



Get rid of your "stuff" | Page 12

Laurie Harley named 2023 Citizen of the Year

Staff
The Lake Report

Laurie Harley, one of the founders and leaders of Niagara-on-the-Lake's innovative Ambassadors program, is the town's Citizen of the Year.

Harley was among several residents honoured Tuesday night at a gala dinner as the Chamber of Commerce's NOTL Spirit Awards were handed out at Ravine Winery.

The Ambassadors program grew out of the CO-

VID pandemic and for the past few summers, clad in blue vests adorned with big "Ask Me" buttons, its volunteers have roamed Queen Street in Old Town offering advice and answering questions from the thousands of tourists who visit NOTL

every week.

In prepared remarks, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said Harley also "has devoted countless hours" to volunteering at the Shaw Festival and NOTL Museum.

Zalepa could not attend due to a council meeting,

but he noted the Ambassadors "take immense pride in contributing their time to promote tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

For photos and details about the other winners from the Spirit Awards gala, see Page 6 and 8.



Laurie Harley.



Donald Ziraldo.

Time for national VQA standard: Ziraldo

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Two members involved in Niagara's wine industry feel that creating a national standard will help promote Canadian vintages internationally and help winemakers and grape growers deal with crop failures – such as one vintners are experiencing right now in British Columbia.

Both Donald Ziraldo, who helped create what became the Vintners Quality Alli-

Continued on Page 4

Preds ousted in first round of playoffs



It was an emotional end to the season as the Niagara Predators were eliminated from the Greater Metro Hockey League playoffs Friday. Tyler Gearing consoled all-star goalie Zane Clausen after their shootout loss. **Full story, Page 16.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Legion bringing home flag that flew at Normandy's Juno Beach Centre

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion will be flying a flag with a special origin to honour our veterans past and present.

The Royal Canadian Legion branch 124 has purchased a Canadian flag that flew over the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France.

The centre is a museum that opened in 2003, an

effort by volunteers and veterans to create a permanent memorial to Canadians who served in the Second World War and preserve this legacy for future generations through education and remembrance.

As a fundraiser to continue its work, the centre is offering Canadian flags that have flown over the centre for \$500.

Each flag will come with a certificate of authenticity indicating the flag was

flown at Juno Beach.

"The goal is to have a tangible item that we can refer to when talking about (the Second World War) and as a displayed item," said branch president Al Howse. "It can draw attention to veterans."

By purchasing the flag, the Legion will be helping the centre with financial support and its continuing mission to highlight through online history lessons and

Continued on Page 5



**Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.**

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park (905)-468-2135

Proudly Supplying and Installing

ANTRIM
HAND-LOOMED CARPETS & RUGS

HIBERNIA
WOOLEN MILLS

Crescent
DISTINCTIVE CARPET | CUSTOM RUGS

STANTON
CARPET • CUSTOM RUGS • RUNNERS

Rosecore
LUXURIOUS CARPET & CUSTOM RUGS

Serving Niagara Since 1977

SIMPSON'S

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Shop from the comfort of home www.simpsonsparmacy.ca

In-store | Curbside pick-up or | FREE local delivery | * Orders over \$25

FREE Regional Delivery*



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

Curbside Pick-up Available



St. Davids residents **appeal** Tawny Ridge decision to land tribunal

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A group of St. Davids residents has appealed a controversial town planning decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

The residents hope the tribunal will have a different opinion on a proposal that would drop 86 residential units onto a vacant lot in the mostly low-rise community.

The project has received enormous scrutiny from residents at every stage of approval, most recently after council reversed a decision to reject some parts of the proposal and approve others.

Several town officials emphasized the reversal was necessary to correct a procedural error made in the final stage of the project approval.

Resident Gienek Ksiazkiewicz is among the residents championing the project appeal.

“Is it congruent with the rest of the community?” the resident asked.

Ksiazkiewicz thinks not — and is prepared to argue as much before the tribunal.



Gienek Ksiazkiewicz, seen here at a meeting in March 2023, has been staunchly against the Tawny Ridge Estates project since it was first announced. FILE/EVAN LOREE

The appeal was filed late Tuesday, just shy of the Feb. 28 appeal deadline, by Toronto law firm WeirFoulds LLP which was retained by Ksiazkiewicz and his fellow residents.

Ksiazkiewicz has maintained from the start that the land between Warner and Tanbark roads should be kept for low-density residential uses.

The project proposal seeks to rezone the land to permit alternatives to detached single-family homes.

These would include stacked and three-storey

block townhouses.

Ksiazkiewicz said he and his neighbours are not planning to become a formal advocacy group, like the Save Our Rand Estate (SORE) has over the Rand Estate project.

However, he said there were enough residents on board that it was impossible to have a distinct leader and the responsibilities of managing the appeal had to be divided up among those involved.

In the absence of a formal residents association, Ksiazkiewicz said his name is on

the appeal.

A tribunal appeal can cost thousands of dollars. He would not disclose how the group plans to fund the costs of the appeal.

Ksiazkiewicz has opposed the project from the start, objecting to its higher-density aspects.

And though the proposed subdivision is denser than some of the surrounding area, a planning report filed with the project application describes it as medium-density, not high-density.

The proposed RM1 zoning requested by the developer permits various types of townhouses, triplexes and fourplexes, according to the St. Davids' comprehensive zoning bylaw.

These are all permitted forms of medium-density housing under the town's official plan.

Generally, that plan limits medium-density to 12 housing units per acre, but parts of the Tawny Ridge project come in at about 13 units per acre.

A staff report in January said a streetscape analysis submitted with the application showed minimal impact on the adjacent

neighbourhood and cited it as sufficient justification to exceed the cap.

“They should just leave the area as it was originally zoned,” he said.

Ksiazkiewicz said many people moved to the area when it was zoned for detached single-family units, and may not have bought there if they knew there were plans to build something “high-density.”

The town's planning department recommended the project for approval and has described its density as “appropriate” for the area.

Ksiazkiewicz said neither the developer nor town planning staff had been responsive to the concerns of the neighbourhood.

He said officials from Upper Canada Consultants had been invited to a meeting of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association but the invitation was declined.

“Nobody's reached out to anybody as far as I am aware,” he said.

Communication concerns among the town, elected officials and the St. Davids residents were the subject of a longer feature by The Lake Report, Feb. 1.

“What we'd like to see is development that's in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood,” said Dan Segal, president of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association.

The association preferred that the original zoning on the lot be retained, but “sometimes, compromises need to be made,” he said.

In this case, he said the compromise had gone “a little too far.”

The association has not been directly involved in the activism against the project, Segal said.

“We're supportive, in principle, of local residents trying to have their voices heard with any development that's going forward.”

The issues raised by residents up to this point, including traffic, drainage and stormwater infrastructure, have been brought up by St. Davids residents for other development proposals.

“And those are issues that could be problematic,” he said.

Segal said his association had not decided if it will financially support the tribunal appeal.

evanloree@niagaranow.com

Niagara on the Lake Realty

1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
1974 • 2024

SOLD



450 JOHNSON STREET
\$2,775,000
MLS 40454536 - Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

NEW LISTING



25 CASTLREAGH STREET
\$1,595,000
MLS 40542786 - Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

NEW PRICE



36 CENTRE STREET
\$1,359,000
MLS 40541019 - Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



45 STONERIDGE CRESCENT
\$1,685,000
MLS 40468088 - Randall Armstrong



22 WEATHERSTONE COURT
\$1,200,000
MLS 40503026 - Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



6 NAVY HALL CIRCLE
\$1,098,000
MLS 40530740 - Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



94 TANBARK ROAD
\$2,289,000
MLS 40530136 - Thomas Elltoft and Jane Elltoft



176 WILLIAM STREET
\$2,100,000
MLS 40499063 - Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

Christopher Bowron*** 905-327-6704
Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726
Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft* 905-988-7494
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft** 905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240

Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Ricky Watson* 905-246-3387
Caroline Polgrabia* 289-257-6063
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983

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

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205

St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

How's the reception?

A drone captures the action as workers scale the cellphone tower on Niagara Stone Road near the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

JOHN DELORENZI



Rand Estate protections won't affect Solmar proposal, town says

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The results of a study conducted last year could be used to change town policy on development in the Rand Estate.

But that same study will have no impact on a subdivision application for the Rand Estate that was submitted to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by Solmar Development Corp., the town's chief planner says.

"The applications are reviewed against the policy that is in place at the time the applications are deemed complete," said planning director Kirsten McCauley.

David Riley, of SGL Planning & Design, is working with Solmar and agreed with McCauley.

The subdivision application cast a shadow on a public meeting Feb 6, where residents and councillors discussed policy recommendations from consultants Urban Strategies and GBCA Architects.

Resident Gracia Janes, speaking on behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, said the character study and policy recommendations from Urban Strategies was "significantly hindered by the pressure of

a multi-home subdivision currently being processed."

Developer Benny Marotta has submitted the subdivision application to the Ontario Land Tribunal and a hearing is set for April.

The hearing was scheduled for the end of March, but McCauley told council it has been pushed back one week.

Urban Strategies consultant Tim Smith presented his team's recommendations for the site.

The consultant's report suggested seven principles be used to guide development on the historic grounds.

Those principles together recommend that: the site's history and nature be protected, development respect the existing character of the area, active transportation networks be included and a range of different housing be built.

The Rand Estate is currently intended for low- and medium-density development, and is intended for some intensification, the report said.

The town plans to craft an official plan amendment from these recommendations to guide future construction on the site, said a report by McCauley.

Janes said an amendment



Resident Elizabeth Masson suggests the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake should invite developer Benny Marotta to donate the Rand Estate to the town. EVAN LOREE

to the official plan dating back to 2017 designates areas "south of Mary Street and west of Charlotte" for intensification.

She said the Rand Estate is not targeted for intensification.

"It took a lot of time, a lot of effort and good planning, and that's where they put the intensification," she said.

Coun. Tim Balasiuk, who chaired the meeting, interrupted Janes three times, reminding her to stay on topic and within speaking time limits.

"This study is about planning. It is about future character areas. It is about what we are going to do with this marvellous piece of property," she said.

Dana Anderson, a planner from the Save Our Rand Estate residents group, spoke in favour of the recommendations from Urban Strategies.

Riley said the results of

the tribunal hearing could have an impact on the Urban Strategies' policy proposals.

He recommended the town defer any decisions to add the policies to its official plan.

Coun. Gary Burroughs was not on board with a deferral.

"I think it's a very important document to be done before the hearing," he said.

It was important to indicate the town's intentions for development on the Rand Estate, he said.

Burroughs asked staff to rush the proposed policy changes back to council for approval by the end of March.

McCauley estimated it might take two months before staff could bring back drafted planning amendments.

It would be tight, trying to get it back before then, she said.

evanlore@niagaranow.com

THE FARMHOUSE Cafe

Open for lunch daily

Reservations strongly suggested

Online booking available! Or give us a call to book

905-468-8814

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

SUNDAY BRUNCH NOW THROUGH MARCH 17!



CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR

Open 7 days a week

Wine tastings offered daily

Reservations strongly recommended for wine tasting

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



airway CPAP inc 

CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.

111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202

For appointment call 289-868-9212.

Proud to support local news!

WAYNE GATES

MPP Niagara Falls proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake

905-357-0681



St. David's VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com

Where's the cat?


House-calls available ☎ 905.262.8777



St. Davids-Queenston United Church

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

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




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

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.



Pauline Reimer Gibson Audiologist



Town says **no more** Queen Street patios, for now

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Councillors were a bit hot under the collar in a talk about patios Tuesday night. The issue of seasonal patios for food establishments has become an ongoing issue for Niagara-on-the-Lake's nine elected officials, with concerns about significantly altering the town's streetscape and lost parking revenue.

But despite almost 30 minutes of back and forth, the NOTL nine reached a consensus that it should temporarily stop accepting new applications for seasonal patios on Queen Street.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, concerned Queen Street could become inundated with outdoor seating for diners, expressed that he wants to refuse any new applications for seasonal patios until staff sets up some permanent regulations for them.



Coun. Maria Mavridis has no conflict of interest on the issue of restaurant patios, the town's integrity commissioner says. He ruled she had no direct pecuniary interest. EVAN LOREE

"Until the staff come back with their detailed report. There shouldn't be any new patios issued on Queen Street only," Burroughs said.

"What we don't want is solid wall-to-wall patios," he later told The Lake Report.

Seasonal patios are currently permitted because the town implemented a temporary use bylaw in

2020, during the pandemic, so restaurants could offer additional outdoor seating.

This was done to help offset the damages to food establishments caused by lockdowns, social distancing mandates and indoor gathering restrictions.

The bylaw has been renewed every year since, but councillors want to get rid of it and replace it with a proper permitting program that doesn't need annual approval.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor brought back a pitch from a meeting held on Feb. 13 to charge a fee to restaurant owners who set up seasonal patios on municipal parking stalls.

"This is not fair or equitable to other establishments who are not able to access parking spots, nor is it fair and equitable for the residents," she said.

While Burroughs could muster support for his idea, O'Connor was the lone vote

supporting a fee structure to compensate the town for lost parking revenue.

"We're here debating against something that will never come into effect," said Coun. Erwin Wiens.

He argued staff would not get to implement O'Connor's proposed fee structure before the permanent program was completed.

"We have to get more efficient," he said.

