experience in the discipline, is sufficiently qualified to advance the opinion that the policy framework has been sufficiently addressed. However, exception needs to be taken on the next three items.

Consider the first point claiming there will be "no adverse impacts to the heritage character of the dwelling."

Allowing a severance will require a driveway entrance to the new, smaller designated lot. There are

two options, one off Simcoe Street and the second off Queen Street.

Now, the Simcoe option is feasible and, at 30 feet, 11 inches, would just barely allow for the construction of an attached garage off the easterly wall of the designated dwelling within lot setbacks (given that this would be considered a side yard setback based on the orientation of the house).

Accepting that the separating link from the designated dwelling to the new addition would be severely constrained — or eliminated — this option has some merit in that it presents the least impact, albeit not "no impact," on the heritage elements of the designated dwelling.

On the other hand, the Queen Street option, which the applicant has advanced, is a completely different story.

In this scenario, and the one generally recommended by town staff, the gracious front lawn in front of the building's facade has been replaced by a drive court. A single-storey 12-foot link has been attached to roughly 25 per cent of the designated facade that leads to a two-storey garage with living space above, that has

its garage doors presenting directly onto Queen Street.

Not only does this option adversely and significantly affect the 187-year-old heritage facade and its historic grounds, but it would be the first allowance of an attached, directly street-fronting (20th-century phenom) garage on the entire length of Queen Street — something that carries with it a very dangerous precedent for future applications on this anchoring street in Old Town.

Not to mention it requires the removal of a relatively young, but completely healthy boulevard tree, thereby reducing even further NOTL's inadequate tree canopy — the lowest in Niagara.

The next point referencing "adjacent properties" can be generally summarized by suggesting the single shouldering property on Queen Street would be acceptably impacted, however, the shouldering property and the facing property on Simcoe would be profoundly affected.

The third point, suggesting this application would have no impact on "the overall character of the neighbourhood," we have already visited in this column so, in summation, allow me to suggest that granting the severance as presented, would fundamentally and irreversibly diminish the cultural heritage landscape of NOTL.

If you agree, be present in the council chambers on Aug. 15 to respectfully voice your opinion before the committee of adjustment. Provincial legislation allows that any person physically present in the chamber during this meeting must be heard and their comments documented to be included in the committee's decision.

Again, it is back to you folks ... stand up and be counted or accept a future town designed by unsympathetic developers working in your backyard.

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



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Build elegant retirement residence, not a hotel

Dear editor:

Having read all the columns and letters to the editor of The Lake Report over the last few weeks, here are my two cents' worth.

The development of a "five-star" hotel by Benny Marotta's Two Sisters Resorts on King Street and the Hummel hotel on Queen Street are faux pas in so many ways. It's obvious when looking at all the negatives and trying to find something positive.

Despite what the tourism strategy experts have suggested, the addition of two more large hotels is superfluous to the needs of the market, when other

hotel owners admit to empty rooms in all but the summer months, casting doubts about economic viability.

The negatives are compounded by their inability to hire suitable, or in many cases, any, staff at all.

Hundreds of Old Town residents directly affected and accompanied by others who see the light have even been irate enough to march on the town hall with placards to protest that such power has been assumed by the lord mayor and council.

They agreed to allow building heights of 62 feet and disregard the 36-foot limit of the official plan and

the residents' right to quiet enjoyment.

All of that by a simple 5-4 vote. Democracy gone mad.

The decisions are in direct opposition to the views that they expressed to be elected.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Old Town is unique. It's different from everywhere else and that's why people come here, for the wonderful world-class theatre and wineries.

There will, however, be a limit to NOTL's attraction if its small-town historic charm is overwhelmed by architecturally irrelevant buildings, such as those proposed for King Street and Queen Street.

As residents, we tolerate a lot of traffic noise but the addition of thousands more vehicle movements by the overnighers, weekenders, wedding guests and commercial deliveries will push us even closer to the brink ... to the point when the "five-star" visitors will conclude that NOTL is way too busy to put on their bucket list.

However, it's not too late to save the situation. Ask Mr. Marotta and Two Sisters to build something that is desperately needed and would be welcomed with open arms: An elegant retirement residence.

Hamish Kerr
NOTL

Trash cans were overflowing during Peach Festival

Dear editor:

I live in Toronto, but frequently visit your lovely town.

I was in Niagara-on-the-Lake last Saturday enjoying the Peach Festival.

However, as I have noticed several times in the past, your open garbage bins on Queen Street were filled to overflowing and not only looked disgraceful, but were definitely also a health hazard.

As well, a racoon dragged a plastic bag of garbage onto the property of one of the lovely homes on the street and made a huge mess.

I do think the Town of NOTL should look into having much more frequent garbage pickup, particularly when the town is hosting these special occasions.

Melissa McGroarty
Toronto



Letter writer Melissa McGroarty was among the thousands who flocked to NOTL for the Peach Festival. She says the Town of NOTL's garbage cans were overflowing. SUPPLIED

Why only three stars for 'remarkable' Shaw play?

Dear editor:

My spouse and I enjoy our weekly reading of The Lake Report for informative news, restaurant and winery ads, special events and Shaw Festival reviews.

The review of Shaw's "The House that Will Not Stand" left me puzzled, ("A remarkable play and

excellent debut in Canada," Aug. 8).

Command of language, excellent. Context description, excellent. Period appearances, great.

Headline for the review: "Remarkable play" got me.

We head over the bridge to scoop our tickets but hold on. Hit the brakes.

Your reviewer gave it just 3 out of 5 stars.

Why? Let's see, ah, direction? Acting? Boring? Poor seats? No British accents?

Bill O'Neil
Williamsville, N.Y.

Editor's note: Reviewer Penny-Lynn Cookson appreciates the feedback and

notes the play is a wonderful contribution to learning about the history and life in New Orleans at the turn of the 19th century and future implications. While 3 stars may have been puzzling to some, to earn 4 stars requires a wonderfully executed and performed production, like "My Fair Lady."



We welcome your letters

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

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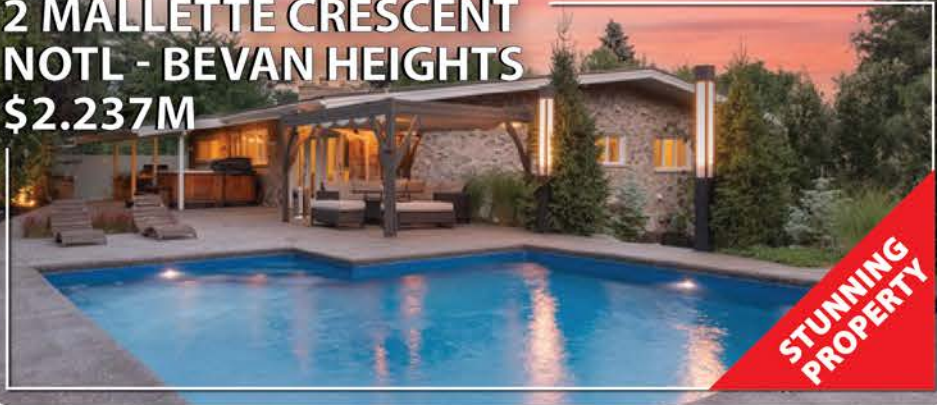
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An alternative view of the migrant farm workers program

Dear editor:

When I and maybe others read The Lake Report's story, "New migrant worker crisis line not the solution, advocate says, Aug. 8) our minds naturally went to the migrant farm workers in our area.

The program for our migrant farm workers has been going on for more than 55 years. However, now the program also apparently includes migrant workers in different industries: restaurants, fast-food chains, hotels, etc.

Therefore, when Kit Andres speaks of the foreign worker program, is Andres including all migrant workers or only specifically about our farmworkers?

Let me advocate against this. If our farmworkers were given permanent residency, we might no longer be assured that we could bring our tender fruit and vegetable crops to harvest.

The workers would be able to leave our employ and find a job elsewhere. That is the main reason this program began in the first place. Farmers could no longer find reliable help to see the crop through from start to finish.

Migrant farm workers are not slaves to their employers. They sign a yearly contract and are free to decline a position before the start of the following year.

They can request to go to a different employer or they can decide to stay in their home country. It might also be difficult if migrant farmworkers are granted permanent residency.

The worker would no longer have a rent-free, utility-free place to live, they would require transportation to and from their place of employment and in almost all cases would be unemployed after completion of the year's farm work.

