

Cracked cherries.

Heavy rains damage NOTL cherry crop but pump up peaches

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Heavy rains have damaged this season's cherry crop, but there is a silver lining.

"There's an old saying that all the old-time farmers say — you can't get big peaches and nectarines without cracked cherries," said tender fruit grower Scott MacSween, who operates Quiet Acres Farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

• Free concerts at Saturday's Cherry Festival - Page 7

Though the rain over the past few weeks reduced the cherry crop for a lot of farmers, it helped those growing peaches, plums and nectarines.

"It saved us a lot of work watering and irrigation," he said.

The rainfall meant many farmers didn't have to worry about watering their

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Mother in limbo waiting for body to be identified

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's been several days since police pulled a body out of Twelve Mile Creek on Saturday, but Niagara-on-

the-Lake resident Barbara Worthy is stuck in limbo waiting for officials to say whether the body is that of her missing son, Liam Neumann.

"Until he's back here, I feel I'm still very much in a

holding pattern," the NOTL Museum employee told The Lake Report.

While police are waiting for a coroner in Toronto to identify the body, Worthy says there is "no doubt" in her mind it's her 34-year-old

son, who went missing two Sundays ago.

Police spokesperson Const. Philip Gavin said the body was discovered on July 1 a short distance downriver from where Neumann disappeared.

"The coroners haven't even given me 100 per cent confirmation. But of course, we know it is," Worthy said.

While she and her family make arrangements for her

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Virgil teen beats the bridge

Steven Shelestowsky turns heads at Apple with innovative canal app



Steven Shelestowsky, creator of the new Niagara Bridges iPhone app, stands at the Carlton bridge in St. Catharines. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Somer Slobodian | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake know all too well the pains of trying to cross one of the Welland Canal bridges in the summer months.

Their frustration inspired 18-year-old Virgil resident

Steven Shelestowsky to create a phone app called Niagara Bridges to make the process a bit easier.

The 99-cent app updates every 30 seconds and provides real-time information on the status

of each lift bridge, including the three that can be used to go in and out of Niagara-on-the-Lake — the Lakeshore, Carlton and Homer bridges.

The app went live for purchase on the Apple Store in early June.

"I started building out concepts and stuff maybe like a year ago," Shelestowsky said.

"I've been planning this whole thing for a while. I just hadn't

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Oak wilt poses a huge threat to NOTL's oak trees

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A fungus known to infect and kill oak trees could have devastating effects in Niagara-on-the-Lake if it spreads.

Holmes Hooke is one of the founders of the Chautauqua Oaks Project, which has planted upward of 150 oaks around the neighbourhood.

He is one of several people concerned about the issue this year.

"It could destroy the neighbourhood," he said.

The fungus was found for the first time in Canada near the beginning of June at a residential property in Niagara Falls after a sample came back positive for the fungus.

It was also detected in Springwater, Ont., two weeks ago.

Hooke and neighbour Leslie Frankish started the tree-planting project in 2016 to try to save the area's tree canopy.

"If you go up Shakespeare, you'll see the massive, big trees there: they're all oak," he said.

He has another 70 in his backyard waiting to be



Continued on Page 2 Oak wilt on leaves.

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Group needs **\$50,000** to continue work at Black cemetery



George Webber presents the fundraising strategy of the Friends of the Forgotten to council. EVAN LOREE

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's going to cost upward of \$50,000 to carry on with restoration efforts at the historical Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

George Webber, head of the Friends of the Forgotten committee, told town councillors about the cost for the next two stages of the project.

The cost would include stage two and stage three archeological assessments on the site, also known as

the Negro Burial Ground.

"We are unable to do it until the money is in the bank," Webber said, adding the fundraising needs to be done quickly.

"We can't afford to spend two to three months raising the money because that puts the project two to three months behind schedule," he said.

"We need to be able to get out there as quickly as possible, and with your support, with your guidance (and) direction to be able to start the process," he added.

Webber said the first stage of archeological as-

essment confirmed what was likely known before.

"The site that we're talking about has tremendous historical, cultural, archeological significance to our community, province and likely the country," said Webber.

It is where the members of the former Niagara Baptist Church, formed in the 1800s, were buried. Some of the church's parishioners were among the earliest members of Niagara's Black community.

