

New dump plans | Page 6

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Canada's most-decorated community newspaper

July 4, 2024

## Museum buys Carnochan house, details revealed on Monday

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

The Niagara—on-the-Lake Museum is taking a big step forward in its multi-million expansion. The museum has purchased the Janet Carnochan house at 25 Castlereagh St., next door to the museum complex.

Carnochan helped establish the NOTL Historical Society in 1895, which led to the opening of the NOTL Museum in 1907. It was the first purpose-built museum in Ontario.

Next Monday, the museum will host a news conference to officially announce its acquisition of the Carnochan house.

The property was listed for sale about four months ago by Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty with a price tag of more than \$1.5 million.

While museum officials are staying mum about the details, it is believed the purchase was made possible by a large donation to the museum.

The museum is bursting at the seams and launched

a \$10-million fundraising campaign last fall to cover the costs of a major expansion.

Headed by pharmacist Sean Simpson, the

Continued on Page 3

# White Oaks highrises get a second chance

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

It's better for the town to move ahead with plans for highrises in Glendale, with alterations, rather than dismissing the project altogether, says Coun. Gary Burroughs.

He was one of four councillors to change their vote on the four-building White Oaks development at last week's council meeting after a plea from LandX Developments president Tim Collins.

It was approved 8-1, with all councillors ending up voting in favour of the project, except Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

O'Connor said that she does not feel comfortable moving forward with the altered plan.

She attempted to defer the amendment until council saw the updated Glendale secondary plan but her motion had no seconder.

"We're making a very

Continued on Page 2

# Big cakes and Canada Day



Tomas Nolan, right, dives right into the Canada Day cake at Simcoe Park on Monday, alongside friends Lucas Pillitteri and Eric Warren. The three friends were some of the first to get a slice of this year's cake. **More Canada Day coverage on pages 11-13.** RICHARD HARLEY

#### Julia Sacco | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

iagara-on-the-Lake was the place to be this Canada Weekend, with the streets of Old Town filled to the brim for all the holiday festivities. This year's Canada Day cake parade featured a "Willow Wonka" themed cake from Willow Cakes and Pastries, led down Queen Street by the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa along

with councillors Wendy Cheropita, Erwin Wiens and Gary Burroughs walked the parade route and helped divvy out the cake at Simcoe Park.

Dorothy Soo-Wiens walked the parade route and helped serve

cake to the hundreds of people waiting for a slice.

Soo-Wiens said it was fabulous to celebrate Canada Day with NOTLers and visitors — and

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## NOTL seniors don't ever want to leave town, survey finds

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

Independence. Health care. Social relationships.

The desires, needs and focus of Niagara-on-the-Lake's aging populace can be summed up in those three points, according to a comprehensive survey conducted by two leading Canadian researchers.

Last fall the survey, led by NOTL-based researchers Michael Ennamorato and Stephen Ferley, gathered responses from nearly 600 residents who answered questions about their future housing needs in town.

The data, analyzed with the help of Niagara College Prof. Nick Farnell and his post-graduate students, paints a picture of how residents 55 and up feel about their options in the community — and possibly what direction real estate developers and various levels of government

might go in trying to meet those needs.

With 587 responses, it is the most in-depth poll on seniors housing ever conducted in town and was spearheaded by a committee of interested residents who

recognized that quantified and objective data was required in order to plan for the future.

"Independence is the dominant element of hous-

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## Glendale resident is disappointed in highrise approval

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important decision and we haven't even seen that plan," she said.

The four towers will be 17, 18, 21 and 25 storeys.

Burroughs, who voted against proposed zoning bylaw amendments during a committee of the whole meeting on June 11, said he supported the project after his motion to meet with Transport Canada was also approved at the meeting.

Council agreed to have "the mayor, a representative from the airport, one councillor and appropriate staff meet with Transport Canada and settle the height issue once and for all," Burroughs told The Lake Report.

Part of Glendale falls under federal airport zoning regulations because the neighbourhood is not far from the Niagara District Airport and building heights within that zone are restricted to seven storeys.

"So, that's why my vote changed," Burroughs said.

He added that once the height is ultimately decided, he will be more comfortable to move forward.



The proposed White Oaks highrises. FILE

"For the residents as well as the developer, they need to know," he said.

Couns. Nick Ruller and Wendy Cheropita also changed their minds.

During last week's meeting, Ruller asked whether the developer could change the locations of the buildings, putting the tallest tower farthest away from other residences.

In an interview, he said when the report originally came before council, he "didn't have the clarity to make an informed decision."

After getting additional

information about all of the amenities that will be included in the development and how they address the needs of the community, he changed his opinion, he

"It seemed like a more suitable proposal after the additional information was provided," Ruller said.

Tim Collins, LandX's president, said that the amenities White Oaks already has, including a daycare and nursery, cafe and place to get your hair cut, will be extended and built upon with the development.

Ruller said that along with

these features and a revised order of the buildings, residents would appreciate an opportunity to revisit the

He added that he is not interested in trying to turn committee meetings into a "workshop" but rather wants to find a solution that could meet both the developer's and the residents' needs.

Glendale resident Steve Hardaker said that he is disappointed with council's decision.

"I'm quite bitter actually. We worked hard, we amassed 644 signatures on the petition (against it) and that wasn't Niagara-onthe-Lake-wide, that was in Glendale and Niagara on the Green," he said.

"That's a significant amount of people who were against this development to be ignored by those councillors," Hardaker continued.

Cheropita shared Ruller's view, saying new information about the development changed her mind.

"We want to get cars off the main roads so that communities can be walkable, usable and complete

communities," she said in an interview.

"What they are planning is exactly that, so that residents can work, play and live in the same area."

When the developers came back to council saying that it was impossible to reduce heights, she still thought the development was ultimately worth it, she

"To me it was either, do we turn it down or do we allow it to happen and be able to work with the developer to make sure they do it in the best possible way, to be integrated into the community," she said.

Cheropita added that when voting, councillors agreed to have developers reassess where the tallest buildings would be placed.

"They're willing to work with us on that," she said.

Taking in all of those facts, Cheropita said she felt more comfortable voting in favour of the project.

Regarding the possibility or rearranging the buildings by height, Hardaker said it is a "minor consideration" and there will nonetheless be 17, 18, 21 and 25-storey

buildings looking over the Niagara on the Green neighbourhood.

Glendale has become the "official dumping ground for unwanted development in Niagara-on-the-Lake," he said.

The Glendale secondary plan — a strategy for current and future development in the community — identifies the neighbourhood as a "strategic growth area," where multiple types of housing will be available.

"We do welcome (development) here because that will bring amenities, but not 25 storeys or 21 storeys or 18 storeys or 17 storeys. That's outrageous," Hardaker said.

"For people that are north of White Oaks, that will block their view of the escarpment."

He doesn't think this kind of development would be accepted in Old Town, for example.

"Put a 25-storey building in Old Town and see what happens. They had a hard enough time getting approval for a four-storey building," Hardaker said.

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#### -15 MEKHAGE LANE \$1,550,000

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July 4, 2024



## Gateway well worth it, Zalepa says

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

In the past, guests entering the heritage district of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been greeted sans-fanfare by the sight of the field overlooking the Niagara River, trees and historic homes.

However, now as they enter the intersection of Queen and Mississagua streets, they'll be welcomed by a five-foot-tall brick gateway that says "Niagara-on-the-Lake Heritage District."

"This is an important piece of Niagara-on-the-Lake. For not only the people who live here and come across it daily but for the visitors who come and enjoy the wonderful place that we call home," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Thursday for the formal introduction of this gateway.

Zalepa was joined by parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte and designer Gerry Kowalchuk, whose family's foundation is responsible for funding the construction of this gateway with a donation of almost \$265,000.

Around 30 residents gathered at the intersection to happily welcome in the new gateway.

The intersection was blocked off to traffic between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. for the presentation.

Before this, Zalepa told The Lake Report, the town has lacked a marker or sign to tell people when they're



Gerry Kowalchuk said that his vision came to fruition with NOTL's historic district gateway. Despite surpassing the estimated price tag, Kowalchuk says it was worth it. JULIA SACCO

entering the heritage district and historic Old Town.

"We have the great scenery, the setting — that's all here. But we did lack the public asset to say you're actually entering the heritage district," he said.

Kowalchuk spoke on the design process for the entryway, which was put to a halt shortly after its start in 2019, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that he was happy with the outcome of the design after four years and that it fulfilled the original vision statement for the project, which planned for a striking first impression of NOTL, a symbolic representation of the town's visual beauty, a gateway to historic Old Town and landscape excellence.

"As I stand here today I

believe that we have accomplished the outcome of our vision statement," Kowalchuk said.

The road to completing the project hasn't been without its bumps along the way.

The gateway surpassed the initially estimated price tag of \$250,000, bringing the total budget to \$264,890.

"It was another \$15,000," Kowalchuk said. "But we still covered it though, because I pre-funded it the month after it was approved."