Spending 30 minutes debating a fee structure for a program scheduled to close next February, Wiens said, was not efficient.

Coun. Maria Mavridis, who withheld her support, said the proposed fee structure was being tacked on and the whole thing was being done "piecemeal."

Mavridis' participation in patio discussions came under the scrutiny of the integrity commissioner after a complaint was filed against her by a restaurant owner.

Mavridis' is employed

at her father's restaurant Corks Wine Bar and Eatery, located in the Queen Street Heritage District.

Commissioner Matt McDermitt said she had no "direct pecuniary interest" in the patio program, as was alleged by the complainant.

She later told The Lake Report that she specifically ran for public office to bring the benefit of her experience in tourism to the table.

She argued excluding her from weighing in on talks like these would "significantly impede my commitment to public service."

Though council approved Burroughs' idea, it reached the decision through some murky procedural waters.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, who chaired the meeting, said council would have to reconsider a former decision before it could debate Burroughs' proposal.

This required a two-thirds majority vote.

Burroughs challenged

Zalepa's ruling that it was a reconsideration item but lost that vote.

He then withdrew his proposal and told The Lake Report later his motion had been combined with other amendments he couldn't support.

The other amendment he was referring to was O'Connor's pitch, which was packaged together with his.

He also said he was "a little frustrated" at the time.

Though council accepted the lord mayor's ruling that the proposal on the floor reconsiders a previous decision, it voted with a two-thirds majority to reconsider the decisions it made on patios at a meeting in January.

Council then rejected O'Connor's ideas but endorsed those proposed by Burroughs after Coun. Nick Ruller decided to put the veteran official's motion back on the table.

evanloree@niagaranow.com

Single VQA standard would **help Canadian wineries** globally: Ziraldo

Continued from Front Page

ance of Ontario, and Ontario Grape Growers chief executive Debbie Zimmerman say it's time it became a national organization dedicated to the promotion of wines from every appellation in Canada – whether they're in Niagara, B.C., Quebec or elsewhere.

Ziraldo is co-founder of the Inniskillin winery, helped create the concept of VQA wines and was the founding chair of the alliance when it was established in 1988.

"When I first built the concept, the logo was VQA Canada," Ziraldo said. "But it was politics. The government of Ontario at the time was insisting it be in Ontario. I think that trademark is still sitting there."

Ziraldo, who co-founded Inniskillin in the mid-1970s, founded a second winery – Ziraldo Wines – after leaving Inniskillin upon its sale to Constellation Brands in 2006.

Having a national organization to ensure wine quality would help promote



Debbie Zimmerman says with a national VQA standard, Ontario grape growers could help B.C. winemakers, who have been left reeling by a crop failure. SUPPLIED

Canadian wines on the international stage, he said.

"It will help get (Canadian wines) into the European market," Ziraldo said. "They follow the same rules where hybrids are not allowed."

For instance, he said there are wines labelled as Ontario wine that utilize upwards of 75 per cent imported juice from grapes.

"Most people don't know that," he said.

He said that Niagara – home to the tourist draw that is Niagara Falls – has an advantage over other

wine regions in Canada.

"Everyone in the world knows Niagara Falls," Ziraldo said. "It benefits the wineries."

Zimmerman, meanwhile, fully supports such a change, saying that it would mean growers across the country could help each other out when disasters such as crop failures happen.

Highlighting the current failure of winery crops in B.C. caused by a mid-January cold snap on the West Coast, she said having national standards means Ontario growers could sup-

ply juice made from Ontario grapes to winemakers in B.C. and the end product would still be classified as a VQA wine.

Currently, Ontario and B.C. are separate appellations of origin in the program.

Making it Canada-wide would help the industry and be welcomed by consumers in this country, she said.

"Canadians generally like to know the products are grown in their home country," she said.

Zimmerman said she knows the pain B.C. growers are currently experiencing.

"We've had a lot of damage in our growing area (before)," she said, referring to crops in 2003 and 2005 that were negatively affected by extreme weather across Canada.

In 2005, for example, the crop was just 45,802 metric tonnes, Statistics Canada said in a report at that time.

That was down from 70,872 tonnes just three years earlier in 2002 and what was then a record high.

It happened again in 2022, she said, when "complete

blocks" of that year's harvest were also lost.

Statistics from the Wine Growers Ontario indicate that the 2022 crop was 46,056 tonnes in Ontario alone, valued at \$62.4 million.

While initial estimates from the BC Wine Grape Council indicate that 54 per cent of the grape harvest has been lost, Zimmerman said that it's actually far more.

"In B.C. for 2024, they are still assessing (the damage)," Zimmerman said. "They may have lost all their crops."

In the latest report from Wines of British Columbia, it is estimated that January's cold snap will mean a 97 to 99 per cent decrease in the production of B.C. grapes and wine this year.

Ross Wise, chair of the BC Wine Grape Council, said the growers will need a lot of help after a summer filled with wildfires and a winter deep freeze in January left growers reeling.

"The challenges facing grape growers and winemakers today are unlike anything we have experi-

enced in the past," he said in a statement issued by the organization.

"Climate change disasters along with increased incidence of virus and disease pressure are threatening the economic viability of our industry and we need funding in order to combat these major issues," he added.

The crop loss could mean a loss of 321 vineyard and winery jobs, \$133 million in lost revenue and \$100 million in lost tax revenue.

In a report, the B.C. group said that between 3,814 and 7,492 acres need to be replanted at an average cost per acre of \$42,360.

The group also said that the estimated costs associated with the replant will range from \$162 million to \$317 million, depending on the total acreage needing to be replanted.

Zimmerman, meanwhile, said Ontario growers are ready to assist in whatever way they can.

"We always reach out to colleagues who are having these issues to see how we can help," she said.

hutton@niagaranow.com



Wed - Sun, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Dine-in and take-out
Tel: (905) 468-3871
390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

HIRING KITCHEN STAFF! Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere

Bliss Aveda Salon celebrates 24 years with 24-hour haircut marathon for charity

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

If you needed a haircut last weekend, Bliss Aveda Salon was squeezing its clients in at any time of the day — from midnight to midnight.

To celebrate 24 years of business, Sandra Cocetti, the creative director and owner of Bliss, kept the shop open for 24 hours straight on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The salon in Virgil was booking in clients every 45 minutes and donated all its proceeds to two Niagara charities.

“I just wanted to give back and enjoy and have fun doing what I love to do,” Cocetti told The Lake Report.

The two beneficiaries of the salon marathon were Red Roof Retreat, a Niagara-on-the-Lake organization that offers respite care and recreational activities for people with special needs, and Community Crew, which provides thousands of lunches to children in schools across Niagara.

Cocetti said she also helped out the two charities in another way on Saturday: more than 16 hours into her day, she gave a haircut



Sandra Cocetti had appointments booked for 24 hours straight on Saturday, Feb. 24. Bliss Aveda Salon was celebrating its 24th anniversary. One of the appointments was for Steffanie Bjorgan, whose charity Red Roof Retreat will receive funds from the day. JULIA SACCO

to Steffanie Bjorgan, Red Roof’s founder, and Bobbie Corcoran, a volunteer with Community Crew.

She took clients from midnight on Saturday to 11:59 p.m. with a bit of extra help during the store’s usual hours of operation.

“There’s been lots of espresso,” she joked.

Luckily, after 24 years, hairstyling is a second nature to Cocetti who was able to fly through appointments without any sleep.

And she was certainly not alone, with team members stepping up to work for long shifts with the Saturday crew.

“We had a lot of men’s cuts,” Cocetti joked.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Coun. Tim Balasiuk both stopped in to support the cause and get haircuts around 2 p.m.

It was a fun-filled day, with everyone on board and helping out, Cocetti said.

Katy Herron, fundraising manager for Community Crew, took in the excitement and celebrated Cocetti’s 24 years of business.

“We have to get creative when it comes to fundraising. And I find the best fundraising now is the fundraising where it involves

something that you might be doing anyway,” Herron said.

After 24 hours of fully booked services, Bliss raised more than \$2,000, just with proceeds from Cocetti’s services.

The salon will continue accepting donations, ballots to win gift baskets and peanut-free snacks in support of the two organizations into mid-March.

With the salon’s reputation in town, Herron said the large turnout to support the two charities was no surprise.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Legion bringing home flag that flew at Juno Beach

Continued from Front Page

exhibits the efforts of Canadian soldiers who fought in the Allied war effort to liberate Europe from the grip of Nazi Germany.

Legion member Lt.-Col. Al Magnacca served as a long-time member of the Canadian Armed Forces reserves in Brandon, Man., and Edmonton before winding up his military career at the Toronto Brigade headquarters as a senior staff officer. He has been a member at branch 124 for 11 years.

“We decided at the Legion that it was important,” Magnacca said. “We have purchased a flag and will have it by June 6.”

The Legion is developing plans on how and where the



NOTL Legion member Al Magnacca, left, and past-president Stan Harrington with a Canadian flag used as a part of the legion’s colour guard. RICHARD HUTTON

flag will be displayed or flown. Once decided, those plans will be revealed, he said.

This June 6 will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces landed in Normandy in what

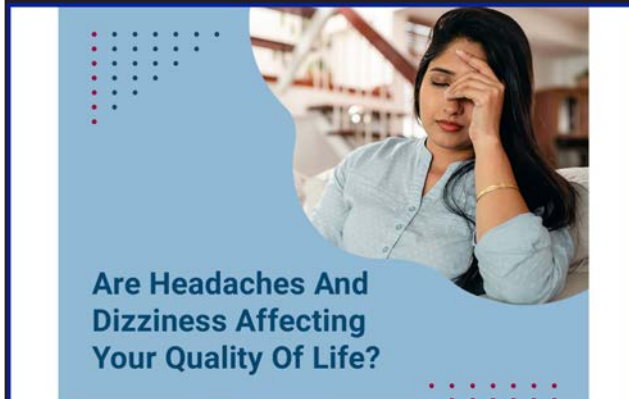
remains the largest invasion by sea in history.

Troops from the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade fought alongside Allies, including soldiers from Great Britain and the United States.

The Canadians landed on


Juno Beach on June 6, 1944, and 381 of them lost their lives in the early-morning operation. The subsequent Battle of Normandy claimed a further 5,500 Canadians.

hutton@niagaranow.com



Are Headaches And Dizziness Affecting Your Quality Of Life?

If frequent headaches have you popping painkillers on a regular basis, it’s time to see an eye doctor. Headaches that surface after spending hours in front of the computer screen, or following any other prolonged near-vision activity, are often a result of a vision problem. Contact Dr. Hopkins & Associates today to schedule a functional vision evaluation and learn how a program of vision therapy may be just the solution you have been searching for!



DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY
— Sight for Life —

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

Come to SHOP!

14th ANNUAL NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HOME GARDEN & CRAFT SHOW

SPONSORED BY:
Ben Gutknecht & Associates Inc.
co-operators
Investing in your future. Together.
1615 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil, ON, L0S 1T0 | 905-468-9384

THE FINE ESTATES TEAM REAL ESTATE
HARPER TREE CARE
DIXON INK
Peninsula Flooring Ltd.
1051
NiagaraThisWeek.com
Lake Report Independent

SATURDAY March 2
9 AM to 3 PM ONE DAY ONLY

Crossroads Public School
1350 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake
FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
@notl.homeshow

90 + Home, Garden & Craft Vendors
Bake Sale | BBQ
Penny Raffle

FREE Kids Zone
NIAGARA INFLATABLES & GAMES INC.
Bounce House & Games ALL DAY
Scoop McCoy Magic Show Show at 11:30!
THE HOME DEPOT
FREE Kids Workshop starting at 9am provided by the St. Catharines Store
Coke Cafe
\$2 Cupcake Decorating provided by Cake Cafe in Niagara on the Lake

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to
editor@niagaranow.com



LECTURE: TOTAL ECLIPSE

Thursday, March 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Registration required | 905-468-3912 | notlmuseum.ca





NOTL "ambassador" Laurie Harley was named Citizen of the Year.



Matthias Oppenlaender and Huebel Grapes Estates won the Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award



The winner of the Peter Ling Award for Business Leadership is Shaw Festical executive director Tim Jennings.



The winner of the Chamber of Commerce Award is past chamber chair Paul MacIntyre.



A friend accepts the Christopher Newton Award for Arts and Culture for Andorlie Hillstrom.



Sarah Kaufman was given the Community Impact Award for her work with the NOTL Museum.



Bob Jackson accepts the Business of the Year Award on behalf of Vintage Hotels.

Spirit Awards celebrate NOTLers

Photography by Dave Van de Laar

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Spirit Awards dinner on Tuesday at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. It was the first time in-person since 2020.

Host Joe Pillitteri drew laughs from the crowd with jokes about things like family life, the challenge of finding Taylor Swift tickets and being an unpaid volunteer.

Award recipients, photographed here, were called to the stage and gave short speeches as they accepted their trophies.



The winner of the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award was Niagara Juice Co. owner Karrie Galvin.



Rob & Danielle Begin won the Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality & Tourism.



Michaiah Ivri took home the Dan Patterson Youth Leadership Award for her philanthropic work.



AUTHENTIC BRITISH PUB FARE AND 27 DRAUGHT BEERS

LIVE MUSIC FOR MARCH

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, FROM 9:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.

MARCH 1 - COTTAGE BREW

MARCH 2 - BUTLER'S BACKYARD

MARCH 3 - DUO LEEPA (2-5 P.M.)