They would still have access to their Ontario Health card (as they do now), the worker and most likely the family being brought with them would now not have access to a drug or dental plan.

Currently they are insured through Cowan Insurance, which is far cheaper than what it costs self-employed farmers to buy into.

As for migrant workers being mistreated, if Kit or anyone else has knowledge of this, they must report it to the appropriate liaison department.

It is sad, but true that mistreatment may occur, however it can and does happen in many workplaces that have nothing to do with migrant workers.

Our workers come here in order to give their families a better life back in their home country. It is a sacrifice for them to be away from their families, but do our armed forces not sacrifice the same for all Canadians' benefit?

It is a privilege for us that sacrifices are made by our migrant workers as well as our military.

One thing I tried to accomplish years ago was to have the government lift the restriction on deducting EI from these workers as they could not collect if out of Canada while not working.

It could be a bonus for them not to have EI deductions.

Overall, I think that whenever articles appear denouncing the problems faced by migrant workers, it should be specifically stated what type of migrant worker is being spoken about as, for the most part, Niagara uses only the migrant farm worker program and it is excellent.

Susan Pohorly
NOTL

Why don't some councillors respect town's official plan?

The following letter was sent to members of NOTL council. A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.

There have been many concerns expressed regarding the handling of two recent development applications by Niagara-On-The-Lake council members. Both applications were approved by 5-3 votes.

It is probably safe to say most residents do not want council members to reject development applications on principle and expose the town to significant costs associated with appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

In addition, most residents likely do not support council members rubber stamping approvals of development applications to avoid what may be legitimate appeals to the tribunal.

There must be valid reasons for approving or rejecting any development application.

It is quite apparent that any development applications for large-scale residential proposals must take into consideration the province's overarching mandate for increased housing achieved through higher densities.

The track record of the Ontario Land Tribunal solidly favours developers on residential development appeals.

However, it is not prudent to apply the same criteria to other types of development applications.

In particular, there is likely an opportunity for a different approach to official plan and zoning bylaw amendments required for commercial development.

The recent approvals of two large commercial development applications for hotels are such cases. It is suggested that the province does not have the same imperative to encourage such commercial ventures as compared to its stance on residential development.

Decisions are more focused on criteria detailed in the town's official plan and zoning designations of land in its bylaws.

For instance, the Parliament Oak property requires a significant change from institutional to commercial zoning and locates a large hotel in a residential area.

Further, with the application for a second hotel at Mississagua and Queen streets, the two hotels will have a combined 210 rooms. Both applications require amendments to the official plan and zoning bylaws.

Why are certain members of council reluctant to enforce compliance to the official plan and zoning bylaws to prevent these unsuitably located big commercial developments in the already overcrowded historic area?

Robert Buchkowsky
NOTL

Polo a key fundraiser for NOTL Museum

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If you enjoy learning about the moments, places and objects of yesteryear and appreciate the cultural-preserving powers of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, then the Niagara Polo match is the perfect way to support the museum's future by celebrating the region's past, says Mona Babin.

At a news conference Monday on the museum's grounds to drum up excitement for this fall's match, Babin, president of the museum board, acknowledged the museum has supporters that help finance its operations, including the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We have our membership and we have our attendance, and we have some smaller programs that also bring us in some dollars," she said.

"But this (polo match) helps us with a whole bunch of other costs, including just



The biennial Niagara Polo match is Sept. 14.

keeping the lights on."

The biennial polo match will be held this year on Sept. 14 at the historic Commons.

In 2022, it attracted about 2,000 spectators and every year it is held, it offers as much of a glimpse into history as it does the chance to fundraise and bring the community together.

For instance, polo was used to train British and Canadian soldiers dating back to the 1830s.

The King's Dragoon

Guard, also known as the Royal Canadian Dragoons, used the game to train men stationed in NOTL: they essentially learned how to become cavalymen, riding a horse and fighting at the same time.

"This polo event is exciting on many fronts," said Babin.

"But that being said, it also gives us an opportunity to talk about the museum and we raise funds, of course. It brings everybody together."

At 129 years old and serving as the oldest purpose-built museum in Ontario, Babin said NOTL's house of antiquity needs the support of the public to continue offering important lessons and visuals of the past.

The museum, she said, is a key component to fostering a sense of pride in the residents who live in NOTL and excitement for those who come from other parts of the country to visit and learn about such an impor-

tant part of the nation.

"One of the richnesses of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the history. So when people come (to NOTL), they don't expect the cookie-cutter houses," she said, referring to the litany of historical homes in the community.

"Of course, we are going to have the new stuff and we will still have malls, but go on Queen Street and it has very different restaurants and different individual stores and look you around and you see the old architecture."

"And here (at the museum) we can tell the story of what was there before the Tim Hortons was there and what happened to the courthouse: what's the history of that?"

It's all about not forgetting the past through tangible sights and sounds, added Babin.

"That's what we do here. We tell stories so that people know."

wright@niagaranow.com

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Last year's winning team, Paul Weiss, Jason Day, Ben Taylor and Lyle Hall. The Red Roof Road Rally returns for a second year on Sept. 21. Registration is open now. SUPPLIED

Red Roof Road Rally returns for second year Sept. 21

Staff
The Lake Report

Jon Taylor comes up with all of the scavenger hunt clues for the Red Roof Retreat Road Rally Scavenger Hunt — and he aims to make the game as fun and tricky as possible, all while raising money for the Niagara-on-the-Lake respite and recreational centre.

"Last year for example, a clue might be 'you and your teammates do what the Beatles did on the cover of Abbey Road,' so that's the four Beatles walking across a crosswalk," Taylor told The Lake Report.

All of the clues require a video or picture to be sent to one of the rally's judges to be marked in real-time.

Those interested in solving this year's 25 clues still have time to enter the Road Rally set for Saturday, Sept. 21.

About 30 cars are already registered and there's room for 10 more at a cost of \$500 per vehicle or \$125 per person. All the money raised goes toward Red Roof.

"Our goal this year is \$35,000. Last year we did \$25,000, so we hope to incrementally, every year get a little bit better," said Taylor, who sits on Red Roof's board.

Red Roof is working on a new facility at the ranch to replace an old house on the site and Taylor is deeply involved in that project.

"It's time for us to invest in a new facility so that we can service the families, the children and the young adults in the region in a more suitable facility that's modern and geared toward our professional needs," Taylor said.

Red Roof hopes to break ground in September 2025, so any funds raised by the Road Rally will help that effort.

For more information and how to register for the rally, visit redroofretreat.com/roadrally.



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Cool cars crowd street

A show of luxury and horsepower, this bright orange McLaren leads a parade of McLarens through downtown Old Town for the Niagara 5000 luxury car show on Friday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Kinsmen show brings out car enthusiasts for a good cause

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Gail Therrien has been coming to the Kinsmen Club's car show for years as a patron, dreaming of one day participating with her own car.

This year, that dream came true.

"My husband bought me a car for my birthday last year: a 1966 Mustang," Therrien told The Lake Report.

She brought her Mustang out to the Kinsmen Scout Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday to take part in her first-ever car show, the annual Show and Shine event.

And she wasn't alone: countless hobbyists and car lovers filled the Kinsmen grounds.

Club member Ken Slingerland estimates a crowd of 1,500 people in attendance with around 425 cars outside the scout hall.

An estimated \$10,000 raised at the show will go toward the Kinsmen Club's local community projects, most notably Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

"We've got more volunteers, which is fantastic, and again the Girl Guides, which we support, were able to show



Hundreds of classic rides were on display outside the Kinsmen Club for car enthusiasts to check out on Sunday afternoon. DAVE VAN DE LAAR **More photos at niagaranow.com.**

up and help us this year," Slingerland said.

Despite a bout of rain toward the end of the show, Therrien was feeling all sunshine.

"It's hard to imagine that some of these vehicles were on the road before I was even born: the variety amazes me," she said.

The community that gathered around the show was a highlight, Therrien said.

"It's an unwritten rule that everyone respects your vehicle: you feel like you're in your own backyard," she said.

Bill Gouthro and Mike Savoie, who both brought their hot rods out to the

show, shared the same sentiment.

"Normally a group of friends — we all know everybody — gets together and we come every year," Gouthro said.

Savoie travels to a handful of different car shows but for Gouthro and others, the NOTL Show and Shine is an annual highlight.