Zalepa said that the cost was more than worth it for the town.

"The first thing that jumped to me was the similarity between the tunnel access from Fort Mississauga to Lake Ontario," he said about the design. The gateway — which is four years in the making — had no shortage of bumps along the way, including dry stone mason Dean McLellan dropping out of the project after being refused a deposit from the town for his materials.

Along with beautifying the streetscape, the gateway has its own self-sustaining irrigation system and lights up at night to display a silhouette of the "heritage district" lettering.

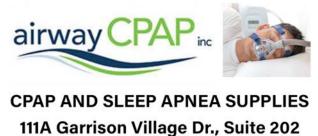
The town is happy to take feedback from residents regarding the legibility of text and any other critiques, Zalepa added.

"If there's improvements we can do to the material of the lettering I'm very confident we will make sure we can look at that over time," he said.

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## NOTL Museum buys Carnochan house

Continued from Front Page

campaign aims to bring in \$5 million from donors and match that amount with government grants.

Carnochan is a revered figure and credited for doing much to preserve NOTL's history.

A teacher who was active in community affairs, Carnochan was born in Stamford, in Niagara, in 1839. She died in NOTL in 1926 at the age of 86.

Amy Klassen, the

museum's director of finance and marketing, acknowledged the purchase is big news, which is why the organization is hosting a media event to make donors available for questions and comments.

"Thanks to the unwavering generosity of donors, we've been able to take steps forward in our Building History:
Strengthening Community capital campaign," Klassen said in a news release about the acquisition.



The Carnochan house at 25 Castlereagh St. is right next to the Niagara-on-the-Lake museum property. JULIA SACCO

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## Farmworker picnic a fun time

Lorna serves jerk pork macaroni salad to some of the farmworkers who came out to the annual Jamaican workers social event on Saturday at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil. The afternoon was filled with delicious Jamaican food and fun as seasonal workers took a bit of time to relax from their work. **More photos at niagaranow.com.** DAVE VAN DE LAAR



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## Artistry by the Lake shows creativity

Julia Sacco Local Journalism Initiative The Lake Report

Niagara has no shortage of creatives across the region.

At Artistry by the Lake this past weekend, guests could explore more than 80 vendors hosted by Niagara artists, including some from right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Artists had their tents and booths set up by the water at Queen's Royal Park from June 29 to July 1, showcasing their work and chatting with art enthusiasts about what they do.

One of them was NOTL's Julie Forrester Clark, who started her career in the arts with photography first and during the COVID-19 pandemic started experimenting with painting.

"I was combining photography and painting together and it just evolved," she said.

Forrester Clark had a tent at the event, where she had numerous paintings for sale and did live demonstrations of how she completes her works.



Julie Forrester Clark demonstrates her painting process live at Artistry by the Lake. Her use of tools instead of brushes creates different textural layers. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

"They're basically inspired by my trips to Scotland," she said, explaining that she starts painting with memories in mind and goes from there.

Using a variety of tools, Forrester Clark intuitively paints until she finds which direction she wishes to take the piece. She likes the "really cool textures" she gets from using more than just brushes.

Last weekend's festival was Forrester Clark's first time back at the show in a few years, after taking part in the NOTL Studio Tour last month.

In August, Forrester Clark

will be featured at the Art at the Pumphouse showcase.

Along with paintings, patrons could peruse and purchase other handmade goods including clothing, photo prints, woodwork and more, along with food from PigOut Catering.

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## Walker unveils next step in new dump plan

Steve Hardaker Community Correspondent

With only eight years remaining in the life of the existing south landfill in Niagara Falls, Walker Environmental Group is continuing with planning to develop the next phase of the dump.

Located on top of the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Niagara-on-the-Lake's Glendale neighbourhood, the phase 1 south landfill, which has been operating for more than 15 years, is reaching final capacity and must be phased out.

The new proposed south landfill phase 2 is located east of the existing dump across Taylor Road and south of Mountain Road.

It is now a working limestone quarry for Walker's aggregate operations but will close once the proposed new landfill is approved by Ontario's environment ministry.

On June 28, Walker submitted terms of reference to the ministry for an environmental assessment.

The terms of reference are available at southlandfillphase2.com.



Darren Fry, project director for Walker Environmental Group. SUPPLIED

The submission incorporates input from public consultations with area residents, government, Indigenous communities and other interested parties.

Walker project director Darren Fry noted this is the first step in the province's comprehensive environmental assessment process.

"The terms of reference is "essentially a road map or framework for how Walker will conduct the subsequent environmental studies over the next few years," Fry said in an email.

"Walker will begin conducting a wide range of studies ranging from surface water and groundwater, traffic, air quality, climate change, economic and visual to name a few."

During this phase, Walker will host public meetings to gather feedback from the community, agencies and Indigenous peoples and incorporate it into the project, he said.

When all the technical studies are done, Walker will release a draft environmental assessment report for public review prior to any formal submission to the minister, he said.

"This is an important project for Niagara," Fry said.

"It will continue to provide local waste disposal capacity, support over 500 jobs and increase the amount of renewable energy produced at Walker's Resource Management Campus."

Despite increased recycling, landfills are still needed for items that can't go in the blue, grey or green bin — and to accommodate future population growth.

Phase 2 will provide an additional 18 million cubic metres of landfill capacity over a 20-year period.

It will also supply renew-

able energy for the community by turning landfill gas into energy. This is in addition to the energy already being generated from the Phase 1 south landfill to heat more than 8,700 homes annually through the Enbridge Gas distribution system.

Walker's landfill gas is now being supplied to the neighbouring General Motors propulsion plant in St. Catharines. That helps GM reduce its carbon footprint by about 70 per cent, making it one of GM's cleanest propulsion plants.

Residents can review Walker's plan and submit written comments directly to project officer Stephen Deneault at the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' environmental assessment branch, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., first floor, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5, by July 30.

Online commenting is not available. The ministry will send copies of all comments to Walker.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 14 years and is active in a number of community organizations.



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## Survey finds NOTLers want access to health care close to home

#### Continued from Front Page

ing," says a summary of Ennamorato and Ferley's findings, and it "drives NOTL seniors' future needs and desires."

Having ready access to health care options — not necessarily a local hospital but secondary care like testing facilities and physio or other clinics — is "critical" and closely linked NOTL seniors' ideas of independence.

That access "increasingly permeates considerations of housing sustainability and overall quality of life" as residents age, the survey found.

And the notion of community — a strong wish to stay in NOTL and ideally in their current area of town — is a driving desire for many respondents.

Being close "to friends and social life, as well as leisure and recreational activities" is a high priority.

"This line of thinking does vary to some degree among communities (within NOTL), with seniors living in Old Town tending to be more adamant than those residing elsewhere about staying within their local community," the survey summary says.

But such sentiments are prevalent in all areas across town.

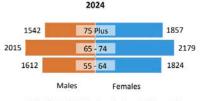
Most have no firm plans in place — yet

While the survey gauged the priorities of senior resi-

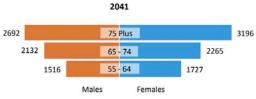
### HOME SWEET HOME



NOTL's senior population overwhelmingly wants to age in place, and stay as close as possible to their social circles and activities, such as pickleball. FILE



**53%** of Total NOTL Population 55 Years Plus **16%** of Total NOTL Population 75 Years Plus



**52%** of Total NOTL Population 55 Years Plus **23%** of Total NOTL Population 75 Years Plus

dents, it also found only 10 per cent of them have "done everything that is necessary" to plan their housing needs.

Typically, they "appear to recognize that change will be necessary," but have no firm plans in place.

As well, few say they are well-informed about their

options, clearly showing there is a "knowledge and preparedness gap" — and that could have future consequences, the research-

Ennamorato noted that 51 per cent rate staying in town at 10/10 for importance.

"Moreover, the large majority of these individuals are highly localized in their thinking, assigning the highest possible importance score to the idea of staying in their specific community within NOTL," he told The Lake Report.

Bottom line, staying in the same neighbourhood is really important to many people.

In contrast, only 13 per cent of seniors give staying in NOTL a relatively low rating for importance at 6/10 or lower.

"That's why the tension between the necessity of having access to health care and other supports versus staying in NOTL is so significant. It affects very many seniors," Ennamorato said.

Apart from finding the supports needed to stay in their present home, more than 50 per cent of NOTL seniors figure they eventually will move to a smaller, more manageable home or to a multiunit building "with more robust immediate and centralized services."

These changes could be sequential, downsizing initially and then moving into a multi-purpose dwelling.

But over the next five years, only 36 per cent of NOTL seniors are contemplating changing their living arrangements.

"Few seniors currently give active thought to more innovative possible moves such as accommodation in a 'granny flat' or joining a cooperative housing arrangement with other seniors," the researchers say.

However, they are realistic about the need eventually to move to more communal accommodation offering centralized care, Ennamorato said.