MARCH 8 - FEVERISH LEMONS

MARCH 9 - MAPLE JAM

MARCH 10 - TIN ROOF (2-5 P.M.)

MARCH 15 - RYAN THOMAS BAND

MARCH 16 - A SIMPLE GESTURE

MARCH 17 - RON MCEWAN (2-5 P.M.)

MARCH 17 - IRISH SPRING

MARCH 22 - MOONLIGHT CO.

MARCH 23 - WHISKEY RATTLERS

MARCH 24 - MEL MONACO (2-5 P.M.)

MARCH 29 - STUCK IN THE '90S

MARCH 30 - GOING POSTAL

MARCH 31 - RYAN THOMAS (2-5 P.M.)



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR ALL OF OUR EVENT INFORMATION

TRIVIA LINE-UP (7-10 P.M.)

MARCH 6 - MUSIC TRIVIA "NIAGARA'S NAME THAT TUNE"

MARCH 11 - GENERAL TRIVIA WITH LEE WILES

MARCH 20 - MUSIC TRIVIA "NIAGARA'S NAME THAT TUNE"

MARCH 25 - GENERAL TRIVIA WITH LEE WILES

224 Regent St. | 905-468-3411 | oldeangelinn.com | Rooms available above the pub!

Fort George friends to host children's tea party

Staff
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George is cordially extending an invitation to families for a special March Break tea party fit for royalty.

"Tea Like the Queen: A Children's Tea Party" is a Regency-themed affair happening on March 12 at Navy Hall starting at 1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for \$30, which includes an invitation for one child and one adult as well as tea or

juice, locally sourced scones and tasty treats from the "Fort George Bill of Fare" cookbook.

"Throughout the Regency period, tea played a central role in the social lives of the gentry, and we are very excited to carry on this tradition with some period treats, and activities," said Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George in a media release.

Kids are asked to bring their favourite stuffed toy to participate in a stuffy pa-

rade and they can also look forward to a special story time and other fun activities for children and their guardians.

Proceeds from this special event will help to support programs at Fort George and Brock's Monument throughout the 2024 season.

Tickets can be purchased online at friendsoffort-george.square.site.

Note that children in attendance must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



The tea party is March 12 at Navy Hall. FIREFLY

After 95 years the Niagara District Airport still has room to grow, director says

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Niagara District Airport is a well-known fixture in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but many NOTLers aren't familiar with all of its functions.

When Dan Pilon, CEO of the airport, presented his Learn & Live segment "Our Niagara District Airport," on Monday, many were surprised to find out that the airport has been in the community for nearly a century.

"The single most surprising fact for me was finding out that the airport is turning 95 this year," organizer Terry MacTaggart said.

Pilon said that when Niagara District Airport opened its doors in 1929, the hope was that it would expand and grow the community.

In his presentation, cited a headline from an article in a newspaper on Dec. 27, 1929, which said: "A city, to be progressive, needs an airport."

And ours isn't just any airport, as Pilon made clear throughout his session.

"There are only about 45 airports in Canada that have air traffic control towers," he said.

Those control towers control the airspace and everything that moves on the ground at the airport.

The next step below that is the flight service station, which is also only featured at about 45 Canadian airports, said Pilon.

"There's only 90 airports



Niagara District Airport chief executive officer Dan Pilon spent his Learn & Live session educating NOTLers on the role the airport plays in the community. JULIA SACCO

across Canada that have a NAV Canada tower at their facility, so the fact that we are one of the 90 that has a flight service station means we're in pretty rare company," he said.

Niagara District is also a certified airport, meaning it has achieved a certain level of safety that many others strive for.

"As an example, that's the prime minister's jet at our airport," Pilon said, gesturing to a photo of Justin Trudeau's jet landing in NOTL.

The prime minister isn't the only high-profile guest who has made their way through Niagara District.

"Think of anyone who's performing at the casino, anyone at the Meridian Centre," Pilon said.

The airport was assigned 44,000 movements a year

in 2019, Pilon said, with 21,000 of those movements itinerants — starting somewhere else and landing in Niagara.

The facility is used for much more than just general aviation and flight school, though that does make up a major part of its history.

In the future, Pilon is hopeful that through federal funding the airport will continue to expand to service the community accordingly.

"Niagara is the 13th-largest census metropolitan area in Canada," he said. "We most assuredly are not the 13th-largest airport in this country."

With about 14 million tourists entering the region annually over the last 20 years, Pilon thinks more can be done.

"We have a 5,000-foot

runway. A 5,000-foot runway is the exact length of the runway they have at Billy Bishop Airport," he said.

With 362 acres of land and a "good chunk" available for development, the Niagara airport has potential.

"There's a lot of different ways to get from A to B," Pilon said.

"For us it's about 'how do we finally change the conversation and the questions surrounding our facility.' The opportunities are real but the solutions are not infinite," he said.

The tourism sector needs to identify the perceived value of the airport, Pilon added, and demonstrate that to partners, ultimately evolving into a partnership with real dollars on both sides of the equation.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

NIAGARA R&C ENTERPRISES
GENERAL CONTRACTOR, RENOVATIONS, DECKS/FENCES, FLOORING, PERGOLAS, PROJECT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

289-690-0202 FOLLOW US LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
NIAGARARCE@YAHOO.COM  

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS IN THE CLUBROOM
JULIE & MIKE
Friday, March 1st
6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

ALL WELCOME- FOOD AND CASH BAR



March 8: Derek Abell
March 15: John Claus
March 22: Ben Hackett


 **FISH FRY EVERY THURSDAY**

410 King St. NOTL | 905 468 2353

BARRE FIT & ADULT BALLETT

Wednesdays at 2 & 3pm
Spring Session begins March 6

trainingbyjena@gmail.com
  @trainingbyjena



D-Handyman Services

"Pass me the Job Jar, enjoy your spare time."

289-929-hanD (4263)
d.handyman.denis@gmail.com

PO Box 1088
Virgil, Ontario
L0S 1T0

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




HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE 4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107 Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9 Tel.: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE 48 Jarvis Street Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4 Tel.: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA TONYBALDINELIMPCA

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to editor@niagaranow.com

Advertising inquiries?
Emailadvertising@niagaranow.com

Corks
Winebar & eatery

CELEBRATING
15 years
OUR ENTIRE MENU
BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE

Fridays in February

EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE. EXCLUDES DRINKS & ALCOHOL. DINE IN ONLY.



Publisher: Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley
Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Megan Vanderlee, Lindsay Le Blanc
Contributors: Dr. William Brown, Brittany Carter, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Kevan Dowd, Linda Fritz, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Zahraa Hmood, Richard Hutton, Evan Loree, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Ross Robinson, Julia Sacco, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor, Jill Troyer, Dave Van de Laar, Janice White, Joanne Young and many more members of the NOTL community

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



Your Lake Report is the proud winner of 96 national and provincial awards for journalism and advertising excellence.



Contributed by Patty Garriock
 "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."
 - Dr. Carl Sagan

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Email:
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com
Phone
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646
Office Address
 496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.
Mailing Address
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0
Have a lead on a story?
 Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

Secord students do 9 to 5



Students Ayla Jamal and Jack Jones share the stage in Laura Secord Secondary School's production of 9 to 5. The final performances are set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 29 and March 1 and 2. SUPPLIED

Editorial

That's the spirit, NOTL

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

We have marvelled many times over the years about the effort and selflessness that people in our town exhibit when it comes to helping their community.

The willingness of so many people to go above and beyond, to step up when help is needed and to do so without any thought or expectation of reward, is admirable. And deserving of recognition.

On Tuesday night, thanks to the efforts of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and many others working behind the scenes, there was a very public and tangible expression of thanks and that much-deserved recognition.

The NOTL Spirit Awards singled out several individuals and a few companies from among a long list of nominees for making NOTL, Niagara Region and, indeed, our world a better place.

We'd like to take this opportunity to add our own thanks to all of those honoured — plus those nominated and those who

continue to give of themselves for the betterment of the community. You are all deserving of accolades.

And we must say, as Niagara-on-the-Lake's community newspaper, The Lake Report was proud to be involved in helping to promote the awards and also sponsor one of them.

Here, briefly, are biographies and a few details about those who were singled out. Congratulations to everyone.

On our front page this week, you can read about **Laurie Harley**, named 2023's Citizen of the Year for her role in helping to create the NOTL Ambassadors program, a hugely positive legacy of the COVID pandemic.

Huebel Grapes Estates received the Outstanding Achievement in Agriculture Award, presented by St. David's Cold Storage, in recognition of its innovation and influence on the grape industry over the past four decades.

The energetic and dedicated **Andorlie Hillstrom** won the Christopher Newton Award for Arts and Culture, presented by the Shaw

Festival, for her years of work with youth and for establishing the Yellow Door Theatre Project.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, presented by Niagara Trailers, honoured chef **Karrie Galvin and the Niagara Juice Co.** She opened her popular business in the midst of the pandemic and has become a go-to destination for many NOTLers.

One of the town's prized destinations is the NOTL Museum and for her work there and involvement in projects such as Landscape of Nations and the Voices of Freedom Park, museum curator **Sarah Kaufman** received the Community Leadership Award, presented by The Lake Report.

Rob and Danielle Begin of the Grist restaurant realized a dream and transformed a historic barn in St. Davids into a popular bar and eatery. They were presented with the Celia Liu Award for Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism by Erica Lepp. The award honours her late sister, who operated the Oban Inn.

The Dan Patterson Youth Leadership Award, pre-

sented by Niagara College, went to **Michaiah Ivri** for her extensive community involvement in youth activities, sports, the St. Davids Leos and many other volunteer activities.

Vintage Hotels received the Business of the Year Award, presented by Scotiabank. The company was cited for being "at the very core of our community since the late 1990s" and lauded for its contributions to the tourism economy.

Shaw Festival executive director **Tim Jennings** received the Peter Ling Award for Business Leadership, presented by STAY Niagara-on-the-Lake. Jennings was singled out for his creativity, financial acumen and leadership at the Shaw and involvement in many other community organizations.

The Chamber of Commerce Award went to **Paul MacIntyre**, of Vintage Hotels, in recognition of his involvement not only in the hospitality industry but with a wide range of town organizations, committees and Red Roof Retreat, among others.

editor@niagaranow.com

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

2 FOR 1 PIZZA PASTA PARMS

RESERVATIONS - 289-819-0179 | dine-in only with purchase of a beverage



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Tedious process to protect our trees

Dear editor:
When I wrote to members of town council about our tree bylaw and protecting trees on construction sites, particularly in Chautauqua, I only heard back from Coun. Wendy Cheropita.

I want to thank her for taking up the cause because without her involvement I believe not much would have happened.

However, I also tried using the town's online service request form to report specific problems on a construction site.

It was a very tedious process and somewhat disappointing.

To begin with, the first long request number is supplied when you complete the request.

You then get an email telling you your request has been received but without any reference number and then you get another email that

gives you a proper tracking number.

The next email told me that the request was logged in and I could now track it.

Opening the file I noticed that the service address given was my home address and not 7 Circle St., where the problem was.

I venture to guess it was because you have to give your name and address and then there is a box provided where you enter the problem.

Whoever entered the request could not actually have looked at that. So, I made a call and the address was corrected.

My next step was more pictures and another email because, instead of remedies, construction materials had now been placed under an endangered tree at the front of the property.

The next morning, Thursday, Feb. 8 an email arrived telling me: "We are happy to inform you

your service request is now closed ... Take the survey..."

Not sure if I was more confused or upset. I made another call and in the end I got Harry the tree bylaw person on the line. He was most helpful in explaining some of the happenings.

Harry and I actually have talked a number of times on this and other tree and construction-related issues over the past year. He has always been most helpful and caring.

As of now, the big mound of dirt under the large tree at the rear of the property has been removed. The protective fencing around the front tree fell down and was put back up, though part of it was still sagging as of Feb. 23.

And, by the way, despite being told by the councillor and Harry that I should get a call from someone at the town, none was ever received.

I get the impression that the tree bylaw is seen as a nuisance or just ignored by the town's planning and building departments or they don't know or care if there are any trees on the property. The departments also don't seem to talk to each other.

As an example, on top of the two very mature trees endangered at 7 Circle St., the new layout of the building has moved the garage and therefore the driveway to the other side where there are a number of boundary trees that are now also threatened.

This is only a small project and it makes me wonder what happens on some of the larger, new developments.

It truly makes me so sad to see what is happening to my beloved Chautauqua and Niagara-on-the-Lake as a whole.

**Margret Walker
NOTL**



A photo illustration of a dirty ditch. MIDJOURNEY

Ditches need to be cleared of trees and debris

Dear editor:

This is in response to self-described tree hugger Mary Kilmer whose letter, "What's not to like about trees?" appeared in the Feb. 15 edition of The Lake Report.

Thank you for helping me make my point. You misunderstood the intent of my original letter, "Sometimes trees just need to be taken down," (Feb. 1).

Tree huggers are so worried about the trees, they refuse to see the reality of the situation.

I did not say I do not like trees. Having been part of a family farm operation, I

have probably hugged way more trees than you ever have.

Walk the Upper Canada Heritage Trail south from Charlotte Street and look left and right.

You cannot allow trees, stumps and deadfall to remain in ditches. It defeats the purpose of the ditches. You do not plant trees too close or under main hydro lines.