He outlined a preliminary fundraising strategy for the town.

In it, he identified five

groups they could look to for potential support: universities and colleges, foundations, businesses, residents and service organizations.

He said they're off to a great start, thanks to a \$5,000 donation from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club.

He encouraged councillors to spread the word and talk openly about what's being done at the burial ground, noting it's going to be a "long-term project."

People can donate to support the restoration at Friendsoftheforgotten.ca.

Oak wilt disease could hurt NOTL's property values

Continued from Front Page

planted this fall.

"We've worked incredibly hard; we grew our own trees from harvested acorns in the neighborhood," said Hooke.

He said oak wilt could wipe out their work – which would be devastating.

Nicole Mielewczyk, a biologist with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, explained how large the threat of the fungus could be.

"While it is a slow-moving disease, if it becomes established, it could have a major impact on Canada's natural resources and forest industries," Mielewczyk said in an email to The Lake Report.

Oak wilt could also have a negative effect on Niagara-on-the-Lake's property values, the ecosystem and wildlife habitats, said David Dutkiewicz, an entomology technician at the Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We buy properties because sometimes you have these giant, beautiful oak trees that are on the property and have been there for a hundred or so years," Dutkiewicz said.

"If oak wilt comes in and takes out some of these big, giant oak trees that are in our parks (and) in our backyards, that's going to

be very detrimental to us as well as the ecosystem," he added.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor said not only do trees provide oxygen, shade and clean air, but they also have immense economic value.

"It increases property values not only on an individual's property but in the whole neighbourhood," she said.

"Everybody shares in the increased land values when there are large mature trees," she added.

Red oaks are more susceptible to the disease, while white oaks can become infected, but are less likely to, said Dutkiewicz.

Marah Minor, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's spokesperson, said as soon as oak wilt was discovered in Niagara Falls, the town reached out to the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and requested information about what steps to take.

The town has joined the centre's Greening the Landscape Research Consortium, which provides the latest information on green infrastructure.

Oak wilt will be discussed at the town's next meeting, said Minor.

Many of Niagara-on-the-Lake's trees are in what scientists call a "riparian zone," said Dutkiewicz,

a zone found in riverside areas that support things like wildlife, water quality and soil health.

Since oak trees are often found in those zones, the fungus could affect said zones significantly, especially in the Niagara region, Dutkiewicz said, where forests are more fragmented due to the agricultural land surrounding the town.

However, he said oak trees can still be found in areas all over southern Ontario, including private woodlots, conservation authorities, riparian areas, urban and rural areas and parks.

Dutkiewicz said the Invasive Species Centre is worried about oak wilt being found in rural and urban areas.

"If oak wilt is found in rural areas, it may have larger ecological impacts that can affect riparian areas around streams and rivers because oak trees are often found in those locations," he wrote in an email.

The fungus would also have a massive impact on wildlife and different insects that rely on oak trees as a main source of food, especially during the winter.

Oak wilt can spread through the movement of firewood and through sap-feeding beetles.



Sandra O'Connor stands at a red oak tree in Ryerson Park. The town councillor is worried about the effects oak wilt disease could have on the town's trees. SOMER SLOBODIAN

"I always say don't move firewood out of 100 kilometres of where you got it from," said Dutkiewicz.

A great example of how moving firewood could spread disease, or an insect, would be the case of the emerald ash borer.

Many people moved ash trees from location to location to burn and spread the emerald ash borer without realizing it, he said.

Since 2014, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has had to remove more than 1,000 ash trees due to the invasive insect, which originated from Asia.

The disease can also be spread through the movement of sap-feeding beetles.

On oak trees, oak wilt creates a fungal pad under-

neath the bark that "presses on the hardwoods and the bark, basically peeling the bark away a little bit, and creates little cracks in the wood," said Dutkiewicz.

It releases a fruity scent that attracts the beetles to come and eat the fungus.

The beetles then get spores on them that they can transfer to the next tree and infect it too.

Dutkiewicz tells people not to prune oak trees between April and October, when the beetles are most active.

Hooke has also been telling people in his neighbourhood not to prune back the oak trees, no matter how much they want to.

The town is taking a similar approach and will not be pruning oak trees from

April through October, except for safety reasons, said Minor.