"But here, too, the desire is to retain as much independence as possible and have the freedom to add supports from a range of options on an as-needed basis."

Deep concerns about housing options

Overall, older residents have deep concerns about what future housing options will be available in NOTL.

Almost half (45 per cent) doubt that the type of assisted living they'll need will exist in town.

As to who can make that happen, a whopping 90 per cent of respondents said the Town of NOTL needs to do more to ensure there's "an adequate supply of assisted-living options."





Career researchers Michael Ennamorato and Stephen Ferley oversaw the seniors' housing survey.

That belief is almost universal — 93 per cent — among those who consider it important to stay in NOTL.

Ferley said it's also important to note that as many as 78 per cent of the NOTL seniors who may be less inclined to stay in town through the aging process believe the municipality should be doing more on the assisted-living front.

This could be contributing to their lack of commitment to staying in town, he said.

The committee that inspired the survey includes Robert Bader, Al Bisback, Fran Boot, Cindy Grant, Bill Halpenny, Sandra Hardy, Terry Mactaggart, Sandra O'Connor, Tom Smith, Tim Taylor and Peggy Walker.

The survey and analysis was all done pro bono and would have cost about \$80,000 to hire a survey firm to do the work, Ennamorato said.

The aim of the project was to understand the evolving requirements of seniors and what they need to maintain their quality of life as they get older, Grant said last November when the survey was launched.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake has one of the highest percentages of aging seniors in the country, many of whom wish to remain in our community, but the options are limited," she said.

## Many, but not all, feel financially secure

Niagara-on-the-Lake is often viewed as an influential, well-to-do community. And in many pockets of town, that is definitely true.

However, a minority of NOTL seniors — 28 per cent — has assets of less than \$1 million and are "less confident about satisfying their future housing and assistance needs," the survey of seniors' future housing needs finds.

The researchers note it is somewhat significant that the less financially secure cohort is more likely to be a woman, living alone and be age 75 or more.

In many cases, the report finds that a sizable chunk of people's net worth is tied up in their home.

About three-quarters of NOTL seniors claim to have assets of more than \$1 million and 40 per cent say their total is more than \$2 million.

Coupled with that, just over half of seniors (56 per cent) say they are financially secure.

"This solid financial underpinning is common across both Old Town and other NOTL communities," the report says.

What about the rest?

About 39 per cent say their financial situation is under control but they need to be careful.

In addition, few NOTL seniors think they will have any trouble selling their home when the time comes to downsize or move elsewhere.

Another group, those who say they are likely to move elsewhere to be closer to family or other supports, is relatively small, at 25 per cent.

This total is even smaller among rural seniors, where only 13 per cent figures they might have to pull up stakes

"For many rural seniors, moving to a smaller, more manageable home very near one's current place of residences is preferable" to a long-term care or retirement home.

# By the numbers: 53% of NOTLers are 55-plus

Niagara-on-the-Lake's population in 2024 is estimated at 20,863, according to Statistics Canada's 2021 census data, together with estimates from the province and Niagara Region, the researchers say.

Of that, 53 per cent (11,028) are 55 and over, while 16 per cent (3,398) are 75 and up.

By 2041, the town's population is expected to grow 24 per cent to 25,850 and those 75-plus are projected to comprise almost one-quarter of the population, at 5,887.

The census shows 79 per cent of NOTLers live in single-detached homes, but 70 per cent of those homes have no more than two people in them. And three-quarters of them have three bedrooms.

In addition, the primary maintainer is 55-plus in 73 per cent of households, and more than half are over 65.

Those numbers highlight some potential problems.
The data, all contained in the report by researchers
Michael Ennamorato and Stephen Ferley, "suggests
that the existing housing stock may not be sufficiently
diverse or adequately serviced to address the increasing wave of age-related needs" expected to wash over

Their report analyzes those issues and shines a light on some of the potential solutions.



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Julia Sacco, Kyra Simone, Tim Taylor,
Jill Troyer, Garth Turner, Dave Van de Laar,
Janice White, Richard Wright, Joanne Young
and many more members of the community



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





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#### Contributed by Patty Garriock

"If the victories we create in our heads were let loose on reality, the world we know would drown in blazing happiness." - Patton Oswalt

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## Sunset from the sky



Niagara-on-the-Lake photographer John DeLorenzi captured this stunning sunset shot last weekend using a drone camera. The image is taken from high above the St. Andrews Glen neighbourhood.

#### Editorial

## We love ya, Canada Day. We just can't hear ya

Richard Harley Editor-in-Chief

What are we singing? Who is that man with the moustache shouting things at the crowd? Is he just dressed up for funsies?

And also, is that band just air-playing today?

'Cause, I can't hear it.

These are all fair questions if you're a bystander at the Canada Day celebrations in Simcoe Park — because you really can't hear anything at all. And people were asking on Monday.

The Canada Day festivities around town, as always, again this year were a tremendous community gathering.

Thousands managed to find scarce parking, then turned out to watch the cake parade, fill the park for the afternoon and attend the various celebrations of our nation's birthday.

But at Simcoe Park, there was one big problem.

Despite best intentions, our town crier just can't cry loud enough to overpower hundreds of enthusiastic people waiting for cake. Nor can people hear the brass band or any of the other entertainment.

And not just this year. It happens every. Single. Year. So why?

We aren't sure who exactly is responsible for

the sound on Canada Day, whether it's the town or the celebration's volunteer organizers, but for goodness sake, can someone please turn up the volume?

We've heard mutterings and whispers that perhaps some fusty town bylaw bans sound amplification in the bandshell at Simcoe Park.

That's believable, given the track record of some of our town's amusing and ridiculous bylaws.

The irony would be palpable. No loud noise ... inside a bandshell.

Remember when the town enacted a noise bylaw that essentially prevented people from shouting?

Remember when the sound bylaw actually cost the town a sizable chunk of money in court after a resident complained about the outdoor pickleball courts?

How could we forget?
The true irony is, the
Canada Day cake parade
is almost guaranteed to be
the time you'll see the most
politicians in Simcoe Park.

Everyone's there. Wayne Gates, Tony Baldinelli (not that we need to address this extremely easy-to-deal-with town issue provincially or federally), Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Erwin Wiens

Literally all the big decision-makers in one place, every single year, and not one of them has, to our knowledge, tried to ensure people can hear the speakers, musicians and others. It's embarrassing.

Don't get us wrong. There is a lot to be proud of when it comes to Canada Day in NOTL.

The band by the wading pool in Simcoe Park is amplified. Thank goodness.

And the cake is always gigantic, delicious and the parade is a fun and unique way to do it.

The Rotary barbecue is always great — though be careful what you're ordering. Pork on a bun means one thing at the Virgil Stampede (back bacon deliciousness) but at the Canada Day barbecue it was about a tablespoon of rather bland pulled pork.

Not nearly as good — and yet, it's nearly double the price.

We get it, it's for a good cause. But then again, so is the stampede, and they manage to keep prices fair.

Do we really want people to think opportunistic price gouging represents our Canadian spirit?

Over at Fort George, admission is free. That's more like it. And it's a fun time for all, showcasing some of the history tied to our town.

All this greatness, all this fun, all the high spirits and red-clad people.

It leads up to one major event, the cake parade — and then we drop the ball so significantly on sound it must absolutely baffle anyone who hasn't seen it crash and burn before.

All of this money, all the planning, to end with a soundless failure. One that could be so easily fixed.

Sound is important, especially for major events like Canada Day and Remembrance Day (which had its own sound problems again this past year).

Two monumental days to be a patriot, to celebrate everything we have in this country, province and town.

July 1 is a time to celebrate being Canadian and we should do it like we're actually proud.

Back in the day, bands used to play in Simcoe Park. Believe it or not, this town used to be pretty fun.

If we can't allow amplification in the bandshell, we may as well not have one.

It's not trivial; it is a representation of a larger picture.

So, let's stop embarrassing ourselves. A lot of people put in a lot of effort to make Canada Day special. Let's give the audience a real show.

editor@niagaranow.com





#### LETTER OF THE WEEK

## Development, sure. But it must fit in

The comments by Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Coun. Maria Mavridis to counter the criticism by resident Bob Bader (published in a story June 20 headlined, "Mayor and councillor push back against hotel criticism") are not at all convincing.

In fact, they are simply self-serving comments, in many cases irrelevant, and made to justify their voting decision.

As Mavridis has said, there are 19,000 residents in NOTL. However, what she does not say is that NOTL is not one community but is made up of several communities.

Each one has its own priorities as well as those that are common and council

should recognize this when voting on a particular issue.

Old Town, for example, is the location of most heritage and historical assets which, to many residents, need protection from development.

However, Zalepa and Mavridis have not shown in any way by their comments that they have given any serious thought to or acted on any official plan heritage principles.

Nor can they really argue against basic common sense, which indicates the proposed hotel is not a good fit for the residential community and is not a benefit to the residents, even though as elected officials their obligation is to these people.