Did you not notice all the standing water during that last heavy rain and warm spell? We have lots of ditches and drains in this town that need to be cleaned.

**Kip Voegel
NOTL**

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

You don't know what you've got till they're gone

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

As a veteran of more than 30 years spent working in newsrooms of varying sizes, it's always hard to watch as newspapers — even rival publications — struggle.

News that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Local was ending its print edition with the Feb. 28 paper brought back an all-too-recent pain for me.

Prior to starting my position with The Lake Report, I was a design editor and a reporter-photographer with Niagara This Week, where I spent time covering Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Welland, Pelham and — for a brief period — Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In total, I was with the paper for 19 years. That all ended abruptly when Metroland announced last September it was filing for bankruptcy protection and also ending print editions for the chain's 70-plus newspapers, including the Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance.

In addition, more than 600 employees lost their jobs. I was among them, although I left prior to the



It's sad to see the loss of any publication. Richard Hutton says to cherish your newspaper, while it's still here. FIREFLY

Dec. 31 termination date.

All of my colleagues at This Week, save one, are no longer employed there. Some, like myself, have found other jobs in the industry.

The company said the COVID-19 pandemic and a resulting loss of flyer business — a high-revenue segment of advertising cash for print publications — was to blame.

In reality, it was so much more than that. Advertising revenue had been declining for years thanks to online platforms such as Google and Facebook sucking up most of the available cash.

The government set aside \$600 million over five years to help newsrooms across the country. Of that money,

\$50 million was set aside for the Local Journalism Initiative to be funded over that same time frame. For the sake of transparency, I am employed at The Lake Report under the auspices of that program.

So it makes me angry when I hear Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre refer to members of the mainstream media — in a most recent case a reporter from the Canadian Press — as a "taxpayer-funded mouthpiece for the PMO."

Nothing is further from the truth.

We do not toe the line of any political party or politician at The Lake Report. Neither did LJI reporters I worked with at Niagara This Week and I'm sure that

is the same at all newspapers taking part in the program — including the NOTL Local.

Community journalism is important. It is our job to bring you the news and to hold local politicians to account. The central premise of the LJI program is to provide coverage of community issues, such as municipal government.

The fate of the LJI program, however, is up in the air. The program is set to expire on March 31 and there has been no word from the feds on whether it will be extended.

Without the funding, many papers — and the communities they serve — will suffer. It's more than providing a job to a journalist. It helps newspapers like The Lake Report keep the community informed. And keep our leaders accountable.

Most definitely, some of the wounds suffered by print media have been self-inflicted. When the internet arrived in the mid-1990s, many print publications did not take it seriously. Sure, they created websites but, in doing so, made one fatal error.

They started giving

away their product for free. Why subscribe or pay for a printed copy of a newspaper when you can see the content for free online? When publishers caught on and started to raise paywalls, it was too little too late.

Then when Google and Facebook got into the news distribution business, publishers were again too late to make the move to a digital-first model.

Decisions made almost three decades ago — resulting from not taking the rise of the internet seriously from the beginning — have come back to haunt publishers, who are now scrambling to play catch up.

Programs like the Local Journalism Initiative and a recent deal that will see Canadian publishers receive a slice of advertising revenue from Google are a good start to a road to recovery. And remember, newspapers have a long history in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The town was home to the first newspaper in Upper Canada when the inaugural edition of the Upper Canada Gazette (American Oracle) was published on April 18, 1793.

A plaque was erected on 1993 to mark the bicenten-

nial of that achievement near the corner of King and Front streets.

The town was also home to William Lyon Mackenzie, publisher of the Colonial Advocate newspaper, which was published from 1824-36, prior to Mackenzie's involvement in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837.

His home was restored by Niagara Parks and is open to the public as the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum on Queenston Street in Queenston.

Today, the town's newspaper history continues with The Lake Report. Cherish that print copy you receive in your mailbox every Thursday. Read it from front to back, patronize the advertisers featured on its pages.

We have a robust and growing print edition, which we will continue to produce every Thursday. And for those who wish to see their news online, our print archive at lakereport.ca and our daily news website, niagaranow.com, are at your fingertips.

We are locally owned and operated. The support is appreciated and you're contributing to an important democratic institution.

hutton@niagaranow.com

The ins and outs of colour palettes for homes



Brian Marshall
Columnist

So, you've decided it is time to paint the exterior of your house and are feeling a little trepidatious.

That's OK – since everyone knows of at least one home painted in colours that make folks scratch their heads and wonder, "What were they thinking?"

On the other hand, a great paint scheme can transform a ho-hum house into a masterpiece.

Whether you are going to choose your paint scheme on your own or hire a design consultant to develop a palette with you, the acquisition of basic knowledge about colour theory will be invaluable in managing the process to success.

Let's start off by defining some basic terms associated with colour theory.

Colour is a natural phenomenon of the human vision system, which is interpreted as having three principal components: hue, value and saturation.

When those three are put together, you have a specific colour.

These three principle components can be defined as:

- Hue – The major determining characteristic of a colour. Red, green, and blue are hues.

- Value – How light or dark a colour is.

- Saturation – How intense or diffuse a colour is.

Then we move on to the terms associated with modifying hues:

- Tint - Add white to any hue and you have a tint.

- Tone - Add grey to any

hue and you have a tone.

- Shade - Add black to any hue and you have a shade.

Note that deeper tones or shades are more light absorbent and therefore will stand off - or be more contrasting – against a tint.

And, to complete the basic designer/colourist lingo, we have:

Muted colours - Desaturated colours that are "greyed down" (tone) and, while you can still see the base colour, are not bright and clear (reduction in both value and saturation).

Neutral Colours – A general descriptor of desaturated colours (greyed down and/or lacking colourfulness) and typically include greys, whites, off-whites, blacks, creams, beiges and "greiges."

Now that we have some of the basic nomenclatures, let's poke around a bit in colour theory.

In 1704, Isaac Newton published the book "Opticks" in which he detailed the results of his experiments utilizing a prism to split white light into a spectrum of hues from red to purple (and all colours in between).

Based on these results, he theorized that red, yellow and blue were the primary colours from which all other colours are derived.

Then, he added secondary colours – each derived from mixing two primary colours in equal proportions – which are violet, orange and green.

Finally, he added tertiary colours – yellow-orange, red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green and yellow-green – which, as you may intuit from the names, are a mix of one primary colour and one secondary colour.

To illustrate this, his book contained a plate that showed the relationship of each colour to every other colour in the shape of a segmented wheel.



Monochromatic colour schemes are usually subtle and can help when integrating your home into an established traditional streetscape, says Brian Marshall.

Over the last 300 years, colour wheels have been developed to, at one extreme, address the needs of colour "nerds" and, at the other, a very practical tool for everyday use.

It's this simple, inexpensive, practical tool – commonly available at many retail outlets – that is invaluable in understanding colours and colour relationships.

If you don't have one, it's something I'd suggest you may wish to acquire.

So, let's take a quick look at the colour wheel.

On the outside edge of the first side are 12 segments, each of which represents a single "pure" colour.

These colours are divided into two equal groups – the six colours between yellow-green and violet (inclusive) are "cool" receding colours, while the other six (red-violet to yellow) are "warm" advancing colours.

A rotating disc displaying five segments, each of which is pierced by a window, allows one to see the effect on the underlying colour when it is mixed with red, yellow, blue, white and black respectively.

The opposite side of the colour wheel relates more directly to developing colour schemes.

Here we have the same 12 pure colour segments, but in this case, the windows in the rotating disc expose the tint, tone and shade of each colour segment.

Moreover, the centre of the disc helps to identify colour relationships in terms of harmonious colour schemes.

At this point, it behooves us to examine these harmonious colour schemes in a little more detail moving from simple to more complex.

The most straightforward of the schemes is monochromatic. That is, a palette that involves just one colour segment but contains two or more values (tints, tones, shades) of that colour – e.g. light, medium and dark green.

Monochromatic colour schemes are usually subtle, conservative and can be very sophisticated if properly executed.

This scheme can be quite effective when integrating your home into an established traditional streetscape.

An analogous (or adjacent) colour scheme employs colours that are next to one another (for a three-colour palette) or conjoined series (four-colour palette) on the colour wheel.

For example, a three-

colour palette may employ colours from the blue, blue-green and blue-violet segments while a four-colour palette may add an additional colour from each of the green and violet segments.

Generally speaking, analogous palettes do not employ high-contrast colours and are used to create a softer, more muted design.

This is a great scheme for establishing a "warm" or "cool" colour palette.

It should also be noted that, in my experience, a five-colour palette should be used with caution – deploying the additional two colours simply for subtly, emphasizing or shadowing particular architectural details.

Complementary colour schemes are very straightforward but also somewhat dangerous if care is not taken to ensure the contrasting colours are not too "lively" (read: garish).

In this case, we simply choose our colour scheme from directly opposing sides of the colour wheel – red and green for example.

To avoid the danger zone, it is best if one colour is dominant (main field) while the other colour is reserved for use as an accent (trim) and no pure colours are selected.

A variant of this theme is the split complementary scheme wherein one dominant colour is chosen and the other two colours are drawn from the segments directly adjacent to the dominant color's complement.

If, for example, blue was the dominant colour, then we would draw our secondary colours from the red-orange and yellow-orange colour spectrums.

This scheme creates a more nuanced colour palette than a complementary colour scheme while still retaining the benefits of contrasting colours.

However, it can also be somewhat tricky to find the right balance or hierarchy between the dominant and secondary colours.

If you are brave, educated in colour selection and a bit of a risk-taker, you could venture into the triadic colour schemes: three colours that are equidistant on the colour wheel (blue, yellow, red for example).

However, you will need to understand that to avoid an overpowering result, there must be one dominant colour and use the others sparingly, or simply subdue the other two colours by choosing a softer tint.

The other schemes, rectangular and square tetrad, involving a complicated interplay of four colours should be strictly left to a professional designer.

And, if you walk into a paint store with your colour wheel and ask to see all the variants of a particular colour segment, it will expedite your shopping.

Hopefully, we have visited enough of the basics for you to successfully manage your paint project, but if not, feel free to contact me at homeguide.ca@gmail.com with any questions.

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

It seems obvious, but as a society, we must stand up for truth

Dear editor:

Over the last few years truth has been in the news and opined upon both here in Canada and in the United States.

The denial of science, the promulgation of "alternative facts" and the casual branding of difficult truths as "fake news" has stretched public discourse to the

breaking point.

The very question of what makes something "true" has been torn wide open and people are taking sides about it as never before.

People of faith will recognize three kinds of truth: moral, scientific and religious. For Baha'is they are all one and the same.

The perceived conflict

between science and morality or between science and religion is wrong.

'Abdu'l-Baha wrote, "When religion, shorn of its superstitions, traditions and unintelligent dogmas shows its conformity with science, then there will be a great, unifying, cleansing force in the world."

Anyone believing in the importance of truth will

find it galling to witness discourse in which the telling of untruths has become common currency.

There are many roads to truth, but simply labelling something "true" because we want it to be so isn't one of them.

Calling an outright lie an "alternative fact" isn't just morally wrong; it is destruc-

tive of our social contract and undermines the human experience.

Truth is often hard-won, whether moral, scientific or religious.

After all, for centuries bloodletting was considered sound medical practice and slavery was considered morally acceptable.

Constantly examining

our moral, religious and scientific thinking will let difficult truths emerge – and it will help us to clearly distinguish truth from what is not true at all.

Just as we stand up for each other in difficult situations, we should stand up for truth as well.

*Hugh Church
NOTL*



Marotta could build seniors facility on old hospital site

Dear editor:
One could hardly disagree that members of the Marotta family has been treated by many in the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, including our elected officials, as pariahs.

Recently this family has donated a total of \$25 million outside their residential community: \$10 million to the new hospital being built in Niagara Falls and a further \$15 million to the St. Catharines Hospital, which will now carry the Marotta family name.

Do you blame them when every proposed development was aggressively challenged, costing the family and NOTL taxpayers millions in legal fees?

It's time to call a ceasefire and bury the hatchet on this ongoing charade and zero-sum game.

Clearly our current and former elected officials have been unable or unwilling to make the tough decision on the future of NOTL's old hospital site.

When she was lord mayor,



The old hospital. FILE

Betty Disero commissioned a study requesting proposals to transform the hospital into an alternate-use facility. In her judgement several of the proposals were worthy of further consideration.

Unfortunately, as with other tough decisions (for example, the residential parking problem), the can was kicked down the road.

All the proposals, in spite of the good faith, tireless and professional efforts by our concerned citizens, were thrown in the trash bin.

The decision was left to the next or the next or the next council.

The residential parking decision has been decades waiting for a solution.

So, here we are well into the term of our new lord mayor and council. Is the hospital decision heading in the same direction?

I have a proposal.

With the impending closing of our Upper Canada Lodge, Niagara-on-the-Lake's large seniors are left bare and exposed to the lack of long-term care in town.

Accordingly, our elected officials should broach a proposal for the Marotta family to buy the hospital site with the understanding that an unopposed approval be part of the sale to construct an elegant, luxurious seniors care facility.

Something like the Royal Henley in St. Catharines. In consideration of this infrastructure investment I would suggest it be named the Marotta Family Manor: A Compassionate Seniors Care Facility.

Such an impressive and imposing facility at this location could be the envy of the province.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Opinion piece espoused right wing talking points

Dear editor:

The divisive, far right American culture wars have arrived at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public library and, shockingly, the call is coming from within the building.