The two Niagara Falls residents have always been interested in cars. Savoie works as a mechanic and owns three other show cars.

For this year's show, Savoie brought out a 1979 Chevrolet El Camino and Gouthro showed off his 1968 small block with only

23,000 miles on it.

Steve Mercier from Niagara Falls brought out his Ford F-100 truck, which he's had for 35 years, to show off all the improvements made over the last three decades.

"It's been through many changes. It used to be a lifted truck with big tires, I decided to lower it and try something different," Mercier said.

Everything he knows about cars he learned from his stepfather.

"There was no TV and stuff back then, so he would bring me out to the garage," Mercier said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

The hits abound at Shaw’s popular **Spiegeltent**

“SPIEGELTENT”
★★★★
(out of five)

“Cotton Club,” director Kimberley Rampersad, ends Oct. 11.
“Footlights,” director Tim Carroll, ends Oct. 5.
“Kabarett,” director Tim Carroll, ends Oct. 12.

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

“It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing” and swing audiences certainly did when Duke Ellington composed this jazz classic with lyrics by Irving Mills in 1931 and performed it at Harlem’s famous Cotton Club.

And 93 years later, we are still swinging, swaying and “doo wahing” to the beat of this joyful tune as the cast of “Cotton Club” pounds it out in song and dance during their closing number of a terrific upbeat evening in the Spiegeltent.

The song list of each of three sets presents tunes of the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s by Gershwin, Arlen, Cole Porter, the Duke and others.

They remain as beloved today as they were then — and how the Shaw cast delivered!

Jeremiah Sparks not only sang “Ain’t Misbehavin’” but accompanied himself at the keyboard as convincingly as ol’ Fats Waller himself.



It may not have the permanency of the Royal George Theatre, but don’t be fooled — the Shaw’s Spiegeltent is hosting a variety of quality live musical performances for this year’s festival, from swing jazz to Broadway classics. MICHAEL COOPER

Graeme Kitagawa played drums, sang and brilliantly tap danced up a storm and then switched to the plaintive “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore.” Songs of smitten love, “My Man” and “I’m In the Mood for Love,” were superbly delivered by Élodie Gillett.

The audience was totally into enthusiastically singing the “hidy hidy ho” response of Cab Calloway’s fun “Minnie the Moocher.”

And as if things couldn’t get higher, we had Tat Austrie singing “How High the Moon,” “Summertime” and “Stormy Weather” with a delivery that went from vibrant to tender to defiant.

A sparkling Alana Bridge-water wowed us with an Ella-worthy “Just One of Those

Things” and a rich dramatic “Strange Fruit.” Music director Paul Sportelli was solid throughout at the keyboard.

“Footlights” gave us another stellar evening of musical hits from Tin Pan Alley and “The Golden Age of Broadway.” The two-set song selection was intriguing because each performer chose songs particularly meaningful to them.

Gillett opened the show with “Something’s Coming” (from “West Side Story”) followed by “Don’t Rain on My Parade” (“Funny Girl”) and JJ Gerber’s wistful “Soon It’s Gonna Rain” (“The Fantasticks”) contrasted with a buoyant “Put On a Happy Face” (“Bye Bye Birdie”).

Bridgewater totally

enticed us to fly with her anytime in dazzling renditions of Duke Ellington’s “I’m Beginning to See the Light” and “Fly Me to the Moon,” the theme song of the Apollo 10 and 11 missions orbiting the moon.

Back on Earth, Kitagawa expressed near breakdown angst prior to a blind date in “Tonight at Eight” and Taurian Teelucksingh delivered tremulous uncertainty to full blown joy in “She Loves Me.”

Ruthie Knut’s deep emotion in “Till There Was You” and Tat Austrie’s “Love Me or Leave Me” convinced us that we are not going anywhere without these two.

Shane Carty sang a strong heartfelt “The Impossible

Dream (The Quest)” from “Man of La Mancha” and our dream was encore!

Jeremiah Sparks gave us “All of Me” (“Carousel”) and a powerful “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” His mother and family from Nova Scotia were in a banquette giving full-throated support of Jeremiah and cast with expressions of “Right!”, “You tell ‘em!” and “Go girl!” — which startled the meek and gave delight to the rest of us.

This was a great show and the audience response was all-in and exhilarating.

“Kabarett” presents a night in Berlin with music composed and performed during the unstable but highly creative 1930s Weimar years to the Second World War.

Kurt Weill’s “Mack the Knife” reveals the underbelly violence of the time. Compositions by Bertolt Brecht and Hans Eisler reflect war and political turmoil in “Song of the Moldau,” “Solidarity Song” and “Bilbao Song.”

Anti-capitalism cynically rings out in “It’s All a Swindle” and “There’s Nothing Quite Like Money.”

The songs of longing, love and loss composed by Spoliansky, Holländer and others provided the other side of shattered lives during an uncertain present and unknown future.

The most popular song became “Lili Marlene,” a war-era German love poem

written by Hans Leip and set to music by Norbert Schultze in 1938 and most memorably sung by Lale Andersen, Vera Lynn and ever after by Marlene Dietrich.

“Lili Marlene” was first heard as a Nazi propaganda song on Radio Belgrade. It was claimed by both the Allied Desert Rats and Rommel’s Afrika Korps battling it out in North Africa.

Goebbels and the BBC tried to ban it without success. The troops loved it and it became internationally famous in no time.

The final flourish by the excellent cast of Kristi Frank, Carty, Gerber, Nkut and Teelucksingh was appropriately “Cabaret” by Kander and Ebb, which brought a very satisfying production to a rousing nostalgic close.

Other performances in the Spiegeltent are the “Variety Show,” which was more miss than hit, and “The Roll of Shaw,” which was an intolerable and interminable bore.

The latter was an improvisation with the audience determining the next action by using paddles as in an auction house. One wished the hammer to come down swiftly.

May the Spiegeltent live on at the Shaw with variety but more focus on well-directed hits, please.

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

Tickets on sale for Shaw Guild’s new **Autumn Soiree**

Staff
The Lake Report

Tickets are on sale now for an exclusive fundraiser being hosted this fall for supporters of the annual Shaw Festival.

The Shaw Guild’s Autumn Soiree will be held on the evening of Friday, Oct. 4, hosted at the Chateau des Charmes with a silent auction and wine pull.

Tickets for this event, attendance for which is capped at 140 people, are \$125 each.

This fundraiser is a response to survey results from fans of the festival who have attended other Shaw Guild fundraising events.

“People expressed the interest in a fundraiser hosted at a great location with an

ambiance reflective of the Niagara-on-the-Lake history and culture,” read the guild’s media release.

“They wanted a party atmosphere with live music, good food, excellent wines and a variety of entertaining ways to contribute to the fundraising efforts. We believe the Autumn Soiree is that fundraising event.”

The fundraiser will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Alongside the silent auction and wine pull, guests can enjoy catered food from Vintage Hotels and dance to the musical stylings of Sandy Vine and the Midnights.

Tickets will be on sale until Sept. 27. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit shaw-guild.ca/autumn-soiree.

RiverBrink’s **‘Turbulence’** exhibit is on now

Debra Antoncic
Special to The Lake Report

In “Turbulence,” her exhibition of drawings, watercolours and digital prints at RiverBrink in Queenston, artist Millie Chen focuses attention on past and present, on historical events and memory.

These themes are set against the experience of the everyday alongside, and within, sites of trauma.

In Chen’s hands, the traces of calamitous incidents are buried, but rise to the surface in unexpected ways. This surfacing highlights the fragility and vulnerability of our lives.

Her work has been shown across North and South America, East Asia and Europe at venues and festivals.

“Turbulence,” suggestive of violent undercurrents and forces unseen, is belied by an imposed sense of restraint and calm.

Chen, an art professor at the University at Buffalo, employs a grid structure throughout, one that adds a certain regimentation, producing order out of chaos and linking her current interests with previous bodies of work.

Some drawings focus on sites that have historic and symbolic significance: Fort Erie as a crossing point on the Underground Railroad, the excavations for the Peace Bridge (1925-27) which unearthed more than a million Indigenous artifacts and the Welland River, site of one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812-14.

The ease with which violent histories are forgotten or overlooked is another important theme in the exhibition, explored in series such as “rocks” (2017) and “stain” (2015).

In the latter series, prompted by a visit to

Tuol Sleng in Cambodia, a former high school notoriously used as an interrogation centre and prison by the Khmer Rouge in 1975, Chen used photographs of the tiled floor as the background for a series of 80 digital prints.