Mr. Bader's comments are neither unfortunate nor offensive and his voice needs

It reflects the opinion of many who see some on this council and the unelected staff as favouring developers and their constant demand for amendments to the official plan for their financial benefit.

They are not acting in the interest of the residents or of those trying hard to protect the heritage and historical value of NOTL.

This is not being antidevelopment, as some would like to claim, but it does call for development that is sensitive to the heritage and historical values of NOTL and the surrounding areas.

However, this is not a council that represents the opinion of the residents, as recent events have shown.

This council knows it

has a moral responsibility to represent residents in all matters concerning municipal affairs, including heritage issues that are unique to the Old Town.

This is not the case with Zalepa, Mavridis, Erwin Wiens, Wendy Cheropita or Adriana Vizzari, who are either unwilling or do not have the ability to fullfil this obligation or even use basic common sense when making important decisions.

This is shown in the online survey by The Lake Report that showed extremely low approval ratings for these individuals. With such low rates they clearly do not have the confidence of the electorate and should consider resigning.

Derek Collins **NOTL** 

## Migrant workers deserve permanent resident status

Dear editor:

As a Canadian citizen, a voter and a community organizer living in Niagara, I strongly support permanent resident status for undocumented people, also referred to as comprehensive regularization.

And so does everyone I know. To many Canadians, it's clear that regularization is both fair and necessary.

I have had the honour of working alongside undocumented migrant workers for the last six years, including former farmworkers who escaped abusive employers and subsequently lost their immigration status.

Undocumented people face exploitation at work, mistreatment by landlords and separation from their families.

The only solution is to grant them permanent

resident status so they can have the equal rights they deserve. This is why every major labour, health care, faith, climate and civil society group - more than 500 organizations is supporting the call for regularization.

I was thrilled when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised regularization in December 2021. He must keep his promise of equality and regularization, not allow for migrants to be villainized.

Friends, family, and neighbours I've spoken with all agree: this is a matter of justice and humanity.

Let's move forward with compassion and common sense. It's time for comprehensive regularization

> Kit Andres **NOTL**

## Town must pick and choose its legal battles

Dear editor:

How often have you heard or read that the role of town councillors and staff is to defend the town's official plan against those seeking to deviate from it?

The underlying sentiment is the erroneous belief that the plan is the end point rather than the starting point in dealing with those

There are numerous other factors and actors that can also come into play.

First, there is the regional plan, which trumps the town

Second, the local committee of adjustment can support minor deviations from the town plan, although some might quibble over whether the deviation in a particular case is indeed minor or major.

Third, town council can amend the plan (for example to rezone a brownfield industrial site to allow for the building of housing).

Fourth, there is the Ontario Land Tribunal (and its predecessor the Ontario Municipal Board) whose decisions have overwhelmingly sided with developers who were denied relief from the town plan.

Last, there are provincial



laws and regulations that encourage development over notions of the "character of the neighbourhood" that are enshrined in the town plan.

It is up to councillors and staff to address requests for deviations looking at the likely outcome should the matter go on to adjudication by the land tribunal.

A few years ago a developer offered compromises to act as enticements to achieve a negotiated settlement with the town. The town rejected the offer to its

The tribunal approved the development being sought while at the same time concluding that it had no jurisdiction to include the compromises in its decision. Thus, the town experienced the costs of litigation and at the same time came out of the process with fewer protections for nearby residents.

In an account in local media, a councillor was quoted as saying that sometimes the protection of the town plan has to be fought for as a matter of principle. This is hardly prudent stewardship of the town's tax revenues.

In this era of populist politicians, it is easy to don the mantle of representing the will of the people opposed to the development since the hard decision of the likely outcome of a developer's appeal is transferred to the tribunal at no personal financial cost to the politician.

It takes courage for councillors (often on the advice of staff) to decide requests based on the overall picture. Litigation and its costs should be undertaken only if there is a reasonable probability of success.

In his June 20 opinion piece, "Lord mayor has broken platform promises," columnist Brian Marshall focuses on the statements made regarding the initial step of protecting the "character" of our various communities but ignoring

candidate Gary Zalepa's platform promise to rein in wildly escalating legal costs fighting development proposals without any chance of success.

This was reiterated by Lord Mayor Zalepa when he wrote in "Mayor and councillor push back against hotel criticism" (The Lake Report, June 20) in response to another critic's earlier attack on councillors: "Rationalization along this line of planning applications in the past had led this town down a costly legal spiral, where the town loses the legal decision and the residents pay the bill, residents having been misled by leadership that there was a case in the first place."

I am not advocating a capitulation in every case.

Litigation is a costly exercise and responsible councillors should make decisions supporting litigation only in cases where there is a reasonable probability of

Town staff are knowledgeable when it comes to all of the factors and actors in the process and their advice should not be ignored lightly.

> Ron Fritz Queenston

### Outrage against NOTL librarian is misguided

Dear editor:

As a former library trustee in Lincoln, I've followed your reporting on the wrongful termination of chief librarian Cathy Simpson, who apparently was discharging her responsibilities dutifully, yet ran afoul of a strident cabal, consisting of a misguided resident, some mutinous library staff and a plainly hysterical library board chairperson.

The concert of predictable outrage at her dismissal has been ably reported by your paper, yet I remark a persistent partisan imbalance with respect to the characterization of the civic support group, FAIR, which was referenced by Simpson in her article, igniting this hateful outburst.

This mischaracterization depends on the assertion of Heidi Beirich, formerly of the once well-regarded Southern Poverty Law Centre's Intelligence Report, which incidentally, was dropped by the FBI in 2014

as a "trusted resource" for information on hate groups.

This untrue assertion, referenced by your reporting, should be considered, therefore, as a false premise, (i.e..the source relied upon to discredit FAIR is itself a discredited source), and thereby constitutes a partisan imbalance, which mars the otherwise excellent reportage of this very sad matter.

For the sake of clarity, I am not associated in any way with FAIR, yet completely agree with the concept of institutional neutrality: school and library boards have historically underpinned the elements of responsible government in Canada, and while never free entirely of rabid partisanship, still provide the basis of civic discourse, upon which the community in general, depends for the progress of our public institutions.

> Kevin Burns Jordan Station



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## Luxury Parliament Oak hotel is pie-in-the-sky



#### ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall Columnist

To anyone who reads this publication, it isn't news that the majority of our council — in approving the rezoning of the Parliament Oak property to allow for the construction of a contextually inappropriate hotel — continued its practice of wielding a machete on the fabric, character and cultural heritage landscapes of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Despite the significant voter opposition — mounting in every settlement area, including the rural environs, in response to a series of council decisions — these councillors continue to cast votes according to agendas which certainly don't reflect their election promises.

While doing so, both in council chambers and after the fact, loudly voice spurious justifications for their actions.

Consider, for example, the argument that the hotel proposed for the Parliament Oak property will be a five-star facility, filling a purportedly identified gap in existing hospitality offerings.

Have any of these council members researched the Forbes requirements for a hotel to be granted a fivestar rating?

If they have, was any consideration given to the practical ramifications of those requirements?

Let's examine the parking issue in light of some of these criteria, set within the context that five-star accommodation is not only about luxury amenities — of equal importance is the delivery of a flawless experience for every guest.

Five-star hotels are required to have sufficient on-site parking for all their guests, wherein "sufficient" does not imply a one-to-one ratio of parking spots to rooms.

On the contrary, five-star hotels typically have a ratio of parking spots to rooms between 1.3 and 1.5: woe betide the circumstance wherein two guests occupying a single room arrive in separate cars and there is only on-site parking for one of them.

Using a 1.3:1 ratio, the proposed Parliament Oak hotel would need to have a minimum of 168 on-site guest parking spots.

François Delahaye, chief operating officer at Dorchester Collection and general manager of Plaza Athénée in Paris, believes that consistency can only be delivered in luxury with a high staff-to-room ratio.

In an article for consulting company Suzanne Q Solutions, he states, "You need to have staff and an organization that is able to deliver every single minute of the day. In luxury hotels there's no room or place for complaints."

suppose the supporters of this overture might be OK with converting (or selling) Veterans Memorial Park to create a new parking lot? After all, it's handy and it would save lots of money in maintenance ...."

What does a "high staff-to-room" ratio look like?

To maintain the service levels required of a five-star hotel, a ratio of 2.5 employees per room is considered to be the minimum, while the international average appears to be 3-to-1 with truly fine hotels in this class exceeding four employees per room.

So, at the minimum 2.5:1 ratio, a five-star hotel as proposed, would require 322 employees. And please note that this ratio does not include "event" employees, a separate group.



Brian Marshall says it will be nearly impossible to provide an elevated luxury experience at the Parliament Oak property, just based on parking problems alone. FILE

Since we know these 322 employees will not be drawn from within the Old Town boundaries, they will need to drive into work.