In her opinion piece in the Feb. 22 edition of The Lake Report, "Censorship and what we are allowed to read," library CEO Cathy Simpson has published talking points from the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR), calling for "heterodox viewpoints" to be represented in our library.

FAIR was founded in the U.S. for the purpose of campaigning against diversity and inclusion programs, and fighting against anti-racism initiatives.

The Southern Poverty Law Centre, a prominent organization that tracks hate groups, calls FAIR "a key voice amplifying anti-LGBTQ+ pseudoscience."

FAIR is a slickly marketed group that cloaks itself in the language of fighting oppression while actually working to promote it.

To quote its official podcast from Feb. 14 this year (available on its website), "For more than a year, FAIR has been at the forefront of efforts to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives."

The casual reader may not pick up the right wing dog whistles and coded language in Simpson's letter, so it bears careful rereading.

She advocates for libraries to add to their collection material that negatively portrays "equity." She wants



Library CEO Cathy Simpson. FILE

to add books that argue against fighting systemic racism and combat "transgender ideology."

That's pure right wing propaganda — "transgender ideology" is not real and it's certainly not a problem the Town of NOTL needs to spend taxpayer money on.

The library does not have unlimited shelf space or dollars to spend. Simpson's opening line implies she wants to prevent books being taken off the shelf.

This is disingenuous and could lead to the removal of existing collections to create shelf space for works that promote a far right wing agenda.

We should not be presenting "heterodox viewpoints" on settled science or human rights, even if some political groups would prefer it. Climate change is real. Evolution is real. Racism is bad. Gay people are not bad.

We should not pay for books that promote Holocaust denial. The well of "controversial" takes is bottomless.

It is not censorship to not buy books. Librarians are highly trained experts in their field, who work hard to serve their community and do not deserve to be publicly pressured by the CEO of the library to com-

promise their professional judgments.

Please read again the last paragraph of Simpson's letter — with a slight shift in perspective, it's quite chilling.

"We will only be truly free to read when authors are no longer afraid to write on any topic, publishers no longer prioritize an author's identity over their work's merit, teachers no longer present students with only one viewpoint on issues, and library workers ensure their collections are balanced to include a variety of perspectives on controversial topics."

The truth is, I don't think Simpson wrote the letter all by herself.

According to the NOTL library newsletter, From Cathy's Desk, she was "working with the library division of the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR) on a position statement ... We're concerned about book bans but also deeply concerned that identity politics is trumping intellectual freedom when libraries choose titles. Please watch our website and local media for the release of FAIR in Libraries' statement on Freedom to Read Week later this month."

Why is the CEO of our community library promoting inflammatory statements on behalf of an American political advocacy organization? Are we to understand that our public library is taking a formal stand against diversity, equity and inclusion?

Matthew French
NOTL

Urban and rural tree concerns by nature are very different

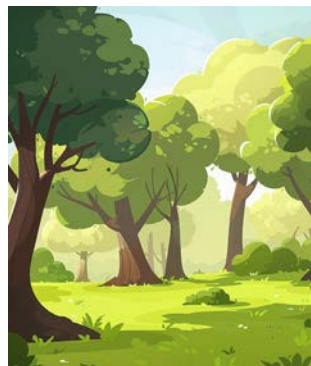
Dear editor:

Further to The Lake Report's Feb. 22 story, "Town's restrictions on tree cuttings are unfair, councillors say," this subject requires better thinking about than has been done to date by our town councillors.

There is a huge difference between trees on in-town house lots and many of the rural property lots. The latter might be an acre or more and contain a substantial number of trees.

In the case of my home, I have a line of mature old honey locust trees that shed their pods each year, requiring lawn raking numerous times since the pods cannot be left to ruin the cutting blades of lawn tractors.

At age 83, such raking is problematic and I cannot afford to hire people to do this.



As well, my property has numerous mature maples, which also shed various seed pods and large numbers of leaves. There is no way I can rake and package these to be taken away for composting.

On top of that, as my huge honey locusts near the end of their natural lifespan, they pose an imminent threat to my house.

Already huge dead branches from them fall to the ground and it is only a

matter of time before the house is hit. This would cause serious damage and is a risk to my personal safety.

So what are my options?

If I cannot get a permit to cut trees on my own rural property, can I sue the town for refusing such a permit if a falling tree or part thereof damages my house or indeed hurts a person?

Or, do I have to pay a tree removal company literally thousands of dollars to "shave" down my trees so the danger is lessened?

Perhaps members of town council can drop by my house and see the reality of real old trees and the potential for catastrophe if they are not trimmed or cut down when they come close to the end of their natural lifespan.

Kaspar Pold
NOTL



We welcome your letters

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

Corks
Winebar & eatery

CELEBRATING
15 years
OUR ENTIRE MENU
BUY ONE GET ONE
FREE

Fridays in February

EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE. EXCLUDES DRINKS & ALCOHOL. DINE IN ONLY.

What should we do with years of accumulated ‘stuff’?



A CLEAN SWEEP

From junk drawers to overstuffed basements, many of us have a lot of “stuff” we no longer need. This four-part series will help you deal with it and maybe give new life to old items.

Denise Ascenzo
The Lake Report

Death cleaning, it’s a horrible phrase and a morbid thought as we approach the promise of another spring.

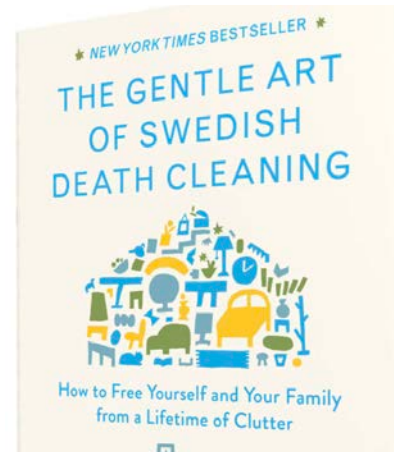
However, perhaps that phrase is not too far-fetched for many of us.

It was coined by Swedish writer Margareta Magnusson, author of the book “The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning,” and we all reach a stage in our life where we need very little and have too much.

It’s a result of needs, wants, memorabilia and collectibles. Many of us think



Margareta Magnusson wrote the book, literally, on the art of death cleaning. SUPPLIED



our children will want some of these things, but truth be told, they likely neither want them nor treasure them.

This is our “stuff” to clean out.

Of course, we all have many questions and worries about getting this task started: “Nobody wants my things, do I really need to downsize, what if I need something later on, why am I being forced to do this?”

I have been involved in several situations where people felt they had lots of time left to some day organize and clear up their belongings. Unfortunately, time often runs out and

families are then forced to rush through a lifetime of possessions.

Well-organized stuff, in labelled bins and boxes all over the house is not a treasure trove of beloved belongings. Actually, it’s a nightmare for our children.

Not only do they have to make difficult decisions, be it long-term care for the parents or funeral arrangements, they also need to deal with the years of accumulation we have left behind.

I have watched as the circle of emotions envelopes family members.

They reflect anger at the mess, frustration about

where to start, shock at what has been saved for them and resignation that their parents’ lives have come down to dumpsters filled with unwanted items.

From “OMG I don’t want this” or “What were they thinking?” to “I can’t believe they kept this” become the refrains often repeated while clearing out the parental home.

And the inevitable sibling conflict — “I want this” ... “But so do I” — has caused more grief than one can imagine.

Magnusson, on clearing out her home before moving into a retirement residence, came up with several great

solutions, one of which had to do with jewelry.

She decided that several valuable pieces would be sold, concluding, “This is my jewelry and my decision on what should be done.” That avoided potential struggles over who would get those possessions.

If you’re downsizing to move into a retirement home or smaller dwelling, do some reverse engineering. Ask yourself, how big is the new place and just how much can I take?

Once that has been determined, the next step is to decide what goes with you and what is to be disposed of.

Magnusson suggests

drawing a sketch or getting a floor plan of the new place with exact measurements. Then cut small squares representing your furniture size and place them on the new floor plan.

This will help you to visualize what and where things will fit.

When looking through your possessions, consider lifestyle changes and ask yourself: “Will I still play golf or tennis? What about gardening?”

If the answer is No, then let those items go.

Magnusson advises to not leave a good clearout of your home to your later years. Start early, when you have more energy — at age 60 or 70, rather than at 80.

If the job seems too overwhelming, then bring in professionals to make an assessment, create a plan, prepare a schedule, get a cost estimate. And then get working.

As Magnusson notes, it is much nicer to take control of your life and belongings than to have others dismiss your emotions and throw everything away.

Next: Is it trash or a treasure? Be ready to toss it.



HELP ME RHONDA'S INTERIORS

COMPLETE RENOVATION AND DECORATING SERVICES

- Kitchen and bathroom renovations
- Blinds and draperies
- Furniture, upholstery, placement, color consultations, painting, wallpaper, lighting.



www.helpmerhondas.ca
905-391-2499
info@helpmerhondas.ca



Snow plow namers get kudos from council

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Three winners of the Niagara-on-the-Lake's new snow plow naming contest got their grip and grins at town hall Tuesday night.

Winners Jordana Hernder, Laura Hollemans and Carleen LeBlanc showed up for a quick handshake and photo op with the town's leaders.

Hernder came up with Catch My Drift, whereas

Hollemans came up with Skip the Ditches.

LeBlanc named three ploughs, including Sled Zeppelin, Snow-be-gone Kenobi and Darth Blader.

The "Star Wars" fan said it was rare to be a winner.

"Can't even win the lottery these days, so it's nice," Leblanc joked.

The three contest winners said they learned about the contest through the town's web pages and local media.

evanlore@niagaranow.com



Council hosted the three winners of this year's snow plow naming contest at a council meeting Tuesday night. Pictured in centre front are contest winners Carleen LeBlanc, Laura Hollemans and Jordana Hernder. EVAN LOREE

Optometrist offers eclipse glasses for charity

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake have started preparing for the total solar eclipse on April 8 and optometrist Dr. Marianne Hopkins is here to help.

In anticipation of the rare eclipse, Hopkins is handing out almost 2,000 pairs of eclipse glasses in exchange for donations to support Newark Neighbours.

"We always try to run a fundraiser once a year and now we have a perfect opportunity," Hopkins told The Lake Report.

She added that lots of people are expected to be coming into town to view the eclipse and having the



NOTL optometrist Dr. Marianne Hopkins plans to safely watch the eclipse on April 8, wearing a pair of eclipse glasses. She has them available next week and all proceeds go to Newark Neighbours. SUPPLIED

glasses on hand will be one less thing for NOTLers to worry about.

For a suggested donation amount of \$5 or more, NOTLers can be properly

protected to enjoy their eclipse viewing.

Sun safety is important year-round, not just during the eclipse, Hopkins added.

"We should be wearing sunglasses and UV protection for the winter and summer months," she said.

Protecting your eyes and the skin around the eyes, along with getting regular eye exams to ensure the absence of sun damage, is crucial.

On the day of the eclipse, Hopkins said she plans to enjoy the celestial phenomenon — safely of course.

"We are going to close both offices so we can go and enjoy it," she said. "Hopefully, I'll get the chance to sit on my roof and have a look."

The eclipse glasses will be available starting on March 4.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: CHEW ON THIS

The name of this hard-to-chew candy literally says it could fracture your mandible.

Last issue:

Category: TWO-LETTER WORDS

Clue: A snippet of it: ...288419716...

Answer: What is pi?

Answered first by: Bob Wheatley

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Pam Dowling, Mary Bodoga, Lynda Collet, Catherine Clarke, Howard Jones, Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Nancy Rocca, Marla Percy, Rob Hutchison, Claudia Grimwood

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

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)

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

CAUGHILL AUTOMOTIVE
NAPA
BRAKE SERVICE \$49.95 (PARTS EXTRA)
256 EAST & WEST LINE, NOTL
QUALITY SERVICE
FAST EFFICIENT RELIABLE
905-687-9456

Warren
RENOVATIONS
905.468.2127
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

J&S Performance
SALES & SERVICE
HUSTLER
905-468-9735
901 East/West Line, NOTL

Niagara-on-the-Lake
CARPENTRY
CARPENTRY • CABINET MAKING
• BUILT-INS • KITCHENS
• FLOORING • RENOVATIONS
• BASEMENT CONVERSIONS
Niall Broughton 289-690-0660
facebook.com/notl.carpentry

CALL FOR ARTISTS & ARTISANS
Art at the Pumphouse
Sat & Sun, Aug 3 & 4, 2024, 10 am to 5 pm
247 Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake ON
Online show: Jul 15 to Aug 11, 2024
Vendor Spots Available:
Outdoor Artists | Indoor Artists
Online Artists | Marketplace
More info: artatthepumphouse.ca
SCAN FOR MORE INFO

GRACE UNITED CHURCH
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Our 201st anniversary | 1823-2024

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.
Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176
504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON
amplifon
Pauline Reimer Gibson Audiologist
A global leader in hearing healthcare.

LIDA KOWAL
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT
1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-5300
Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
*Accounting *Taxation *Business Services *Estate Planning

J&S CONSTRUCTION
PUTTING NIAGARA RESIDENTS FIRST!
Renovations • Additions
Custom Homes • Kitchens
Decks, Fences & much more!
289-697-5757 | JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA



Works by Deborah Whitehouse of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Elaine Bryck of Fort Erie are on display now at the Ontario Legislature. SUPPLIED

Niagara artists showcased at Ontario Legislature

Staff
The Lake Report

Works by artists Deborah Whitehouse of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Elaine Bryck of Fort Erie are now being featured in a special exhibition at the Ontario Legislature in Toronto.