Chen has a simultaneous fear of, and fascination with, horror films, and has zoomed in on the frame to render this fleeting moment in the century-old film, a scene of an unremarkable forest landscape, to the point of abstraction.

In this instance, the grid becomes a device of restraint, to contain fears of the unknown, those things beyond our control embodied in horror films, those things that both fascinate and repel.

Contrasting this is the mundane reality of daily living, apparent in the delicate watercolour “Particulates I.”

Yet the accumulation of household dust and other particulates that layer this work is also fraught with anxiety for things we cannot control, from the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Contaminated by particulates from a host of sources, the ordinary becomes a source of risk, the chaos contained by the structure of the grid and Chen’s precise and meditative repetition of the act of drawing.

Chen’s use of the grid as a structuring device provides a unifying element in the exhibition as a whole.

“I use the grid to both retain and release control, as a means to embrace unpredictability and “errors” and to express the wobbliness of being human,” she says.

“The grid contains order, chaos, grief and limitlessness.”

Debra Antoncic is RiverBrink’s director and curator.

Late basketball coach and celebrated lawn bowler to join Sports Wall of Fame

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

On Friday, the annual Sport Wall of Fame Ceremony in Niagara-on-the-Lake will add two more people to its roster of honoured individuals who made contributions to the town through athletics. This year's inductees are coach Wyland Groen and lawn bowling medallist Katherine Smith.

Ken Rive, chair of the Sports Wall of Fame, said after Groen's death in 2010, his induction will be a way of honouring what his players learned from him. "He was a remarkable basketball coach. I knew him and he was a great guy," Rive told The Lake Report. He is looking forward to the lawn bowling club coming out to support Smith, he added. "We are very pleased to have these two new sports



Left: Katherine Smith, centre, with lawn bowling teammates Pat Kostecki, left, and Valerie McWilliams, right, won the gold in last year's Canadian Senior Triples Lawn Bowling Championship in Edmonton. FILE Right: Ken Rive said he is pleased to have representatives from new sports displayed on the Wall of Fame on Friday. JULIA SACCO

on our wall. It's becoming a bit more diversified," he said. Last fall, Smith became a national lawn bowling champion, winning gold at

the 2023 Canadian Senior Triples Lawn Bowling Championship, alongside teammates Pat Kostecki and Valerie McWilliams. There are numerous



hockey and lacrosse athletes on the wall, Rive said, but these will be the first inductees involved in basketball and lawn bowling. The induction ceremony

will take place on Friday, Aug. 16 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena: socializing with food and drinks will be at 5 p.m., with the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m.

Drama and downpour for NOTL golf championships

Staff
The Lake Report

Wicked winds and a torrential downpour didn't deter players competing in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's annual club championships on the weekend. The competition was top-notch and some excellent scores were posted despite Sunday's rain-interrupted finale.

The two-day, 36-hole tournament featured several close-fought matches, late-round drama with two playoffs, plus the ecstasy and agony of great shots made and plenty more that coulda been.

Mother Nature threw the golfers a curve with a slashing thunderstorm and rain blowing sideways early Sunday afternoon, interrupting play as the top competitors were just getting underway.

The nasty tempest hit hard just before 1:30 p.m., closed the course and delayed play for about 45 minutes.

When it blew over, the sun was beaming but gale-force gusts out of the northwest continued to wreak havoc.

And through all that adversity, the marquee competitions — the men's and women's open divisions — were both decided by a single shot.

Former club assistant pro Ricky Watson duelled all weekend with golf buddies James Grigjanis-Meusel and Devon Neudorf, before surging ahead on the 16th hole on Sunday to win by one shot, with a two-round total of 152 (75-77) to 153 (77-76).



The 2024 NOTL Golf Club champions, from left, Martha Cruikshank (Super Seniors), Margot Richardson (B flight), Ginny Green (Seniors), Patrick Craig (Seniors), Louise Robitaille (open), Brian McKillop (C flight), Ricky Watosn (open), Maria Townley (A flight) Kevin MacLean (B flight), John Kozik (D flight), Cathy Taylor (C flight) and Carolyn Porter (D flight). See more photos at niagaranow.com. MAY CHANG

Neudorf finished third in the three-man race with 159 (79-80). In the women's open, Louise Robitaille held off nine-time champ Martha Cruikshank to earn her fourth open title.

Robitaille's 89-90 score for a two-day total of 179 was one shot better than Cruikshank (89-91).

Cruikshank's double-bogey 5 on the final hole was the difference. Another former women's champ, Yolanda Henry, was close behind with 183.

Cruikshank's performance landed her in a playoff for the Senior women's crown with Ginny Green (91-89).

Green two-putted from the back of the green on the first playoff hole to win. With the loss Cruikshank took the Super Seniors title.

There was plenty of drama on the men's side as well.

Through two days of competition, Watson and defending champ Grigjanis-Meusel were seldom more than a shot apart, with the lead sliding back and forth.

The 16th hole played a major role in deciding the men's open — again.

The par-4 is a sharp dog-leg left with a green backing onto the Lake Ontario shoreline. With both players less than 100 yards out, Grigjanis-Meusel landed his approach on the top of the two-tier green but it scooted across the surface and out of bounds.

Watson had done the same thing on the front nine and made bogey, but this time he parred it and went ahead by one shot when Grigjanis-Meusel made 6.

It was almost an identical scenario to the 2020 open when Joe Doria was tied with Grigjanis-Meusel

but scorched his approach over the embankment on the same hole. That led to the first of three champion crowns for Grigjanis-Meusel.

Doria was unable to play this year but watched the final round and witnessed the out-of-bounds shot. "I know how that feels," he said.

Watson and Grigjanis-Meusel closed with pars on the final two holes.

The drama continued in the men's Super Seniors flight (over age 70) as 2022 and 2023 winner Gary Stuggins (80-83) and Rick Janes (84-79) both finished at 163. Ted Carmichael was right behind at 164.

In the playoff, both Janes and Stuggins ripped long drives on the first hole and made par.

But on #2 Stuggins' drive clipped a large tree on the right side of the fairway, leaving him some 200

yards to the green.

Janes was in the middle of the fairway and hit a short iron to about 12 feet and a chance for a birdie.

Stuggins was three to the back of the green and conceded after his fourth shot skittered past the hole.

Patrick Craig celebrated winning the Senior men's title, shooting a stellar second-round 75 after an opening 84 (159). Stephen Warboys followed with 78-84 (162) and defending Seniors champ Jon Taylor was third with 80-83 (163).

In the men's D flight, John Kozik sank a 20-foot par putt on the 18th hole Sunday for what proved to be the winning margin over Bill Smethurst.

Other Top 3 finishers on the weekend were:

Women's A flight: Maria Townley (183), Susan Gagne (189), Cathy Murray (197).

Women's B flight: Margot Richardson (186), Judy Mantle (189), May Chang (202).

Women's C flight: Cathy Taylor (206), Robin Foster (211), Sharron Marlow (221).

Women's D flight: Carolyn Porter (216), Marg Ketcheson (219), Sandie Boyer (226).

Men's A flight: A.J. Harlond (166), Mark Chapman (175), Nick Elia and Rob Reimer (176).

Men's B flight: Kevin MacLean (167), John Sobil (171), Rob Chubey (177).

Men's C flight: Brian McKillop (174), Paul Jacot (177), Ted Baker (179).

Men's D flight: John Kozik (171), Bill Smethurst (172), Mike Henry (177).

How the men's golf finale played out

Three young men, all under 35, all friends and golf pals, teed off in the men's open at last weekend's NOTL Golf Club championship tournament.

Ricky Watson came out on top, by one shot. Any of the three — Watson, defending champ James Grigjanis-Meusel or Devon Neudorf — could have won.

Here's Watson's take on how the finale on Sunday played out.

"It was a great battle. I don't think either of us were up by more than two over the entire 36 holes. James played great, just got a bad break at the wrong time and I was lucky enough to capitalize on it."

"Devon also played great, shooting 159 and would have been right in it if he'd made a few more putts over the weekend."

On Sunday, "I had a horrible front 9 (shot 40) and then bogeyed 10 as well, so James had a two-shot lead."

"The turning point for me was a birdie on 11 that kind of settled me back into it as the wheels were starting to fall off big time."