For simple purposes, let's assume three equal-sized shifts per 24-hour period and suggest that only 75 per cent of the employees will require parking, a calculation that yields the requirement for 81 employee parking spots.

Of course, these do not necessarily have to be onsite, however, provisions will need to be made within walking distance of the proposed hotel by the owner. Otherwise, the employees will be forced to park on the nearby residential streets.

We are now at a minimum parking requirement of 249 spots.

Having touched on only two of some 800 criteria used by Forbes' inspectors to grant five-star status to a hotel, and those two only in relation to parking, let's shift gears to the proposed event facilities.

In my experience, an "intimate" event (for example, a wedding reception) held in a five-star hotel comprises 500 guests, while a "grand" event can run up to 1,500, or even 2,000, attendees.

The proponent of this hotel application suggests they will be able to host two simultaneous events.

Keep in mind those with pockets deep enough to pay for an "event" in a five-star hotel will inevitably, and justifiably, expect service equivalent to what hotel guests experience, with both available parking (for event guests) and a working ratio of one employee per 10-person guest table for the event of, say, 1.5 employees per table, with the associated parking requirement.

In other words, two "intimate" events assuming two guests per car equals 500 additional on-site parking spots.

These events will require approximately 150 devoted event employees and, using the 75 per cent factor employed earlier to calculate the parking requirement, we arrive at 113 spots.

Therefore, in a fully-booked scenario with only two "intimate" events, this proposed hotel will require parking for plus-or-minus 862 cars.

You can bet your life that this site will not accommodate even 25 per cent of that requirement.

Nor that any consideration whatsoever has been given to the extra traffic impact experienced by residents and visitors on King Street's basic two-lane thoroughfare.

I suppose the supporters of this overture might be OK with converting (or selling) Veterans Memorial Park to create a new parking lot? After all, it's handy and it would save lots of money in maintenance ...

None of the aforementioned even speaks to other Forbes requirements for five-star rating, such as an on-site dry-cleaning facility (with associated environmental concerns) or the criteria that the building's design "lean-into" a recognized and contextually

compatible architectural style – which the proposed design fails at.

So, like the underground parking facility (where the watertable is only plus-orminus 12 feet below grade) proposed by the hotel developer of the Queen-Mississauga overture, the five-star flag underwriting the Parliament Oak hotel proposal is simply smoke and mirrors that provides those councillors who voted in favour of the applications an excuse.

In my opinion, neither will ever happen without extraordinary measures, which the developers will not undertake for simple financial reasons but, given this council's record, may end up on the taxpayers' dime.

All that said, I did promise last week to conclude the review of promises and performance of those serving their first term on this town council.

In very short terms, Coun. Tim Balasiuk's record of voting on issues before council is nearly completely consistent with his responses to the Niagara Foundation's 2022 questions to the candidates.

For Coun. Adriana Vizzari, who wrote that the master Official Plan "needs to be strongly adhered" to, who pledged to "strengthen the quality of life in our community and preserve/protect NOTL's heritage" and to "bring a voice to St. Davids issues," her record is notably out-of-line.

So much so, during a recent conversation I had

with a notable St. Davids resident, he stated, "When Vizzari was elected we thought, finally, we'll have a voice fighting for us on council. Many of us are profoundly disappointed."

Coun. Maria Mavridis responded to the Foundation's question by proclaiming she was "100 per cent (supportive) that the town should adopt and enforce contextual architecture," that she believed "institutional lands (Parliament Oaks) should remain institutional as there are only a few properties left," and that her vision saw "NOTL with a balanced life for all residents and business owners."

But, like Vizzari, her voting record does not underwrite her platform.

Finally, Coun. Nick Ruller, whose responses to the questionnaire were well-thought-out, full of "best practices" overtures, citizen engagement and generally supportive of protection of cultural heritage landscapes.

That said, his voting record (for example, in favour of the Queen/Mississauga hotel application and against the Parliament Oak overture) is somewhat conflicted.

In closing, I cannot but take exception to deputy mayor Erwin Wien's suggestion that increased tourism dollars were necessary to create and support the maintenance of an expanded historic district (see The Lake Report's article "Despite backlash, council approves Parliament Oak hotel" from its June 27 edition).

Given that there are numerous professional reports and documents on record which have been authored (and paid-for), the cost of an updated historic district expansion report should be relatively modest.

Furthermore, there are no or negligible maintenance costs associated with a historic district.

Just another highly questionable justification.

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







# Canada Day in NOTL



Continued from Front Page

seeing how many people came out to enjoy the festivities.

"I cut four and a half trays of cake," she said, laughing.

Soo-Wiens added that she felt an immense amount of pride the entire day.

"I'm so proud to be a Canadian, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else," she said.

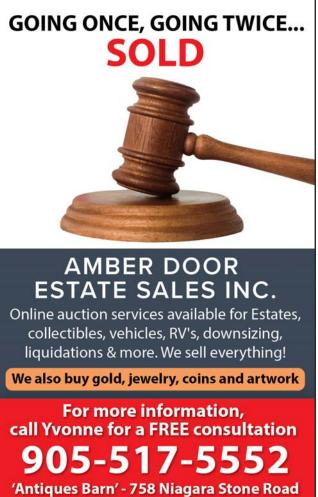
When crowds started to part way from Simcoe Park, more fun was to be had at Fort George, which offered free admission for Canada

Demonstrations and food for purchase started at 6:30 p.m. and, for the first time, the fort celebrated with fireworks at 10 p.m.

If that wasn't quite your speed, Legion Branch 124 welcomed guests with food, fun and music until 8 p.m., with live music from the PubDaddy Blues Band

Top to bottom: Simcoe Park was busy on Canada Day as people descended on the park for a barbecue and a slice of the mammoth cake. Catherine O'Donnell, owner of Willow Cakes and Pastries, with MPP Wayne Gates. The Canada Day cake was Willy Wonka themed, complete with a chocolate fountain and Oompa Loompas. Abi, Stephanie, Daisha, Sophie and Tara eagerly await a slice of strawberry-vanilla cake with forks ready.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD HARLEY, DAVE VAN DE LAAR AND JULIA SACCO





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All claims against the Estate of Evelyn Marie Lloyd, late of the Town of Niagara on the Lake, in the Province of Ontario, who died on the 10th day of January 2023, must be filed with the undersigned personal representatives on or before the 10th day of July, 2024. Thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said Estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

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## Fort George gets into Canada Day



John MacBrien leads Fort George's special programming for kids, including a musket demonstration. JULIA SACCO

### Old is cool in NOTL and a prized flag rises again



#### THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner Columnist

It was raining, so we drove. But forget about parking. The streets of Old Town were jammed. Dorothy and I ended up walking through the wet and the dark halfway back from where we started.

"Sheesh," I muttered. "Is Taylor Swift here?"

Nope. It was historian Richard Merrill. Giving a lecture, not a concert. At the unsexy museum, not the amphitheatre. And he didn't even have sequins on. Or pink boots. But the crowd ate it up.

Old is cool in Niagaraon-the-Lake. This night the place was packed. We got there six minutes late and no chairs left. It was SRO for a talk about dead people.

Our town probably wouldn't be what it is now — attracting 3.5 million visitors a year — without history, heritage and a fabled past. Sure, there's wine, physical beauty, awesome trees, and did I mention the wine? ... but what ties it together, making oodles of revenue, is the past.



Columnist Garth Turner's 1870s-era Canadian flag flies proudly at his Niagara-on-the-Lake home. SUPPLIED

"An awful lot of history buffs want to come and look at our assets," Cathy Weiss tells me.

She's the new head of the Chamber of Commerce (and admits to liking big hotels). "We need to keep them intact, which is why we have strict rules in the heritage area. I know that new development scares people but, trust me, we're protected."

Hope so. Those people wandering around mean \$658 million in local business and 3,350 jobs. Nothing else comes close.

A lot of folks worry the town will get loved to death, however. Back-to-back approval of the Rainer Hummel complex at Queen and Mississagua, then the Parliament Oaks palace of Benny Marotta have rattled many.

Once heritage is gone, it ain't coming back. And it's

a fine line between quaint and commercial. There's a reason space for a small shop downtown can lease for \$17,000 a month. People want to come here for the same reason we choose to live in NOTL. We're in the hug of history.

That brings me to The Flag.

In the catalogue of a national Canadian art auction, it seemed misplaced. An old, scarred red ensign with a weird emblem. Made of linen, hand-stitched, pocked with holes and tears befitting something a century-and-a-half old. Then I saw the provenance: "St. Mark's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Affable Donald Coombe is the sexton and archivist at St. Mark's, the go-to guy after I bought the banner (as the only bidder). So what's the story?

"For years it was crammed into a cupboard under the stairs and many times there were threats to just put it into the trash," he says. "However, we kept it. We thought to send the flag to auction as we could see no possible way of displaying or making use of it."