The 2024 Art à la Carte exhibit celebrates Ontario artists and the works by Whitehouse and Brock will be showcased at the In Camera Dining Room

throughout 2024.

Both artists are regular exhibitors at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre in NOTL and venues across Niagara Region.

They work in a variety of mediums. For this exhibit, Whitehouse's featured work is entitled "Northern Sunset," a watercolour on paper.

Bryck's work is "On With the Show" and is 24- by 24-inch acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas.

Indigenous artist's exhibition extended

Debra Antoncic
Special to The Lake Report

A wonderful burst of colour awaits visitors in the exhibition "Samuel Thomas: New Beginnings," which has been extended until April 27 at the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.

The beaded artworks by celebrated Haudenosaunee artist Samuel Thomas give a welcome lift in these grey late-winter days.

The exhibition brings together examples of the Niagara Falls artist's new work, alongside selections from earlier creations.

Framed as a statement of renewed purpose and a fresh start, the exhibition explores themes of continuity and innovation, community collaboration and Indigenous storytelling.

The exhibition is a showcase for the many beaded objects crafted in vibrant colours and compelling forms. Thomas has created freestanding sculptures and beaded boxes, moccasins, birds, trees and bags.

Among the most stunning are the beaded trees, along with a series on the four seasons.



Indigenous artist Samuel Thomas' exhibition of beaded artwork has been extended until the end of April. SUPPLIED

Spring, summer, fall and winter are each rendered in colourful designs that evoke the experience of the seasons, from the soft pastels of spring, to the rich tones of summer and deep auburn of fall, to the sparkling white and clear beads of a frosty winter.

Thomas is a member of the Lower Cayuga Band of the Haudenosaunee Nation. For more than 40 years, he has worked to resurrect beadwork styles from the 18th and 19th centuries.

He is largely self-taught, informed by extensive study of museum/collector pieces, books and illustrations, and additional training with noted tanner Juliette Meness-

Ferguson, bead worker Faye DuBuc and Royal Ontario Museum curator Dr. Trudy Nicks.

Drawing on historic roots and customs, Thomas' work acknowledges and celebrates beading as a traditional Indigenous practice. In his hands the beads tell stories – of resilience and community, but also of Indigenous cosmology.

Through beading, the natural world appears in symbolic form, evident in such details as the recurring motifs of strawberries, birds and flowers.

Beads tell the stories of the Stone Giant, of the Four Seasons, and the Sky Woman. These are not

merely embellished surfaces, but expressions of Indigenous beliefs, values and world view.

Another important theme he explores is community collaboration. Thomas has worked with many communities, sharing his knowledge and advocating for peace and healing in collaborative beading workshops.

In 2016, Thomas led a reconciliation-focused series for residential school survivors, their descendants and members of the public to learn beadwork techniques, which they then applied to doors salvaged from former residential schools.

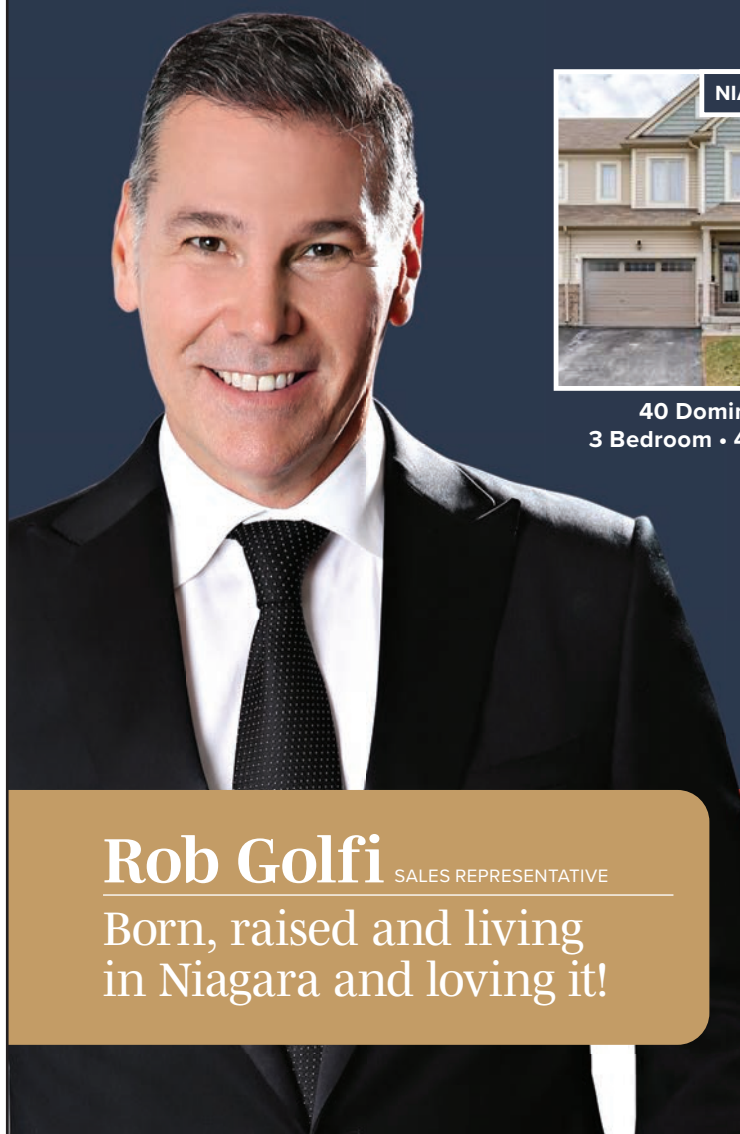
The exhibition features one item from the series: "Classroom Door," 2016 (MacKay Indian Residential School, Dauphin Manitoba), a collaboration with artist Shelley Niro.

While his beadwork is rooted in traditional Haudenosaunee practices, Thomas brings a contemporary sensibility and strong community awareness to his work.

Debra Antoncic is director and curator of the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston.

Call the brand that gets your home

NOTICED!



Rob Golfi SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!



40 Dominion Crescent
3 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$799,500



404 Line 2 Road
3+1 Bedroom • 2 Bath • \$1,295,900



6A Circle Street
3+1 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,398,900

#1 Real Estate Team**

#1 on Google Trends***

#1 in Client Service***

#1 in Web Traffic***

#1 RE/MAX Team Canada†

#2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†

#2 on Toronto Real Estate Board**

Million-dollar marketing system!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



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

GOLFI
TEAM

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

Decision to continue hearing Jeleel Stewart appeal up to tribunal

Richard Hutton
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

What happens now to the case of a Jamaican man who was injured on the job as a seasonal worker in Niagara-on-the-Lake is up in the air after the man died last month.

Jeleel Stewart, who was 50 years old at the time of his death, was working at Mori Nurseries in 2008 when he was seriously injured in an accident involving a forklift.

His left hand was crushed, severing tendons and nerves.

Unable to work and support his family in the years since the accident, his health steadily declined, said Jane Andres of Niagara Workers Welcome, the Niagara-on-the-Lake group that advocates for, and provides support to, seasonal agricultural workers.

"Jeleel Stewart passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 24 in Spanishtown, Jamaica, after struggling with work-related injuries for the past



Jeleel Stewart and his wife, Suzan, before his accident. FILE

15 years," Andres stated in a news release announcing Stewart's death.

Unable to find work that he could do with one hand, Stewart struggled with serious depression over extended periods of time, Andres said.

"Due to constant pain and stress, his health deteriorated significantly the past two years," she wrote.

Matters were made worse when his disability claim was denied by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

Appeals to the Workplace

Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal were also denied.

But a subsequent tribunal ruling in favour of four other injured seasonal workers, including one who was working in Niagara-on-the-Lake, raised hopes that Stewart's case would be reheard.

In the case involving the four workers, the tribunal said the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board was wrong to deny claims to compensation by the workers who were hired under the federal Seasonal Agri-

cultural Worker Program and that the workers were entitled to proper loss-of-earnings benefits and retraining support.

The safety and insurance board said it would study the decision and that its investigation would take upward of six months to complete.

On Wednesday, a spokesperson for the board said it was "saddened to learn of Mr. Stewart's passing and our thoughts are with his family and many loved ones both in Jamaica and here in Ontario."

Speaking on behalf of the board, communications specialist Marianna Ciappa added that it has launched a review to "ensure we are taking a fair and consistent approach that recognizes the realities of people's local markets after they return home."

The review is ongoing, she said.

As for the status of Stewart's appeal, Ciappa said that was a matter for the tribunal to decide.

But tribunal spokesperson

Guylaine Mageau said they could not comment on individual appeals coming before them. The Lake Report also reached out to David Arruda, Stewart's caseworker from the Toronto-based IAVGO Community Legal Clinic, who was to represent Stewart at the hearing but received no response.

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates was saddened to hear of Stewart's death and offered his condolences to his family.

It is workers like Stewart that he is trying to help through Bill 57, a private member's bill he reintroduced late last year that would help seasonal workers receive compensation if they are injured on the job while in Canada.

Workers like Stewart are victims of what Gates referred to as "deeming," which occurs when the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board decides a worker is able to earn money they are not actually earning, on the basis of suitable and available work they do not actually have.

This is something Gates said hurts workers and winds up costing taxpayers money when the injured workers are forced to apply for social assistance such as Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

"Fifty per cent of the people who are injured are living in poverty," Gates said.

Andres agreed with Gates.

"We have been asking (the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) to end the harmful practice of deeming and to provide proper compensation to Jeleel Stewart and his family since 2010," Andres said in an email.

Stewart leaves behind his wife, Suzan, and five children – Kemar, Shyan, Jamie, Ashley and Jamar.

Niagara Workers Welcome is raising money to help cover funeral costs for the family.

Donations can be made via e-transfer to niagara-workerswelcome@gmail.com.

hutton@niagaranow.com

SPONSORED

Jolie offers cutting edge services in a holistic sanctuary

SPONSORED
The Lake Report

While many medical aesthetic spas and salons offering beauty treatments are opening up, what differentiates the best in class are the values, ethics and personal touches behind them.

Lisa Stevenson, nurse, certifying lymphatic therapist and facialist, started Jolie Holistic Medical Aesthetics in 2019 with the intention of having a space that offers both Eastern ancient beauty techniques as well as modern cutting-edge noninvasive technology.

You do not find this type of enhanced offering in typical clinics that focus primarily on Botox or filler. While these modalities are respectable in their own regard, Lisa focuses on combining treatments that address the root cause of aging with non-invasive treatments, with the option of injecting as a last resort.

The treatments range from nervous-system resetting facials to microcurrent sculpting to collagen stimulating microneedling. One of the most popular treatments is the Buccal Massage Facial. Jolie HMA was the first to offer buccal



Clients who mention this sponsored article will receive a 15 per cent discount on any treatment in March.

massage in the Niagara Region, with the original intention of providing a sculpting effect for those that do not want to undergo needles.

The benefits include helping those with TMJ pain, detoxification, lymphatic drainage and creating a lift in the face. The Buccal Massage will have the option of coupling it with the newest anti-aging modality, microcurrent via Neurotris. In terms of non-invasive beauty alternatives, this device has cutting-edge technology to tone the muscles of the face, tighten the skin and reduce the appearance

of fine lines, wrinkles, and other signs of aging. See the before and after pictures on the right.

Clients have been raving about the differences they notice after their non-invasive facial treatments. One NOTL local said, "I am usually pretty skeptical about everything, but I really enjoyed my experience and feel that I have noticed a difference after just the one treatment." The treatment was a buccal massage and microcurrent treatment, where the client also commented that, "it felt like more than just your regular facial, it was more

of a treatment."

Lisa curated her treatment menu to match her mission of providing treatments that help clients radiate their confidence. It is often echoed in the treatment room, "I look like my best self." The treatments have been carefully designed to work on your body on a holistic level and provide prevention options to slow down the visible aging process.

Other treatments are holistic facials, microneedling, mesotherapy, chemical peels, botox, vitamin IVs, and PRP for skin and hair restoration. Visit the website for a complete service menu, or contact Lisa to set up an appointment to start your journey to skin confidence.

Mention this article and receive 15 per cent off during the month of March. Seniors (55+) will receive an exclusive discount of 20 per cent off their first treatment during March. The discounts cannot be combined.

Contact Jolie Holistic Medical Aesthetics at 289-257-6886 and online at jolieholisticmedicaaesthetics.com. We are located at 6652 Jupiter Blvd. in Niagara Falls.



jolie
HOLISTIC MEDICAL AESTHETICS



Clients have been raving about the differences they notice after their non-invasive facial treatments.

Predators make early playoff exit with **shootout loss**

Kevan Dowd
The Lake Report

In the end the difference was just one shot in a shootout thriller that could have gone either way.

The Jr. A Niagara Predators gave everything they had, but without securing a clutch win, their season came to an end Friday night.

A 1-1 tie after 60 minutes led to overtime and a lengthy shootout to settle things in favour of the Durham Roadrunners.

That gave Durham the best-of-three first-round series win.

Struggling for words after the game, Predators head coach Kevin Taylor praised his players for their effort.