"James then birdied 12 to get back to up two, but he bogeyed 14 to make it a one-stroke deficit."

"We all bogeyed 15. I made a 10-footer for bogey to stay within one shot, which was important as I felt within one shot I didn't need to force anything yet."

"On 16 we all laid up off the tee. Devon got a horrible break, hitting the big tree off the tee and his ball bounced across the fairway into the hazard."

"James was unlucky to roll through the green and just sneak under the fence out of bounds by a couple of inches from about 85 yards. The same thing had happened to me on the front nine."

"I hit it on the green and two-putted for par. James made 6, so I was up by 1."

They both parred 17 and on 18 "I hit a great 5-iron to about 15 feet. I had a horrible first putt but was able to sneak the two-footer in to seal the deal after James made a great putt for par to keep the pressure on."

"We are both capable of much better golf but it was good as we last year James won by a bunch and in 2022 I won by a handful as well, so this was our first close battle."

Finding a guide dog was a challenge

Continued from Front Page

ing — to move forward to becoming a full human being again.

I found help from dozens of friends and a mobility instructor who taught me white cane technique.

I hated that white cane. To me it became the image of helplessness and subservience.

And I was absolutely pathetic at it. It took me three months to find my way out of the front door of my townhouse, through the parking lot safely, down the driveway and to the street for a simple road crossing. Beyond humiliating and beyond exhausting.

The next logical step was a guide dog.

But it is tremendously hard to become eligible for a guide dog.

You need to be fully capable with a white cane, have completed a two-mile independent walk, including road crossings, be knowledgeable, independent, and so many other things.

And that's not all. Guide dog school waiting lists are huge and vary tremendously in terms of quality of education and the success of students graduating. I was determined to find the very best.

Here I am on the morning that I'm about to take my



Jodey Porter takes a walk down Queen Street. SUPPLIED

next step and I think I'm just as frightened now as I was at the beginning of the journey. Oh my, thinking ahead, I'm going to have a new creature in my life.

Filled with doubts, fear and trepidation at what lies ahead, I am leaving on a road trip with a good friend from Niagara-on-the-Lake in a matter of hours. I am truly on my way.

Two mornings later, I wake up for the first time on the campus of The Seeing Eye Guide Dog School, in Morristown, a historic town of 20,000 people, some 60 kilometres west of New York City. It has the look and feel of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but bigger.

The campus is spacious, more than 80 acres, and students are housed in a large

red brick building, beautifully ornamented with white casements and decorations in a post colonial style.

There are dormitories, a gymnasium, laundry rooms, meeting places and spots, thank heaven, to get extra coffee. And excellent food.

There will be 18 students around me — from all over the world. Two from Canada, one from the Netherlands, and several people from Germany, France and beyond.

The first days at the school are spent getting to know our instructor and vice versa. They need to know our personalities, our lifestyles, our walking pace and speed, how we will relate to a dog, and how we relate to other people, challenges,

obstacles. Everything that makes us tick.

Our instructor is a retired professional photographer, who worked for various news organizations worldwide and was also a commercial photographer for Bacardi for several years.

I think it's quite wonderful that a gentleman who has spent his life seeing for others through a camera is now helping hundreds to learn how to see our way forward using a guide dog.

On our first real working day, we travel into Morristown to walk with our instructor, who pretends to be a guide dog. I take the harness and the guide leash in my left hand and give my instructor/dog commands to move forward, stop, steady pace and so on.

The real work starts tomorrow ...

That is D-Day — Doggy Day, when we will be matched with our puppies. Incredibly exciting.

Next: Meet Doc, my new companion, friend and, in some ways, my saviour.

NOTL resident Jodey Porter is a former provincial assistant deputy minister of health and member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Her story is told in collaboration with Tim Taylor.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: WORLD OF BARBIE

In 1989 Barbie became an ambassador for this U.N. agency that helps children around the world.

Last issue:
Category: NATIONAL ANTHEMS
Clue: One of its anthems includes the lyrics, "iwi Maori, pakeha, rupeke katoa."
Answer: What is New Zealand?
Answered first by: Jane Morris
Also answered correctly (in order) by:
Susan Hamilton, Lynda Collet, Claudia Grimwood, Bob Wheatley, Wade Durling, Howard Jones, Jim Dandy, Pam Dowling, Nancy Rocca, Catherine Clarke, Esther VanGorder, Sue Rautenberg, Marla Percy, Gordon Yanow, Sheila Meloche, Katie Reimer, Tuija Johansson, Elaine Landray, Jennifer Garner

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)

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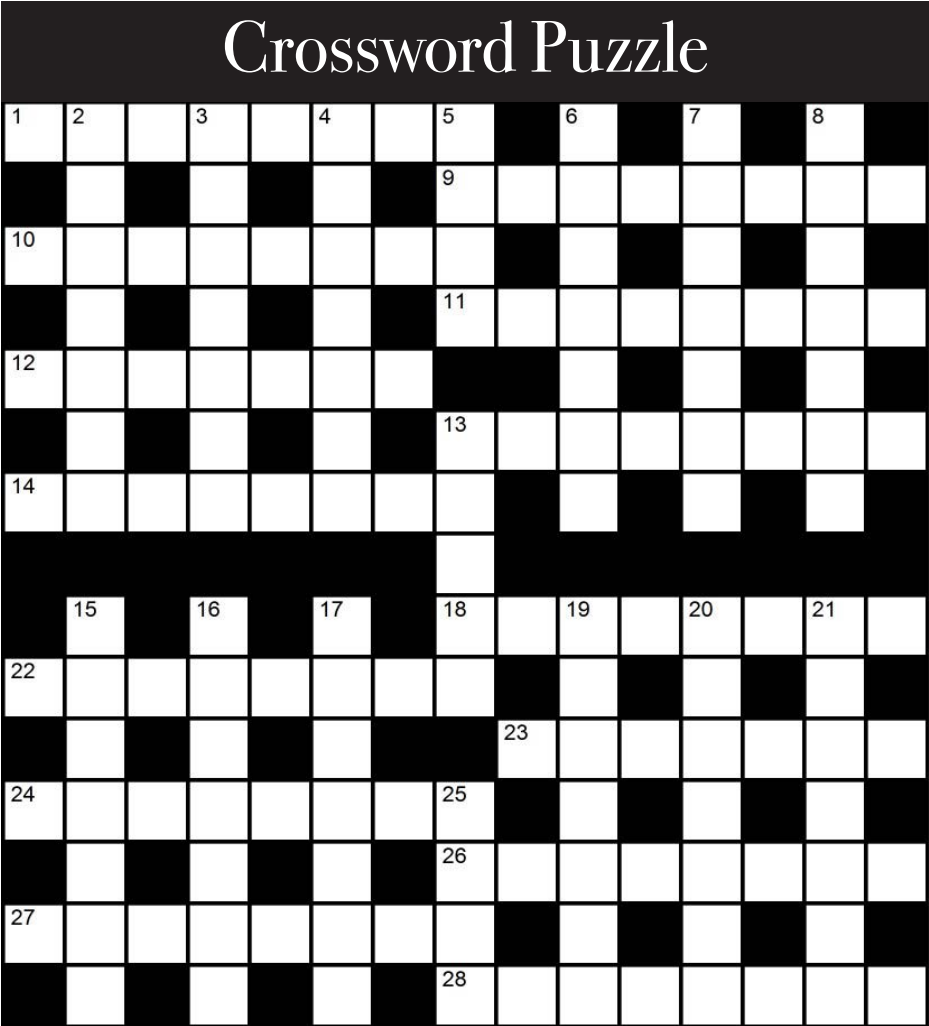
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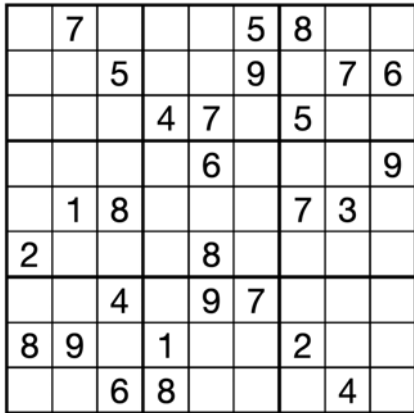
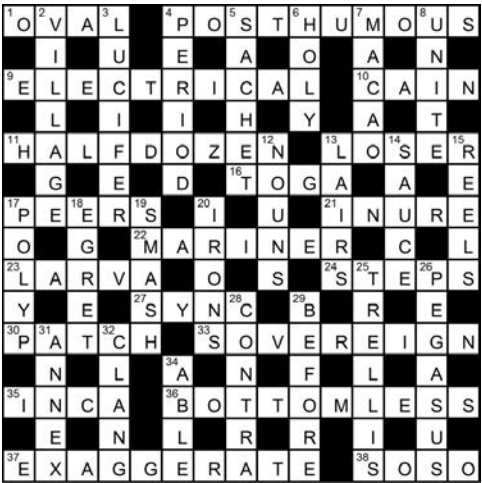
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Have some fun