Turns out this was Canada's flag from about 1870 until the turn of the century. The crest contains emblems of the only seven provinces at the time, and it would have been the standard Canadian troops carried into the Boer War. This was draped over the pulpit in the church for the 1897 celebration of Victoria's 60th year as monarch. Don gave me a picture.

Well, Terry, Dennis and Devon — who were building a fence for me — got it hoisted up on the wall of the house. And there she sits. Below, visitors come and go on their way between The Street and the park, with another piece of the past in their path.

"For years I fretted and fumed over the flag and its untimely end. Thank you for saving the flag from indifference, moths and corruption!" said the sexton. "All of which proves that there is always a solution."

Nah. It's just good business.

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





## Fireworks light up the NOTL skies

Two grand fireworks shows lit up the sky in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Monday night to celebrate Canada Day. Above, at Fort George, Lake Report photographer Dave Van de Laar captures the magic above the fort. Below, photographer and contributor Frank Hayes catches the fireworks at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.



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Last issue:

Category: STARTS WITH "Z"

Clue: At roughly 10 million, it's the largest

"study of humans."

ethnic group in South Africa.

Answer: What is Zulu?

**Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood** 

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Francis Murray, Margie Enns, Lynda Collet, Sue Rautenberg, Bob Wheatley, Jeff Lake, Katie Reimer, Jim Dandy, Catherine Clarke, Jesse Agnew, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Nancy Rocca, Howard Jones, Margaret Garaughty, Sylvia Wiens, Esther VanGorder, Marjory Walker-Barone, Hedy Wiebe, Elaine Landray, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith, Marla Percy, Ella Andres

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

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## Seven swimmers to challenge Lake Ontario

Special to The Lake Report

People keep asking, "Who is planning to swim Lake Ontario this year?"

It appears the 2024 lineup of potential swimmers is quite extensive. Only a few swimmers challenged the lake during the COVID period and the numbers have been slow to rise since.

But this year the lineup of aspirants includes at least seven swimmers, the most we've seen in a long time.

Almost all of the planned routes are from Queen's Royal Park in Niagaraon-the-Lake to Marilyn Bell Park on the Toronto waterfront.

All the swimmers will start between July 15 and Aug. 25, though they all have alternate dates if the weather doesn't co-operate.

The distance is 52 kilometres and the route is one of the toughest in marathon swimming. Bad weather could mean contrary winds, steep waves, thunderstorms, cold water and strong cur-

My son Shaun, who crossed the lake in 2008, has a saying: No matter how well-trained you are, the weather and the lake are really in charge.

This is one of the toughest marathon swims in the world.

So, who are the swimmers sanctioned to take on the lake this year?

Jessi Harewicz, between July 9 and 15: She is from Vancouver and is an accomplished swimmer. She has completed 16 marathon swims, including the Manhattan circumnavigation (uurgh!), the North Channel from Ireland to Scotland and the English Channel. Her longest swim was 58K from Nanaimo to Kitsilano Beach. Harewicz is 41 and will be the first to leave the friendly beach in NOTL this year. Good luck, Jessi.

Kim Lumsdon, July 20 to July 30: She first swam



Shaun Chisholm completed a successful crossing of Lake Ontario in 2008. TONY CHISHOLM

the lake successfully in - get this - 1976 at age 19. Her father was Cliff Lumsdon, one of the great marathon swim coaches. She has had a successful swimming career and received a special achievement award from the province of Ontario in recognition of her contributions to amateur sport. Lumsdon is aiming to be the oldest

person to swim the lake at 67. Go Kim.

**Greg Maitinsky**, July 27 to 31: Another accomplished Canadian swimmer, Maitinsky is from Hamilton. He swam the lake in 2022 in a near record time of 16 hours and 16 minutes. He's strong and very quick for 48 years of age.

Colleen Shields July 29 to Aug. 2: has successfully crossed the lake three times since 1990. She holds the record for the oldest Canadian swimmer and has received awards for her service to the Solo Swims of Ontario organization.

Three other swimmers are due to challenge the lake in August.

They are: Maitinsky's wife, Cinti Cseuz (Aug. 4 to 10), **Jason Kloss** from

Paris, Ont., (Aug. 8 to 11), and Matthew Crawley from Waterloo (Aug. 10 to 17).

Best of luck to all the aspirants, who have trained so hard.

All swims are carefully controlled and regulated by Solo Swims of Ontario, a non-profit, registered charity formed in 1975 after a fatal accident in an attempt to swim Lake Ontario.

The organization ensures that all solo open water long-distance swims in Ontario adhere to strict safety guidelines. One of its representatives is assigned as the swim master for every crossing attempt and it is their job to establish the swimmer's competency.

I'm proud to say that my son Shaun is a swim master and will be helping Kloss this summer.

Best of luck to all the swimmers attempting the lake this year.

NOTL resident Tony Chisholm is an adviser to Solo Swims of Ontario.

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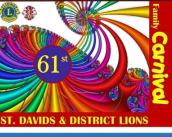
This stunning two-story home boasts three bedrooms and three bathrooms, offering the perfect blend of comfort and sophistication. The heart of this home is its remarkable eat-in kitchen, which, along with the separate dining room, has sliding doors that open up to serene patios. Both spaces are ideal for entertaining and daily enjoyment, with easy access to the breathtaking park-like backyard. This private oasis is equipped with a trendy Tiki bar, a one-depth pool, and a hot tub, making it a perfect spot for relaxation or hosting gatherings. This property is not just a home, it's a lifestyle. Learn more at nancybailey.evrealestate.com.



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#### Friday, July 26

- 4 6 Tribe 369 and Dreamco 6 - 8 Rock of 80's
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#### Saturday, July 27

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Lake Report

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#### **TEAMS OF THE WEEK**

## Timbits Red and Irish Design U9-10



The super-cute NOTL Soccer Timbits Red team is one of The Lake Report's featured Teams of the Week. Picture with their coaches Paul Staz, Stephanie Pietruniak and Ryan Storey are, from left: Claire Staz, Lucas Janzen, Mabel Kennedy, Edith Pietruniak, Leo Goerz, Flora Boekestyn, Emma Storey, Faye Boekestyn, Primo De Cal and William Funk.



The U9-10 Irish Design team is one of The Lake Report's featured Teams of the Week. Picture here are, front row: Graham Staz, Elliott Epp, Johnny Happer, Kasra Rahbar, Rylie Niven and Nathan Epp. Back row: Coach Martin Happer, Maanak Gandhi-Malhotra, Christian Gossen, Percy Lachapelle, Madeleine Friesen, Sadie Jones and coach Paul Staz.

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Above left: Santa and Mrs. Claus (Tim and Kathy Taylor) were in their summery attire for the Friday Nine & Dine league's celebration. Above right: Members of the NOTL Golf Club's nine and 18-hole women's leagues raise a cheer for Canada on Tuesday. Below left: Marion MacIntyre showed her patriotic colours. KEVIN MACLEAN

# NOTL golfers celebrate Canada Day in fine style

Kevin MacLean The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the Lake golfers were resplendent in red and white to celebrate Canada Day.

On Tuesday, 52 members of the NOTL Golf Club's nine and 18-hole women's leagues held a four-player scramble.

The top group was Sue Sherk, Louise Robitaille, Patty Garriock and Penny Bannister. Second were Margot Richardson, Janice White, Sherry Gysler and Michele Darling.

In third were Deborah Williams, Martha Cruickshank, Lucy Brookhouser and Trish Anthony.

On Friday, the club's Nine & Dine league had a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (Tim and Kathy Taylor) as the group held its Canada Day bash a bit early.

In last Thursday's men's league, Jim McMacken was again the top shooter,

with a 1-under 35. He also had the best Stableford points score.

Other winners: Norm Kerr (closest to 150 on #1), Ted Carmichael (longest putt #2) and A.J. Harlond (longest drive #3). Closest to the pin were John Sobil (#4) and Zach Luis (#9).



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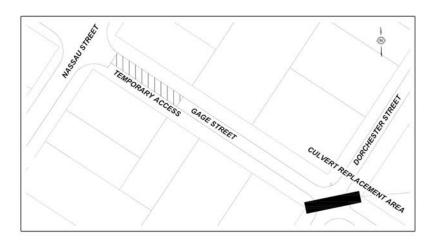
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#### TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ROAD CLOSURE AND TEMPORARY ACCESS – DORCHESTER STREET AND GAGE STREET



The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, through its contractor Rankin Construction, will be commencing with the removal and replacement of a road crossing culvert on Dorchester Street at Gage Street. The work is scheduled from July through September 2024.

The section of road over the structure will be closed to all through traffic for the duration of construction. This closure is necessary to facilitate a shorter construction schedule for the construction of the structure. A detour route will be provided around the site for traffic.

Residents on Gage Street west of Dorchester Street have access through the unopened portion of the road allowance to Nassau Street. This also provides access to Emergency Services during the project. The contractor will arrange waste collection, school bus services, etc. After construction completion, the greenspace will be restored to its original state and no longer provide vehicle access.