“What I said to them after the game is, no matter how this year ends, unless you win the championship, it doesn’t end the way you wanted it to and to lose in this fashion is tough,” he said.

“Everything we’ve asked



The Jr. A Predators leave the ice after losing their first-round playoff series. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

them to do all year they did tonight — you can’t fault them. There were no mistakes tonight.”

Taylor is not far off the mark in his assessment, supported by few penalty minutes throughout the game and a relatively even number of shots-on-goal for both teams.

After 20 goalless minutes, Durham scored 58 seconds into the second period, with Niagara sniper Luca

Fernandez answering back three and a half minutes later.

With neither team able to find the net in regulation, the game entered extra minutes, followed by a shootout.

It took nine shooters from each team to determine a winner, with Predators’ veteran Reese Bisci netting Niagara’s lone shootout goal — but it would not be enough.

“We did everything we

could possibly do — we really did. There was a lot of pride there and it was entertaining,” Taylor said.

“There were two posts, two posts in a shootout! It was a great game and if we have to end the year, this is a great way to end it,” he added.

“We played well and it was just unfortunate we didn’t put the puck in the net as much as we should have.”

The Predators finish the season in sixth place of eight in the Greater Metro Hockey League’s south division. Although a lower finish than in previous seasons for the team, Taylor said he was not disappointed.

“My expectations were a lot higher than what we finished and the record wasn’t the best,” he said, noting the team fought through injuries and a short bench for parts of the year.

“There’s been a lot of adversity all year, I think maybe two times we might have had a full lineup.

Missing guys, not having (ace goalie Zane Clausen) for probably two months and we went through some stretches where we lost some games and it was tough because if we had a goaltender in net like Zane, the confidence might have been there.”

Looking toward next season, Taylor expects some significant changes, in particular with the line-up

as seven 21-year-old players will be too old and unable to return.

“There are a couple guys who’ve been here for a while with us and now it’s time for the new blood to come in,” he said.

“There are changes that are going to be in the works and different things are going to be happening, but we’re looking forward to a new start,” he said.

Crowds are usually small and he hopes for more fan support “because it’s exciting hockey, it’s good hockey.”

The league is also an opportunity for some players to continue their careers.

As for his current roster, Taylor wished them the well.

“I hope the best for everyone. I hope everyone appreciates what the organization did for the players and I hope that when they look back, they have a positive outlook on how the season went.”




NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPiRiT AWARDS

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Spirit Awards

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



CEILIDH

LEARN HOW TO IRISH DANCE

Cèilidh noun (pronounced KAY-lee)

Originally the word Ceilidh descended from the Gaelic word for ‘gathering’ or ‘party’, However, these days when people think of a Ceilidh, they think of a social event - a fun filled night of dancing, good music and great company.

Learn How To Ceilidh Dance Before St. Patrick’s Day

Monday, March 11 @ 8:00 pm

— — — — —

\$15 Ticket: 1-Hour Lesson, Open Food & Drink Menu
\$40 Ticket: 1-Hour Lesson, Any Entrée, and Select Drink of Choice

Reservations Required • Limited Space Available • Restrictions May Apply

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM
(905) 468-4443 • TAXES & GRATUITIES EXTRA
Credit Card Required To Reserve Your Spot • 72 Hour Cancellation Policy In Effect • 19+ Event

TEAM OF THE WEEK

U13 Local League 2



The NOTL Hockey Association's U13 Local League 2 Wolves are The Lake Report's featured Team of the Week. Pictured at the home team bench are, front row, from left: Eric Warren, Logan Elrod, Josh Kmetyk, Ben Bayne, Rory Smythe, Tyler Lebrasseur, Logan Oram, Sam Kallio, Liam Waters, Lauren Froese (behind Liam), Jake Van Spronsen, Easton Van Berkel and Michael Miele. Standing behind the players are assistant coach Jeremy Waters, head coach Jamie Kallio and trainer Steve Lebrasseur. Absent are Lucas Kallio, Rhys Tregunno, Charlie Abbott and Samir Levesque, and assistant coach Jeremy Froese. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



YOU'RE INVITED TO A WOMEN'S DAY TEA

International Women's Day is approaching and we're raising a cup to you! Please join us at Amica Stoney Creek, a senior lifestyles residence, for a high tea party. You'll enjoy specialty tea, chef-prepared pastries, and live entertainment as we celebrate you and your accomplishments.

Feel free to stay for a guided tour of our premium suites and amenities.

Friday, March 8 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM

We look forward to seeing you!

PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 4
TO LESLEY OR CARLY AT 905-664-8444

AMICA

STONEY CREEK

135 KING STREET E, STONEY CREEK
AMICA.CA/STONEYCREEK

An elite customer service experience you deserve

17 Drury Crescent, St. Catharines
\$679,000



Open House
Sat/Sun
2-4pm



FOR SALE



3



2



JOY MIELE

Sales Representative

905.347.3728

Joy@McGarrRealty.com

McGarr Realty Corp., Brokerage, 1507 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil, 905.468.9229

Across

- 3. Crisp, lustrous fabric (7)
- 8. Loose Japanese robe (6)
- 9. Cynical and pessimistic film genre (4)
- 10. An island, according to John Donne (2,3)
- 11. Hypersensitive (8)
- 12. Musician --- Clapton (4)
- 16. Pirouetted (7)
- 20. Forsake (7)
- 21. "Honour and ---, fore-damned they sit ..." (Kipling) (3)
- 22. Amalgamate (5)
- 23. Chemical Ali was one (5)
- 24. Apollo moonshot vehicle (1,1,1)
- 25. Willingly obedient (7)
- 26. Symbol of sovereignty (7)
- 30. 1920s art style (4)
- 34. Not expressly stated (8)
- 36. Bring to fruition (5)
- 37. In (4)
- 38. Essential (6)
- 39. Attribute sounds like a writer (7)

Down

- 1. Stuff with stuff (4)
- 2. "Not likely!" (2,4)
- 3. Ego nut goes bananas for a mouthful (6)
- 4. Seed-eating bird variety (5)
- 5. "The moan of doves in immemorial ---" (Tennyson) (4)
- 6. The last Stuart monarch (4)
- 7. "Hot spot" IT service (2-2)
- 11. Greatly surprised (9)
- 13. Shining (7)
- 14. Big bit of crust? (9)
- 15. Literary ridicule (6)
- 17. Featherbrained (7)
- 18. "Cut it out!" (3,3)
- 19. Reside (5)
- 20. Components of molecules (5)
- 27. Mobster caught for tax evasion (6)
- 28. Values highly (6)
- 29. "Ten Commandments" mountain (5)
- 31. "Little Sir ---, how do you do?" (4)
- 32. Black and white marine predator (4)
- 33. Grand-scale (4)
- 35. Separate article (4)

Have some fun



Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8										9		
					10							
11										12	13	14
									15			
16		17		18		19		20				
						21						
22										23		
						24						
25								26	27		28	
							29					
30	31		32		33		34					35
						36						
37										38		
			39									

Last issue's answers

1	V	P	3	N	5	A	6	F	7	E							
8	F	I	G	U	R	I	N	E	9	V	O	L	U	M	E		
	E	R	X	15	W	E	E	A	M								
11	S	W	A	S	T	I	K	A	R	12	B	13	E	A	14	U	
	H	U	E	G						15	W	P	N				
16	E	A	17	E	18	S	19	P	E	20	T	R	I	F	I	E	D
	E	T	C														
21	P	R	O	S	H	O	P										
	S	R	O	U													
24	K	I	M	J	O	N	G	25	I	L	26	E	27	T	H	E	R
	I	I	L														
29	N	O	N	E	31	S	32	C	R	E	V	I	C	E	S		
	G	M															
36	P	R	Y	I	N	G	37	S	A	U	N	T	E	R	S		
	E	T	A														

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





FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



When you call Greg, you get Greg.

GREG SYKES real estate TEAM



CLAIRE
MCNEVAN*

MARIO
SOLDO*

DEBI
CHEWERDA*

GREG
SYKES*

SHANNON
LEIGH BEATTIE*

EVAN
MCCAUGHEY*

STEPHANIE
FARR

NOTL Pickleball Club teams up to fight Crohn's and colitis

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Pickleball is a fast-growing sport in Niagara-on-the-Lake: within a few short months, the town's club has grown to 600 members from 400 members.

Using this popularity to benefit a charity organization is a no-brainer, says Shie Gorman, a member of the NOTL Pickleball Club and a development co-ordinator for Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

"We're looking for new and innovative ways to raise funds for Crohn's and ulcerative colitis and also amplify all the great things going on in our community," Gorman said.

With pickleball's immense attraction, a tournament supporting Crohn's and Colitis Canada makes for a "fun way to play and raise funds for a good cause," she said.

Smash the Guts Pickleball Tournament is this Saturday, March 2 at the NOTL Community Centre, with the first session starting at 11:30.



The Smash the Guts Pickleball Tournament will take place at the NOTL community centre on Saturday, March 2. FILE

As of Wednesday, there were 28 registrants and the tournament has a capacity of 60, so anyone interested who meets the required skill rank of 2.5 or 3.0 is encouraged to register online.

Crohn's and Colitis Canada is also hosting a sister tournament in Toronto.

As an employee of the organization, Gorman feels she can speak to the need for fundraising for the cause.

Crohn's and colitis are inflammatory bowel diseases that afflict thousands of Canadians, many of them young adults.

"We're looking at someone every 48 minutes in Canada that will be diagnosed with either. We have the highest rates for the disease in the world," Gorman said.

All money raised from the Smash the Guts tournament will benefit finding cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, she said.

Volunteers will also collect any donations participants wish to leave during the tournament and there will be an online auction for pickleball swag.

"Ideally we can continue to host it every year," Gorman said.

For more information and tickets, visit crohnsandcolitiscanada.akaraisin.com/ui/smashtheguts.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com



Top: NOTL Skating Club members Alexx Hill, Ophelia Xie, Samantha Frydryk, Katharine VanderKaay, Jamie Doucet, Abigail McCabe and Hailey Mitchell skated in the Provincial Series competition in Bowmanville and elsewhere across Ontario



Left: Liza Butko, Coco Allinotte, Carlee Bering and Kayla Thwaites performed well in the Mississauga Snowflake competition. SUPPLIED

NOTL skaters perform well

Members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club have been busy winning medals and ribbons in competitions across the province.

Two club members, Hailey Mitchell in STAR 5 U10 and Samantha Frydryk in STAR 6, are in contention for the provincial championships to be held in Brampton March 22-24.

Skating in the Provincial Series of competitions they are vying for spots in the Skate Ontario rankings and the chance to compete in Brampton.

At the Muskoka Winter Whirl Jan. 5-7, Carlee Bering received a silver assessment in STAR 3.

In the Provincial Series in Bowmanville Jan. 12-14: Alexx Hill was fourth in STAR 8 and ninth in STAR 9; Ophelia Xie came first in STAR 7 O12 and fifth in STAR 8; Samantha Frydryk was third in STAR 6; Darah Adeyiwola was 16th in STAR 5 U13; Katharine VanderKaay 12th in STAR 6; Jamie Doucet 10th in STAR 5 O13; Abigail McCabe fifth in STAR 5 U13; Hailey Mitchell was first in

STAR 5 U10.

At Provincial Series competitions Jan. 26-28, Carlee Bering placed seventh in STAR 4 in Norwich, while in Lasalle, Abigail McCabe was fourth in STAR 5 U13 and Hailey Mitchell was first in STAR 5 U10.

The Mississauga Snowflake competition Feb. 2-4 ended with Liza Butko receiving a gold assessment in STAR 3; Coco Allinotte was fourth in STAR 4; Carlee Bering seventh in STAR 4 and Kayla Thwaites received a silver assessment in STAR 3.



VIRGIL CHIROPRACTIC AND WELLNESS



MARCUS

Marcus graduated from the massage therapy program at Algonquin College in 2021. His interest in massage therapy came from an extensive background in athletics as a child. With a comprehensive knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, Marcus aims to provide the best care to his patients. Whether it's rehabilitation or looking to relax, Marcus can provide a treatment space that meets your specific needs

HOURS

Monday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Meet our newest team members!



DR. DALTON

Dr. Dalton has a well-rounded 'family medicine' practice but has developed a special focus in Women's health to honour the strong presence of matriarchal leadership in his own life. As a self-proclaimed life-long learner, Dr. Dalton is currently continuing his education in Women's health topics through the completion of the 'Certified Women's Health Practitioner' designation for advanced study in the latest research informed approaches to the most common conditions affecting women. These include, but are not limited to: endometriosis, chronic pelvic pain, infertility, post-partum, premenstrual syndrome (PMS), premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), vulvovaginal pain disorders, peri and post menopause, thyroid disorders, gut issues, acne and hair loss.

HOURS

Tuesdays, 2 to 6 p.m.

EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Red brick home

This watercolour was painted by landscape artist George R. Bruenech. It features a red brick home with a figure of a woman seated on the porch. The house was formerly located in the hollow between Byron and Ricardo streets. This is the house of William Milloy, who ran the City of Toronto steamer following the death of his father Duncan Milloy in 1871. William was also known for taking over his father's Oban House, adding a second storey and converting it into the Oban Inn in 1895.

Open or closed? What's up with Family Day in NOTL?



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

We haven't really figured out Family Day, have we?