- Across**
- 1. Fabric (8)
 - 9. Longing (8)
 - 10. Merchant (8)
 - 11. Imagine (8)
 - 12. Candidate (7)
 - 13. Precarious (8)
 - 14. Turns around (8)
 - 18. Exceptionally tense (8)
 - 22. Portuguese jellyfish (3-2-3)
 - 23. Austere (7)
 - 24. Hallway (8)
 - 26. The world of schools and universities (8)
 - 27. Its capital is Little Rock (8)
 - 28. Locate exactly (8)
- Down**
- 2. Breathtaking (7)
 - 3. Vague (7)
 - 4. Ailment (7)
 - 5. Small harp-like musical instrument (4)
 - 6. The gathering of crops (7)
 - 7. Uncommon (7)
 - 8. Cuddle (7)
 - 13. Doorkeeper (5)
 - 15. Stonework (7)
 - 16. Portal (7)
 - 17. Like Abba (7)
 - 19. Make clear (7)
 - 20. Underwater missile (7)
 - 21. Inhabitant of e.g. Tehran (7)
 - 25. Coarse file (4)



Last issue's answers



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Evolution of jet engines shows how far we've come



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

With the exception of state supported expansion and generous funding in Hitler's Germany, for much of the 1930s, aircraft manufacturers elsewhere in the United States, Britain and France were small, and ran on tight budgets in the midst of the Great Depression.

Even so, it was also one of the most creative moments in aircraft engine design, which set the stage for the post-war boom in commercial jet airliners, which continues to this day, and a series of quantal improvements in military aircraft performance over the same period.

The single most important technical development to have a major impact in commercial and military aviation after the war was the development of turbine jet engines.

They offered better high-altitude performance and higher speeds compared to standard inline engines and radial engines of the

interwar and Second World War eras.

Engineers in Germany and Britain recognized as early as the mid-1920s that they would have to develop the turbine engine, which offered better performance at higher altitudes and higher speeds.

The design of the jet engine in the U.K. was pioneered by Frank Whittle, whose initial efforts were stifled by official conservatism and worries about siphoning resources away from conventional high-performance fighters, desperately needed during the Second World War.

Like Britain, Germany's early development of turbine jet engines was met by official indifference and skepticism.

The first flight of a jet powered aircraft, the He 178, took place in August 1939 using a Heinkel hydrogen-fueled jet engine. Two years later in April 1941, the more mature and practical Heinkel He 280 twin-engine jet prototype fighter took off on its first flight.

The latter had a projected top speed of 559 miles per hour, much faster than the fastest conventional fighters of any nation in the Second World War.

And no surprise, infigthing over the acquisition of aircraft was just as stifling in Germany as in Britain



Germany's Messerschmitt Me 262, a twin jet swept-wing fighter, took flight in 1943 and proved itself to be a generation ahead of other jet fighters introduced in the Second World War – but not without its problems.
U.S. AIR FORCE, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

and the He 280 was similarly scuppered by official indifference.

Then, in 1943, the superbly designed Messerschmitt Me 262 took flight.

It was a twin jet swept-wing fighter and clearly a generation ahead of other jet fighters introduced in the Second World War.

Fortunately for the Allies, there were too few of them and there were serious problems with the lifetime of the engines: hard-to-obtain elements needed for high-quality alloys were in short supply, and the aircrafts were often assembled in factories run by slave labour, therefore many had flaws coming out of the factory.

The result was that the Me 262s offered little challenge to the overwhelming piston-engined air supremacy of the Western allies

employing conventional aircraft.

Jet engine and aircraft development in Britain wasn't far behind Germany, but the war time twin-engined Meteor was never up to the performance of the Me 262, and the DeHavilland vampire was too late for the Second World War.

The United States lagged well behind Britain in jet engine design and had to rely on British designs to power its early jet fighters. The first U.S. jet fighter was a dog — no faster than conventional fighters of the day.

Finally, in 1944, the U.S. got its act together with the introduction of the Lockheed P-80. Initially powered by a British engine, its performance nearly equaled the Me 262, but only a few were operational during the Second World War.

The P-80 was designed by John Kelly and his make-shift team at Lockheed, which — for want of space — was built in a small shack, with walls made from wooden packing crates and a circus tent for cover.

The aircraft took flight in August 1944, 143 days following signing the contract for the aircraft.

Such was the beginning of what became the now justly famous Lockheed Skunk works, which later developed the U-2 and later the SR-71 blackbird aircraft — both reconnaissance aircrafts — and went on to develop stealth aircrafts such as the F-117 of Gulf War fame and later the F-22 Raptor and F-35 fighters.

These days U.S. and European high-performance jets and jet engines are challenged by Chinese and Russian equivalents, to say nothing about current and future designs from the U.K., Germany and France, plus up-and-comers South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, India, Turkey and various consortia around the world.

Even though today's commercial aircrafts aren't much faster than the original commercially successful Boeing 707, they are more energy-efficient and some carry many more passengers than the 707.

History shows that jet engines were imagined and

created in the period between the wars and improved somewhat during the war.

Most of the technical advances since in commercial aviation have been incremental in the efficiency and power of the engines, electronics and size of the aircraft.

This highly condensed summary of progress in aviation is like so many other developments in the 20th century that were both revolutionary and evolutionary.

Similar trajectories are obvious in the basic sciences, health care, computer science and so many other technical and innovative ventures.

After starting several series in the sciences including reviews of Nobel Prizes, I've come to realize that there were many Camelot years in the sciences in the 20th century and the upward shows no end in sight unless, for whatever reasons, we lose our way in what has become a very fragile earth and body politic.

Unfortunately, I'm not optimistic about both and by nature, I'm not a gloom-and-doom person.

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.

Help your summer plants stay cool



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

Are your container plantings starting to look tired and straggly? Have they already passed their prime? Are the numbers of blooms dwindling or are the plants starting to look leggy?

When the hottest days of summer hit, many container garden plants slow down on making flowers and fresh foliage — even if you keep up with watering.

Whether you have patio planters or window boxes, here are eight tips to main-

tain your container garden.

If you find your pots are drying out too fast, you can use bark mulch on the surface to prevent the sun drying out the soil.

Heavy rains and high-pressure hose blasts dislodge potting mix and damage roots or pound the surface creating a hard crust through which water has difficulty penetrating.

Cedar bark has an added advantage: it has pleasant aroma that repels many insects, as does cocoa bean mulch.

2. There are some annuals that tend to become leggy or have stretched branching especially the trailing ones such as lobelia, trailing petunias, millionbells and potato vine.

If this is the case, it may be time to pinch back the length of the stem — by doing so, you will force out side branching.

When you pinch back the stems, you stimulate

growth, making the plant bushier. With the new growth comes more flowers of better quality.

Pinch the flower stems back to just above a leaf or bud. Prune leggy stems back to buds or branches and removing off-coloured and damaged foliage.

3. Deadhead old flowers to promote new flower formation. By deadheading the spent bloom, you stop the plants from putting its energy into ripening the seed.

When you rob the plant of its seed you are also forcing the plant to producing more flower bus. Geraniums, dahlias, nicotina, verbena and zinnias, particularly, need deadheading.

4. Water frequently. Since containers don't benefit from ground moisture, it's important to water as often as once daily.

In hot, dry weather, you may need to water twice a day. This is especially true for closely-spaced plants

packed into a small volume of soil.

When you water, be sure to saturate all the soil in the pot — not just around the edges.

If you find that your containers a drying out too quickly, perhaps you have too much plant for the soil in the pot.

If your plants are crowded, or just look past their prime, pull them out. As the summer progresses, remember that the plants grow larger and require more water.

5. Fertilize regularly with a slow-release fertilizer high in phosphorus (middle number).

Annuals are heavy bloomers so they are also heavy feeders. In containers, there is limited soil and frequent watering, so providing nutrients is essential for growing plants, otherwise they'll weaken.