#### Emergency Services will be notified of this closure by the contractor before work commences.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Email - mike.komljenovic@notl.com

Phone - 905-468-3061

Your co-operation is appreciated.



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- The Niagara Falls Review

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- The Niagara Falls Review

"Three cheers aren't enough ... a Shaw Festival smash"

– The Globe & Mail

"... the flat-out funniest production of a farce that I've ever seen ..."

"... I walked out and immediately made plans to get tickets to see it again ..."

– The Globe & Mail

- The Globe & Mail

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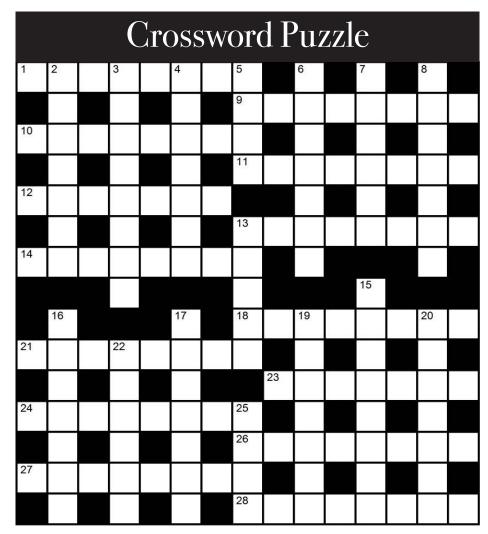
# Have some fun

#### **Across**

- 1. German liqueur (8)
- 9. Burden excessively (8)
- 10. Self-important (8)
- 11. Travelling case for clothes (8)
- 12. Refrain voluntarily (7)
- 13. Gambling game (4,4)
- 14. Private feud (8)
- 18. Acts (8)
- 21. Bald (8)
- 23. Black magic (7)
- 24. I o W town (8)
- 26. Staple of Mediterranean cooking (5,3)
- 27. Goodbye (8)
- 28. Charismatic (8)

#### Down

- 2. Responsive to drugs (7)
- 3. Midday (8)
- 4. Musician who could play the Moonlight Sonata (7)
- 5. Drunkards (4)
- 6. Musical performance (7)
- 7. Tranquil (6)
- 8. Cushion for kneeling (7) 13. Poaches with a torch (5)
- 15. Substantial (8)
- 16. West Atlantic island country (7)
- 17. Decreased (7)
- 19. Covering for a building (7)
- 20. Cocktail (7)
- 22. Battered (6)
- 25. Small island (4)



#### Last issue's answers

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## Horticultural society showcases 7 gardens

Jo-Ann Fraser Special to The Lake Report

The NOTL Horticultural Society's 30th annual Gardener's Garden Tour is this Saturday, July 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Great weather and spectacular colour await as you explore seven exquisite gardens showcasing the talents of area gardeners.

The self-guided tour lets you discover diverse gardens at your own pace and chat with homeowners, learning about their successes and challenges.

The tour also features a Bonsai Showcase, plein air artists and musical entertainment.

And a guided tour of the pollinator gardens at South-



brook Organic Vineyards is not to be missed.

A ticket includes a stamp and a guide with a map of the gardens. Start at any location, including the tour headquarters at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

You can take advantage of early-bird pricing and pay just \$25 for your tickets up to July 5. Cost is \$30 on the day of the tour. Children

under 12 are free.

Tickets can be bought on the day of the tour with cash at any participating garden location.

To purchase online, visit the NOTL Horticultural Society website or at each location scan the "Garden Tour" QR code using your smartphone to buy a ticket via Eventbrite.

You can also attend the society's Grill and Chill featuring gardening expert Joanne Young (a Lake Report columnist) on Sunday, July 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Kent Heritage Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This summer barbecue promises delicious food, great company, live music and a unique Pollinator Fashion Show where Young will showcase plants that attract beneficial insects.

Proceeds from these fundraisers will help support two horticultural scholarships for students at Niagara College and Niagara Parks School of Horticulture in addition to a variety of other community-based projects that enhance our town's natural beauty and promote environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead to 2025, the society is seeking beautiful gardens for next year's tour. If you'd like to showcase your garden or nominate a neighbour's, contact us at notlhortsociety.com.

Jo-Ann Fraser is vicepresident of the Niagaraon-the-Lake Horticultural Society.

## Cherry Festival Saturday in NOTL

Richard Wright The Lake Report

The popular idiom "cherry on top" describes something that is already good as even better, or perfect.

The folks at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake couldn't agree more when it comes to their annual Cherry Festival.

This Saturday, July 6 the parish will once again pay tribute to the small juicy stone fruit in a day-long celebration that is focused on community and summer fun.

"People are just so happy the day of the festival," said organizer Andrea Douglas.

"They are smiling, their families are together or they have come with friends. It is just a very relaxed summer celebration day of fun and fellowship."

The festival boasts a barbecue, live music and a Haute Emporium that will feature things such as highend clothing, jewelry and pieces of art.



There will also be a children's play area, a bake sale and "new this year is the Cherry Festival cookbook with beloved recipes from the church members," said Douglas.

All items are donated to the church by members of the church and the public.

"There are a lot of generous people in town who give us wonderful things to sell," she said. "We are very careful that they are quality items."

"But the stars of the show are our cherry pies," she adds. "Every year there is a line up for them and they sell very quickly. They are delicious."

A total of 647 cherry pies will be for sale, both fresh and frozen, all baked by church parishioners.

The day will start at 9 a.m. and run to 3 p.m., rain or shine.





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## EXPLORING HISTORY



## School's out!

Congratulations to all the hardworking students in our community on another year completed. In celebration of the end of the school year, our photograph features the Niagara High School Cadet Corps showing off their pyramid-building skills. In 1928, these young men were training on the Niagara Commons and showing off their skills for the camera. Their high school was across from the Commons on Castlereagh Street (now the entrance of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum). In the background you can see 59 Castlereagh St., the Patterson Home, which still exists today near Davy Street. It is amazing to think of how open the Commons space was in 1928 compared to today. Enjoy the summer, young pupils.

## Kindness and happiness abound on Canada Day



**Ross's Ramblings** 

Ross Robinson Columnist

"Ours is a country of good, kind people," Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland declared to thousands of cheering people in our nation's capital.

"It's time to set aside our national modesty and declare that Canada is the best country in the world."

The single and simple word "kind" is a magical word. Only four letters, but it conveys such good feelings.

Wherever you were in Canada on July 1, strangers were greeting strangers, saying "Happy Canada Day." Friendly smiles were exchanged and good feelings dominated the day.

Do you think anyone, anywhere, was saying "Happy Ukraine Day" or "Happy Colombia Day?"

Or "Happy Gaza Day," "Happy Syria Day" or "Happy Israel Day?"
We Canadians are so fortunate.

So many people in our world are living under dangerous conditions, often without enough food or potable water. By the way, potable is a fancy word for safe or drinkable.

So many Canadians were wearing red and white, and so many houses had Canadian flags in their front yards

Indeed, one NOTLer took down all their Christmas lights and replaced them with hundreds of red and white lights strung along the eavestroughs. That's the spirit!

News of the world struggled to get space in our newspapers. The Stanley Cup MVP, Conn Smythe Trophy winner Connor McDavid, was a no-show for the on-ice presentation, staying in his dressing room after losing game 7.

He was apparently too sad to do his professional duty to his fans. Smarten up,

Over at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Frankfurt, Portugal beat Slovenia in the Round of 16. The two teams had played to a 0-0 draw through regulation time and extra time.

Folks, is it time to change



Ross Robinson says it's about time to move into 2024 and start using drone and laser light shows instead of loud and limited fireworks. Because we can and should. FRANK HAYES

the rules to allow the players to score the odd goal? Portugal prevailed on penalty kicks.

As my daughter Carrie said years ago, after watching the Netherlands and Argentina play to a nil-nil draw, "Change the rules." It's past time.

Here in our magnificent Canada, WestJet mechanics had chosen a very busy travel weekend to go on strike, purposefully ruining so many family gettogethers. Smarten up and allow Canadians to share a hug while saying "Happy Canada Day."

Showing great determination and tenacity on a day when "The weather was perfect," the NOTL Legion Branch 124 hosted its best Canada Day ever.

Record revenues, record fun and a record number of celebrants saying "Happy Canada Day." Wish I had been there, but I was over in multicultural Toronto at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, watching their theatrical presentation of "The On July 13, here in NOTL, hundreds of blazer-wearing sailors and their friends will be led by piper Morgan Stanford from the NOTL Sailing Club to the historic gazebo in Queen's Royal Park, and then to the RCYC's Foam plot in the St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery.

The 150-year-old plot has been professionally restored by Alan Ernest. And Bernadette Secco will be chiming the bells as we remember the seven young sailors from Toronto who tragically

drowned on July 11, 1874.

Let's ramble back to the wonderful and powerful word kind.