As I rambled a few years ago, I hope the decision-makers will finally decide if Family Day is a holiday or not.

As much as I try not to look over the shoulders of our leaders, sometimes I just have to offer my observations. I don't pretend to be an expert — and I'm just asking.

"Hey, it's a statutory holiday and we have families, too." That's a common reply when I mention my Family Day concern to government employees here in Niagara.

Just last week, confusion and disappointment reigned supreme on our streets.

Family Day, a statutory holiday in only five of

Canada's 10 provinces, is meant to be an opportunity for people to enjoy time with their loved ones. A pure idea, except that we can't all have our cake and eat it, too.

What a great chance for families to visit our wonderful public library and community centre. Special events could be planned. It's a great initiative, except that these two town gems are closed for Family Day.

In the olden days, when I worked in Huntsville and Cape Cod and Nantucket, we knew we would have to work on the summer long weekends. Because that's when the customers would want to do business with us.

In our wonderful wee town, it would not be hard to find a few employees to cover the statutory holiday and keep the town amenities open for taxpayer enjoyment.

But even the provincially owned LCBOs were closed on Family Day. Shouldn't they be trying to make sales on a busy day, to boost income and reduce our taxes?

Who was open on Family Day? Some of our truly



Ross Robinson thinks family institutions like public libraries should remain open for Family Day holiday.

great businesses have figured out that if the sidewalks are busy with tourists and locals, they should be open for business.

Melissa and Robert Achal at NEOB Lavender made good sales, as did Kim Gauld at the Sunset Grill.

And I finally learned why the Sunset Grill, primarily a breakfast spot, isn't called the Sunrise Grill.

Strangely, because Don Henley had a bestselling song called (down at the) "Sunset Grill." Weird?

I also learned why the Sunset Grill proudly uses small eggs. It's apparently a fact that smaller egg yolks have less water to evaporate and better omelettes result. Can it be true? We can learn so much, just by askin'.

Butler's Sports Bar was

open to serve breakfast, and the attentive and fast walking Darla delivered many plates of fresh eggs and real, diner-style home fries to families enjoying the day.

Back down on Queen Street, Athina and Johnny Paraskevopoulos fed lots of customers at Gyros on the Lake. Their staff were busy and happy to be getting a good day of work during the slow month of February.

And on the north side of our pretty main drag, just before 10 a.m., and you can set your watch by Mira and Tolis Karpetas opening the doors to Nikolas Men's Apparel.

Then, true to their European heritage, they swept the sidewalks and picked up any litter. I don't know how to say it in Greek, but "if you are open for business, be open for business."

The Olde Angel Inn and the Irish Harp welcomed good crowds and made visitors happy. In fact, both sold lots of food and drink on Family Day.

I have rambled enough about Family Day and understand that every business has different customer targets and busi-

ness strategies. Having said that, wouldn't it be much more tourist-friendly if a decision was made to keep Niagara-on-the-Lake open on Family Day?

Just up the river, the Niagara Parks Commission is open for business. With ringing cash registers. Its parking lots are full and their employees seem happy.

I don't like confusion. In the future, will Family Day be a statutory holiday?

I spend lots of time on Queen Street and find it difficult to explain to visitors that we cannot decide whether we are truly a tourism-oriented community.

Well, the wineries have made the commitment and the accommodation sector needs the extra night with occupied rooms. So, let's synergize.

Business was picking up on Family Day 2024 for the hard-working crews at Miller Waste Systems. Their big trucks hustled around town reminding us to Box It. Bin It. Sort It.

I'll bet Ontario's ski resorts were open. In NOTL, if we are open for business, let's be open for business.



New! FIRESIDE FLIGHTS

Enjoy a seasonal wine flight in the warmth of our enclosed winter patio, paired with your own 'Gourmet S'mores Board', all while relaxing at your private fire table. **ONLY \$40/PERSON**

Visit konzelmann.ca for details.



Help keep pee leaks at bay and urgency away.

Pelvic Health Done *Differently*.

If your giggles turn to dribbles or you wake at 3 to pee, you're not alone. UROSPOT is Canada's #1 brand for pelvic health. We offer a breakthrough Health Canada and FDA approved treatment for bladder leaks in both women and men.

Remaining fully-clothed, our technology effectively produces 11,000 perfect Kegels in just 28 minutes, simply by sitting on a chair. The chair uses waves of electromagnetic energy and does the work for you. Nothing goes in your body, no one is touching you, and there's no pain.

After 6 sessions at UROSPOT, I was able to do 60 jumping jacks and didn't pee! I couldn't do 5 without peeing before.

- Ashley 38



URO SPOT™
STRENGTHENING YOUR PELVIC FLOOR

Partially covered by physiotherapy benefits.

111 Fourth Ave, Unit 14, St. Catharines, ON
stcatharines@urospot.com |
905-641-7140



Joanne Young says raised garden beds can save your back and help soil warm up more quickly. MIDJOURNEY

The benefits of raised vegetable gardens



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

If you follow any of the garden blogs or still like leafing through magazines, you will most likely have noticed over the past few years that raised vegetable gardens have made a comeback.

Some will probably question whether they ever fell out of popularity.

As I meet with clients, I find more people are considering implementing raised gardens in which to grow their vegetables and herbs.

There are some definite benefits to building raised gardens.

One of the benefits is that raised gardens save your back.

Building raised vegetable gardens will reduce the amount of back strain because you are no longer

having to reach down to ground level.

If you are like me (aging gracefully), I keep saying that I must be getting taller as I age, as the ground keeps getting further away.

Raising the height of the beds allows you to weed and harvest your vegetables without bending down as far and straining your back.

When considering how high to make your beds, go a minimum of twelve inches tall. This way you can sit on the edges of the bed which makes things even easier.

With raised gardens in the spring, the soil in the beds tends to warm up quicker than the surrounding ground.

This is because the sun is hitting multiple surfaces at one time.

The soil also tends to dry faster from the melting snow and heavy, early spring rains.

This means that you can start planting your cool-season crops earlier in the season.

Some of the cool-season vegetables include peas, cabbage, lettuce and broccoli.

It also makes it easier to extend the spring and late fall seasons by adding hoops over the bed and covering them with plastic.

This allows you to keep harvesting for a couple of weeks longer in the fall.

Spreading mulch, straw or pea gravel on the ground between the raised boxes will cut down on the amount of lawn you will have to maintain.

Many of us have that horrible clay soil in our yards. Raised vegetable gardens provide you with an opportunity to fill them with an ideal soil-compost mix that will be perfect for growing vegetables.

The best mix to use in your boxes would be a combination of nutrient-rich topsoil combined with compost, such as composted manure, leaf compost or mushroom compost.

In the past, peat moss was used extensively as a soil amendment, but it does not really provide any nutrient value at all.

Once your raised beds are filled with fresh soil, cover the surfaces with an inch or two of mulch to cut back on weeds, thus reducing competition for nutrients and preserving moisture.

Another big benefit of raised vegetable gardens is that you will never have to till the soil.

Since there is no foot traffic in the beds (or very little), the soil does not become compacted.

So, raised vegetable garden beds provide a healthier environment for beneficial microorganisms and earthworms, which means a healthier root system.

Here are a few design tips when thinking of adding some raised gardens:

1. Keep your raised beds narrow enough that you can reach the middle from both sides while standing or sitting on the outside of the bed. Usually, no wider than four feet since the average person can reach about two feet.

2. Space the garden beds so that there is enough space to get a wheelbarrow or lawn mower through between. I would suggest a minimum of two feet wide.

3. When selecting material to use to build your beds, choose a rot-resistant lumber such as cedar or redwood or other material such as brick, stone, or concrete.

4. Include trellises, obelisks, or screens in your raised gardens to grow vine-like crops such as peas, beans, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes. This can add interest to your gardens and it is also a great space saving technique.

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

Obituary

Eva Andres



ANDRES, EVA - Passed away peacefully at Willoughby Manor on February 19, 2024 in at the age of 97. Beloved wife of the late William (2010). Dear mother of Rick (Anna), Elsie (Wallace) Clement, Reg (Cheryl), Fred (Patricia), and Sandra Hildebrandt. Proud grandmother of 17 grandchildren and 30

great-grandchildren, and another on the way. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her siblings Tina, John, Susan, and Vera and son-in-law Peter Hildebrandt.

Visitation was held at Bethany Mennonite Church, 572 East & West Line, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m. A funeral service was held at Bethany at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, followed by interment at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to MCC or charity of your choice. Online condolences at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca.



A dark-eyed junco in NOTL. LILY MCKINLEY

BIRD WATCH

The dark-eyed junco

Lily McKinley
Special to The Lake Report

It's "Canada's snowbird" and it is a beautiful sight in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the winter.

The dark-eyed junco is the most abundant forest bird in North America.

It resides in diverse habitats, spanning from coniferous forests to suburban gardens.

During the summer breeding season, the junco nests in higher-elevation boreal forests across the mountains of western Canada.

In the winter, it migrates to lower, southern regions,

including the Niagara Peninsula.

Juncos travel up to thousands of kilometres on their migratory journey and typically arrive in the region by early winter.

The species can often be seen burrowing through the snow in search of their food.

When you encounter one junco, you are likely to see a flock of 30 or more.

Juncos do not visit feeders during warmer months due to abundant natural food sources, but they are often seen at backyard feeders in the winter.

This offers an excellent opportunity to catch a glimpse of these charming visitors.



Korean-themed bakery & cafe
roll cakes | scones | pastries | buns
coffee | tea | smoothies

358 Mary St. | 289-241-7789 | sokobakerycafe.square.site



LOCAL EXPERTISE · GLOBAL RECOGNITION

THE FINE ESTATES TEAM REAL ESTATE

CALL US TODAY!
905.380.1158
thefinestatesteam.com

MEMBERS OF:



<p>1559 YORK ROAD</p>  <p>\$3,299,900 ST. DAVIDS</p>	<p>42 HOMESTEAD DR</p>  <p>\$1,099,900 VIRGIL</p>	<p>2600 BAXTER AVE</p>  <p>\$2,275,000 CHIPPAWA</p>	<p>#1703-2060 LAKESHORE</p>  <p>LUXURY CONDO \$2,190,000 BURLINGTON</p>
<p>OLD TOWN NOTL</p>  <p>\$1,349,900</p>	<p>527 MISSISSAGUA ST</p>  <p>\$2,499,000 B&B</p>	<p>LOT 2 ANCHOR RD</p>  <p>BUILD TO SUIT \$1,850,000 THOROLD</p>	<p>3820 NUGENT RD</p>  <p>\$1,899,000 PORT COLBORNE</p>
<p>5717 LOWELL AVE</p>  <p>\$675,000 NIAGARA FALLS</p>	<p>245 MCALPINE AVE S</p>  <p>\$499,000 WELLAND</p>	<p>226 PALACE STREET</p>  <p>\$1,100,000 THOROLD</p>	<p>LOT 4 ANCHOR RD</p>  <p>BUILD TO SUIT \$1,750,000 THOROLD</p>



JOIN US THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND
AT CROSSROADS PUBLIC SCHOOL

9AM - 3PM

1530 NIAGARA STONE ROAD,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

VISIT OUR BOOTH FOR A FREE FAMILY
PORTRAIT & YOUR CHANCE TO WIN OUR
GIVEAWAY BASKET - VALUED AT OVER \$200!



#1 Angelika & ASSOCIATES LUXURY REAL ESTATE

★ **FREE HOME EVALUATION** ★
CALL ANGELIKA TODAY!
905-468-8777

FOR SALE | **MULTIPLE USES WITH MAIN FLOOR PRIMARY BEDROOM - FAMILY HOME - B+B** | **CUSTOM BUILT HOME**






507 MISSISSAUGA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE **CALL ANGELIKA FOR MORE INFO! 289-214-4394**

★ **BOLDT BUILD CUSTOM LARGE BUNGALOW W/ STUNNING NEW VERSACE INSPIRED LOWER LEVEL** ★






1193 QUEENSTON RD, ST DAVIDS **CALL ANGELIKA FOR MORE INFO 289-214-4394**

4 MERITAGE LN, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

\$1,699,450 - BACKYARD PARADISE




123 WILLIAM ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

4,500 SQFT | FOREST BACKYARD **270 FT- PRIME WATERFRONT | 5.5 ACRES**




8525 SWEET CHESTNUT DR, NIAGARA FALLS **515 SANDY BAY RD, HALDIMAND COUNTY**




Great Location!
On the Corner of Mississauga & John & John

Drop By Anytime and Visit Our Team!

496 MISSISSAUGA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



#1 Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE
289-214-4394





#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA
THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT BROKERAGE IN CANADA

MY MARKETING PLAN WILL SELL YOUR HOME!

- Exceptional sales record. #1 Top Producer & multiple award winner
- Long term presence in Niagara-On-The-Lake. Local *Right at Home Realty* Branch in NOTL (Over 6,000 Realtors®. Largest Independent Brokerage in Ontario & Canada)
- Long list of Toronto Buyers buying in Niagara-On-The-Lake
- World class videography, photos and drone footage, highest quality hard cover print brochures & advertising in print media
- Your property will be globally listed, gaining exposure to 220 countries and 48 Ontario real estate boards & MLS®
- Estate clean up/decluttering and packing services (no extra charge)
- Help elderly relocate (no extra charge)
- Up to date in Mortgage trends and state of economy, strategy to sell
- Passionate to be of service