Add additional nutrients throughout the growing



If you want fresh, new flowers to form, you can deadhead old flowers, stopping the plant from spending energy on ripening the seed, says columnist Joanne Young.

season. Frequency depends on whether you are using a liquid feed or granular.

Liquid fertilizer feeds quickly but gets leeched through the soil quicker and therefore needs to be used more often.

Granular fertilizers (including organic) slowly dissolve and provide a slow, but longer lasting feed.

6. Make sure you remove plant debris from containers. If left, decaying leaves and blooms often foster

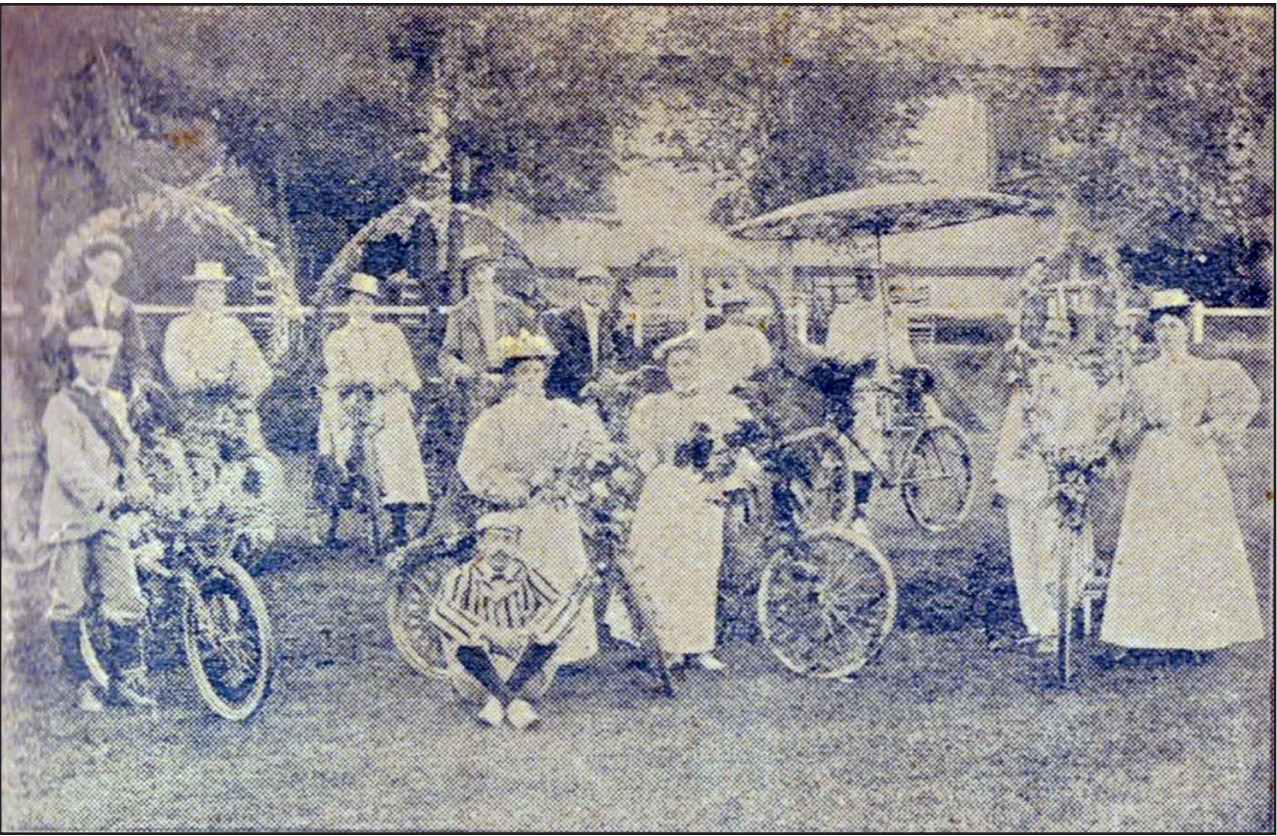
diseases and invite insects.

7. Rotate containers to encourage plants on all sides to grow evenly and don't get too leggy.

8. As the seasons change, move your containers, if necessary, to keep the plants protected from very hot sun and sheltered from strong winds.

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

EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



**Bicycle Gymkhana
in NOTL**

Held annually in the early 1900s in August, the Gymkhana welcomed cyclists from all parts of America for some fun competition. The first day usually featured a grand parade at the Queen’s Royal Hotel (formerly located at Queen’s Royal Park) with decorated bicycles, followed by races for boys and girls. On the second day the real competitions began with many interesting races during the tournament. The Maiden’s Scurry was for girls under age 16 who needed to start, turn and go over an obstacle 18 inches high — over which the wheel had to be lifted — and finish. To win the Obstacle Race, one was required to start, ride 10 yards, dismount, lift the wheel over an obstacle, ride 30 yards, pick up a handkerchief without dismounting, ride 20 yards, go over a hurdle and finish. There was also the Tortoise Race where the winner was the last person to cover the 50-yard course without falling off his or her bicycle. This photograph shows some of the prize winners circa 1900.

An extremely **busy** weekend in our wee town



Ross’s Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Was NOTL the busiest small town in Canada last weekend?

Along with the regular summer weekend activities in our wonderful sports parks and playgrounds, I finally gave up on the idea of trying to keep up with the various special “once-a-year” offerings.

Forgive me if I miss a few, but here’s what I remember: Wednesday evening at the Irish Harp, musicians speaking with Brazilian accents and wearing Scottish kilts, played their high energy non-stop music as a packed house drummed on the tables and applauded.

Banda Taverna, a Celtic band, was a definite hit with the locals, and the Guinness was thick,

creamy and cold. Great fun and so very cultural.

Another big step outside of my musical comfort zone. Whadda town ...

Friday during the day, really expensive and shiny sports cars took over part of Queen Street, parking on both sides of our main street and restricting access to retail shops and restaurants.

I’m not judgmental, but who are these young people with way too much money to spend on their rides?

Even our normally hard-to-rattle lord mayor seemed a bit tentative as he drove a very, very expensive and shiny car west on Queen Street, looking for his designated parking spot. Fancy schmancy, eh?

Saturday was proof that perfect weather makes the marketing people and event staff look like geniuses.

Local farmers and merchants were all in for the Peach Festival this year, with Cheese Secrets having to run out for more pumpernickel bread four times in a determined attempt to keep ahead of lined-up visitors hoping to bite into the “World’s Best Grilled Cheese Sandwich.”

Their sandwiches were ex-



Ross Robinson says closed communities are exclusionary and pretentious.

pensive, but fairly priced, and definitely the world’s best.

Gyros on the Lake, a true gem tucked neatly onto Queen Street a couple of doors down from the LCBO, had all hands on deck, and deftly enjoyed a record revenue day.

Their Greek flag flew all day and it was “Greek street food at its best.” Fairly priced, too. I love their spanokopita, better than you can find on the Plaka in Athens.

Allow me to ramble down the street to the architecturally bland post office, where the very noisy corn on the

cob machines were delighting visitors.

I love fresh corn and don’t mind paying top dollar for authentic local food. Maybe \$3 a cob would have been fair, but don’t gouge me at \$5 a cob. I have my inviolable purchasing principles.

Sunday, during the day, St. Vincent de Paul Church outdid itself with this year’s Peach Festival.

It really is easy to get confused, isn’t it?

All the while, the Kinsmen Show and Shine was in full macho swing over by the Kinsmen Scout Hall and, again, perfect weather

made Ray Hobbs and his dedicated team look like event planning whiz kids. Attaboys!

Between people in town for our many special events, and people enjoying my historical and hysterical free walking tours, I kibbitz and chat with a lot of people every week.

My most thought-provoking conversation of the weekend was with Prof. Keith Martin and his wife, Rebecca Cairns, all the way from Boone in the beautiful Appalachian state of North Carolina.

They were celebrating

their 45th wedding anniversary, dining in several winery and downtown restaurants and taking so many pictures of our Queen Street and private residence flower gardens.

They had quickly fallen in love with our town and were intuitive in their observations. True culture buffs, they were due to enjoy eight Shaw performances.

Yes, they called us friendly and helpful, but they were flummoxed by the street signs on George Manor and Royal Albion Place.