As night fell on July 1, I rode over to Fort George to watch the annual fireworks display. I took a position on the path near the palisades, within 100 metres of the pyrotechnics launch pad.

I have always loved fireworks. Bright, loud and celebratory. They really make a statement.

But perhaps it's time, eh? I may be getting soft as I age, but they really are obnoxious

Babies and pets hate them. And they pollute. They cause a few fires every year. Some people get badly burned.

I find myself agreeing with my previously mentioned smart daughter who is a big proponent of lasers and holograms.

Just as impressive, with none of the bad aspects.

So, next year let's be even kinder, and put an end to noisy, bright, polluting, impressive fireworks on Canada Day.

Let's be kinder to one another, as we move forward.

My newest slogan is, "Today's traditions were yesterday's changes."

Deep thinking from a very kind Canada Day.



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## Everybody wants a slice

It may have been the biggest Canada Day cake parade crowd yet, said several people whowere slicing and dishing it out on Monday. Crowds literally flocked to get a glimpse of this year's cake, which was inspired by Willy Wonka and coincided with the 20th anniversay of Willow Cakes and Pastries, which donates the mammoth cake every year. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



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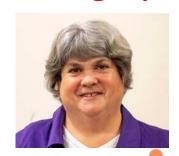
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## Hedge your bet with these helpful tips



## GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young Columnist

It may be true that nothing makes a good neighbour like a good fence, but a living wall or green screen of sorts is much more pleasing on the eyes.

There are several reasons why you may want to consider planting a hedge of some type.

Hedges can be used to define property boundaries and provide you with privacy in lieu of a fence.

Maybe your property is in an open space, and you need shelter from strong prevailing winds.

Then, there are those neighbours with unsightly views that need to be blocked. If you don't have one of those neighbours, it could be that you are that neighbour.

Hedges can also provide architectural interest and serve as a backdrop to your landscape. Some hedges can also muffle noises from surrounding

Choosing plants for a hedge can be made easier by giving some thought to the following:

# Identify any specific requirements, such as the height to be achieved and what width do you have available.

This is the most important thing that you will need to decide on. Landscaping is all about spatial organization.

Decide what ultimate height you need the screen to be and choose plants that will not outgrow the space or take too long to reach the required height.

Do you need something to block the view to a neighbour's second storey deck or just something tall enough to offer some privacy? Or, do you want



Joanne Young says to identify the purpose of your hedge before choosing which species to plant, so it doesn't outgrow the space or take too long to grow. JOANNE YOUNG

to create a visual break to divide garden rooms?

You do not want to wait six to eight years to get that needed privacy or sound block.

Not only is the height important, but the width that you have available is also a major consideration.

It is important to research how wide your chosen plant will grow to be.

Do not fall for the common misconception that you can keep a plant that wants to spread to be ten feet wide and keep it pruned to three feet wide. Chances are that it will quickly get out of hand on you.

I wish I had a dollar for every time I heard someone say, "Oh, I will just keep it trimmed."

So often I have heard people request a plant that will grow very quicky to the height and width that they want and then just stop growing when it reaches that goal.

Unfortunately, that is not how it works.

If something is fast growing when it is younger, it will continue to be a faster-growing plant.

A bit of careful research to see how big a plant will grow before planting it will save you a lot of work, money and trouble down the road.

There is a rule of thumb to follow when looking at defining the perimeter of your garden and it is known as the "law of significant enclosure."

This law states that we feel enclosed when the vertical edge of a space

is at least one-third the length of the horizontal space we're inhabiting — therefore, if your property is 60 feet wide, you will feel enclosed when your perimeter plantings are a minimum of 20 feet high.

## Decide on the type of hedge: evergreen vs. deciduous.

Another decision that you need to make when considering what type of plants to use for a living wall or hedge is do you need something evergreen or is a deciduous tree or shrub more of what you are looking for.

Needless to say, evergreens will provide you with all year-round privacy and protection. Cedars and yews have long been popular choices for hedges.

The one thing to remember is that most evergreens will need to be pruned regularly to maintain its shape over time.

Neglected or overgrown coniferous plants are difficult or next to impossible to restore the shape and maintain its health.

Deciduous plants will also make fine hedges. The main drawback is that they do not provide you with winter interest.

However, they are much more forgiving with pruning. If you miss a year or two of pruning, they still are relatively easy to restore back into shape.

Deciduous hedges can also provide you with changing seasonal interest such as flowers, berries and fall colour.

#### Decide on the desired look that you want to achieve: formal vs. informal.

The desired look should blend in with surrounding environment and landscape. For example, a more contemporary look would have very strong, simple, straight lines.

Formal hedges will require more maintenance to achieve the desired goal.

An informal hedge would be a great looks for more of a country or cottage garden look.

A wider selection of plants that can be used to achieve this look such as bridal wreath spirea, lilacs, red-twig dogwoods, ninebarks, dense yews, etc.

A natural look means less pruning required to keep the look that you are after. **Take in to account the soil conditions and situation.** 

Choose plants that will tolerate your site. Make sure the plant that you are choosing will be able to grow in your soil type, soil moisture, and in your sun conditions.

#### Consider the amount of annual maintenance involved for that particular plant to keep the look that you want.

The timing and frequency of pruning depends on the plant that you choose and the general effect that you want.

If you are not one to keep up with the care required, it may not be the plant for you.

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

#### Obituary

### Corneles Byl



BYL, Corneles "Casey"

- Passed away suddenly
and peacefully at home
with his loving wife and
son by his side on July
1, 2024 at the age of 73.
Beloved husband of Valerie
for 10 years. Loving father
of Derek Byl (Chantelle
Hustenowich), Christopher
Byl and the late Corey Byl
(2022). Caring stepfather of
Jade (Craig) Wallace and

Jared Cinnamon (Jamie Swanson). Dear brother of Lane (Margaret) Byl, May (Alan) Simpson, Richard (Linda) Byl and Marinus (Beverley) Byl. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Casey was a long time grape farmer, a member of OFA Niagara Chapter and an active supporter of Community Living Services and Mainstream Community Support Services. In his spare time he enjoyed going on road trips and Cruise Vacations with Valerie.

Friends and family are invited to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Thursday, July 4, 2024 from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm. Cremation will follow with a celebration of his life to take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to Community Living Services or Mainstream Community Support Services. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com









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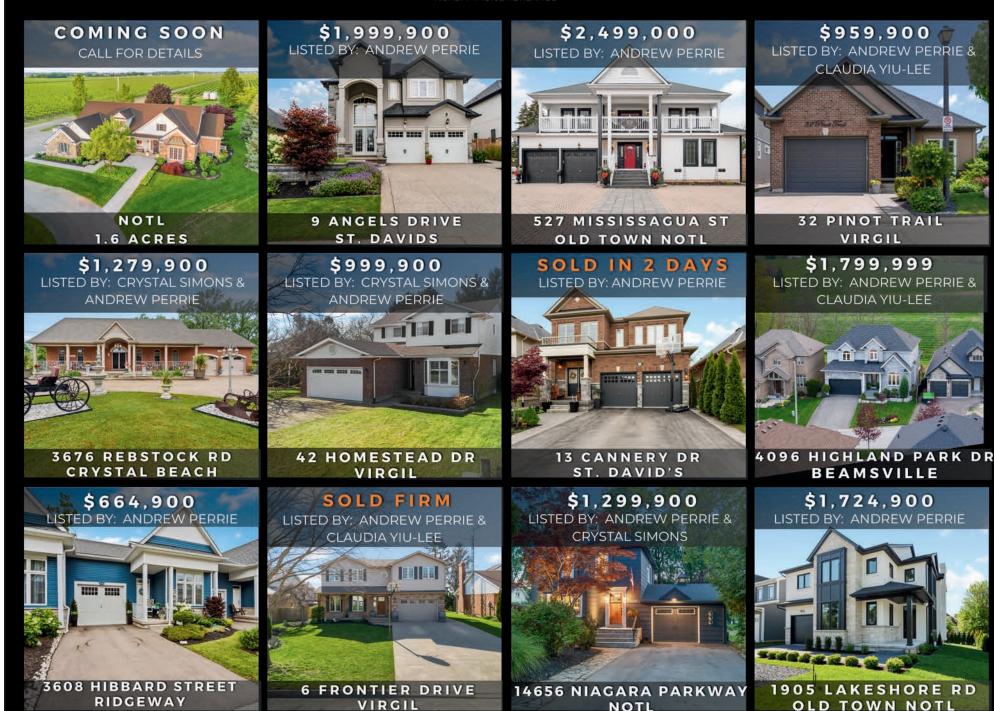
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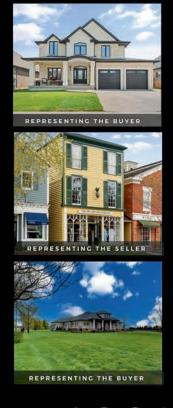
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