They have chosen not to live in gated communities in the American south and had been made to feel uncomfortable as they drove and walked on NOTL’s “private streets.” On private roads, in a private residential community?

I had asked about these weird situations a few years ago, but still haven’t received a good response from anyone at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Do our town employees use our two trucks to shovel the snow?

Is this not pretentious and exclusionary in our wonderful little semi-socialist country?

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U7 Roster

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Jaxson Hussey	Walker Meleskie	Wells Frederiksen
Lukas Haubrok	Charlie Willms	Isaac Mendoza
Calvin Spence	Jasper Serniak	Catherine Hope
Callum Moore	Lincoln Tissen	Amelia Werner
Myles Washburn	Lucas Froese	Malcolm Hawley



U9 Roster

TJ Gauld	Tessa Froese	Harper Herriman
Bennett Hope	Kenny Neuhoef	Brock Friesenv
Hunter Konopka	Connor Cech	Lincoln Thwaites
Nico Mirabella	Hunter Willms	Christopher Treanor
Ben Kirkness	Reece Nichols	Carmen Coccimiglio
Noah Werner	Noah Sticca	Auston Cwierniewski
Colton Ferguson	Nora Thorimbert	



U11-1 Roster

Lucas Froese	Peter Kotsanis	Jaxson Good
Kaleb Coffey	Nash Funk	Mac Pickett
Ryan Riddle	Hunter Berry	Hunter Grant
Nicholas Riddle	Bentley Berry	Logan Nichols
Owen Thorimbert	Lincoln Venneri	
Colton Meleskie	Charlie Fratangelo	



U11-2 Roster

Noah Scaringi	Luke Boyack	Smith kaposy
Noah Mendoza	Colton Dietsch	Reed Francis
Lee Jay Allan	Colby Wall	Rily Chan-Hill
James Barton	Theo Moore	Daxton Thompson
Jona Wiens	Ethan Sticca	
Elliott Epp	Maz Penetito	



U13 Roster

Jesiah Paul	CJ Washburn	Miller Davis
Hunter Froese	Conor Bailey	Jax Johnson
Jack Kislasko	James Froese	Brody Cech
Quintin Doxtator	Max Plomish	Chris Washburn
Benjamin Eramian	Mason Jaekle	Chris Weier
Jake Van Spronsen	Ryder Kallies	Cam Overstrom

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Obituaries & Announcements

Reginald Porter



In Loving Memory of Reginald Porter
It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Reginald Porter, a beloved husband of Jean Elizabeth (Bignell) for 66 years. Father, to one daughter Robin Lynn, and two sons Mark Thomas Frank, and Michael James. On August 4, 2024, Reginald, or “Duke” as he was affectionately known, left us peacefully at age 88. He, was a remarkable man whose life was defined by his passion for his work, his love for his family, and the countless lives he touched along the way.
He was raised on Alcorn Ave in Toronto, where he loved to play street hockey. Also just a quick bike ride to Maple Leaf Gardens where he sold programs to earn extra money! His dog Sugar was his pal for 17 years!
Born with an entrepreneurial spirit, Reg started his journey at the young age of 18, launching R.F. Porter Plastering Ltd in Toronto with just \$500 in his pocket. What began as his small plastering company quickly grew into a thriving business, employing over 200 people and celebrating 50 successful years

in the industry. Reg’s dedication to repairing and restoring properties was not just a job; it became a beloved hobby that brought him immense satisfaction.
Throughout his life, Reg embraced opportunities wherever he saw potential. His first ventures into property investment began in Toronto, followed by projects in the Huntsville area and even cottages in the New York State area on Lake Erie, his favourite part was Point Albino.
In the late 60s Duke decided to take flying lessons at Buttonville airport, he proudly passed and decided to buy a plane! Fun for a year, but we all felt woozy so Reg sold the plane!
His next venture when the kids were between 8 and 14, was to buy a farm in Markdale Ont. with 200 acres of land and maple bush, a rundown house and a great barn! The local farmers enjoyed the company of the “City Slicker” and taught him the cattle business. He had chickens and made maple syrup out in the woods. He was a good farmer! And renovated the farmhouse to its former glory!
Reg ventured into the sunny shores of Florida, where he found great delight in revitalizing old beach houses in Fort Myers, adding ceiling fans and transforming homes. This newfound passion led him to establish a ceiling fan store in Buffalo, NY, and later 3 stores in Toronto named “The Fan Man.”
In 1996, Reg and Jean’s youngest son, Michael James, tragically passed away. Michael always spoke of restoring the old Morrow Building in Peterborough, ON. The crumbling building, at the corner of a busy intersection, was a serious hazard to nearby pedestrians and vehicles and was destined for demolition. So as to honour Michael’s memory, Reg took it upon himself to restore the building as well as a beautiful plaque. The Morrow Building still stands today as a Designated Heritage Property.
A defining moment came in June of 2003 when Reg and Jean spent a lot of time in Niagara on the Lake. He spotted a ‘For Sale’ sign on the old Glencairn estate. Built 1832, with eleven fireplaces, 8,000 square feet of elegance, and stunning high ceilings, he saw it as a “diamond in the rough.” This ambitious project became a labor of love, one that he approached with enthusiasm and skill. Glencairn Hall is now being designated as a large part of our Canadian heritage.
Though Reg is no longer with us, his spirit will forever be etched in the hearts of all who knew him. His unwavering determination and zest for life will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. Reginald Porter, a true gentleman and visionary, will be deeply missed but lovingly remembered.
A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024 at Thompson Funeral Home, Aurora, ON.

Margaret Ferguson



FERGUSON, Margaret Eileen - With heartfelt sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Margaret Eileen Ferguson on June 18, 2024, at St. Catharines, Ontario, at the age of 98. She leaves behind son John (Nancy), grandchildren Amanda and Jeffrey (Kayla), great grandchildren Vienna and Jaxx – all of British Columbia, and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. Margaret is predeceased by husband Randolph Ferguson (2011), son David Ferguson (1974), and sister Mary Ansley (2004). Margaret also leaves behind many, many dear friends she met as a teacher, author, artist (painter), writer (writing groups), reader (book clubs), Tai Chi, weaver, crafter, lover of nature and history. Margaret found great joy in classical music and the Shaw Festival, and really enjoyed anything musical or theater related. When Margaret moved to Ina Grafton, she took on many leadership roles. There was no job Margaret would shy away from. Margaret’s years at Ina Grafton in St. Catharines were wonderful. It was truly a happy place for her. The family would like to thank the staff for their kindness.
The family will receive friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Friday, August 23, 2024, between 10-11am, with a service to celebrate the life of Margaret to begin at 11am. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish, in lieu of flowers may make a memorial donation to the Shaw Festival. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

Monika Banyay



BANYAY, Monika Magdolna - passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side on Friday, August 9, 2024 at the age of 75. Beloved wife of Charles Banyay for 54 years. Loving mother of Szabolcs Banyay. Adored grandmother of Max, Ashton, and Soren. Monika is also blessed by her loving connection with her niece Bernadette Bokor. Monika was a successful part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake business community as owner of Monika’s Boutique for over thirty-two years.
Cremation has taken place. A funeral mass to celebrate her life will take place at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (73 Picton Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake) on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to any charity for homeless animals. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Celebration of life for Peter and Grace Bissonnette
Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024
Morse & Son Funeral Home
5917 Main St., Niagara Falls
Visitation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with the Celebration to commence at 1 p.m.
Celebration Service will include Lions & Lioness Service.
Reception to follow at the St Davids and District Lions Club located at 1462 York Rd., St Davids. Individuals who would like to say a few words or provide memories are invited to do so at the service. For more information or inquiries, contact PDG Bill Bissonnette at pdgbill0506@gmail.com





Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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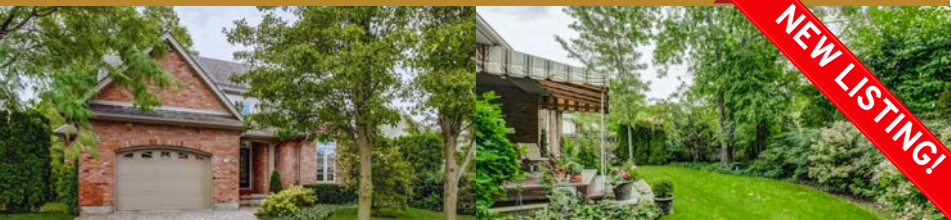
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