Root grafting is another way the fungus can spread.

"Below the surface of the soil, trees are pretty interconnected so usually trees will graft onto each other through their roots," said Dutkiewicz.

If oak wilt spreads, he is worried that it could "go throughout the entire oak range" and into places like Quebec, which has a large oak tree population.

"Quebec has a very big oak forested area and they rely on that for a lot of lumber," he said.

More information can be found online at invasivespeciescentre.ca and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's website.



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Sandtrap fundraiser to support St. Davids boxer's Pan Am dreams

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The road to the Pan American Games for St. Davids amateur boxer McKenzie Wright requires lots of training, discipline, motivation — and money.

In less than a month, the Niagara College nursing student will be joining Team Canada's Olympic division in Cali, Colombia to fight for a spot at the Pan American Games in Chile this October.

Wright dominated the 2023 Pan American Games Domestic Qualification Competition in June in Montreal, finishing first in the 50-kilogram weight class.

The top four from the competition in Colombia will advance to the Pan Am Games.

Team Canada doesn't pitch in with financial aid, so it's up to the athletes to pay their way through the competitions.



A fundraiser for St. Davids boxer McKenzie Wright's trip to Colombia with Team Canada will take place at the Sandtrap Pub & Grill on July 19. SOMER SLOBODIAN

"It's going to be about \$10,000 to get to the Pan American Games," Wright told The Lake Report in an interview.

To help with financial costs, Wright will be holding a meet and greet

fundraiser at the Sandtrap Pub & Grill on Wednesday, July 19, from 3 to 5 p.m.

There will be photo opportunities, raffle prizes and the chance to learn more about NOTL's top amateur boxer.

Wright also set up a GoFundMe page to help with costs and that has generated a lot of attention — and raised more than \$7,700 so far.

"I'm floored with the amount of support that I've gotten from that," she said.

Mother sure it was her son's body found

Continued from Front Page

son with NOTL's Morgan Funeral Home, she said she "can't make any real decisions" until the body is identified.

A witness spotted the body caught in some shoreline trees near the Welland Avenue bridge in St. Catharines, Gavin said.

Police looked for Neumann from June 26 to 29 before stopping the search to evaluate their next steps, he said.

He was last seen Sunday, June 25, in Twelve Mile Creek near Hillcrest Avenue where the river bends and starts to get choppy.

Jordan Meyer, Neumann's lifelong friend, said a witness he met last week told him that Neumann was floating down the creek on an inflatable raft with his dog Brody when he reached the rapids.

After getting his raft

closer to shore, he lost control of it with his dog still aboard.

Meyer said Neumann "didn't even hesitate" and went after his dog.

Gavin said Neumann became distressed in the water while trying to recover the raft and disappeared under the surface.

It's been a painful, exhausting time for Worthy. "I can't quite grasp it all yet," she said.

Going forward, her mission is to make sure Twelve Mile Creek is safer for everyone.

"It's a dangerous place. It's got to be monitored much more closely," she said.

Gavin said police do "provide safety messaging" to the public and also patrol trails along the creek, but that "trail safety enforcement isn't something we historically do a lot."



Liam Neumann and his dog Brody. FACEBOOK

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Niagara College to triple on-campus student housing

Steve Hardaker
Community Correspondent



The existing residence at Niagara College's Glendale campus. The college plans to add new living spaces suitable for about 1,000 more students. STEVE HARDAKER

Niagara College plans to triple its on-campus student housing over the next four years at its campuses in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland.

The college unveiled its plans last week for adding new living spaces for about 1,000 students, with construction to commence early in the new year.

The school said its expansion is driven by commitments to improve student experience and success, and to address a growing shortage of housing in the communities the

college serves.

Niagara College now has on-campus residences for only 200 students at the Daniel J. Patterson Campus in Glendale and another 228 students at the

Welland campus.

"As more and more students from across Ontario and around the world are drawn to Niagara College, we recognize the need to expand capacity and

options for on-campus living," said college president Sean Kennedy.

"Our plans support the key priorities in our strategic plan and reflect our enrolment growth and the

evolving needs and expectations of our students," he said in a statement.

He also acknowledged that a significant expansion of on-campus student housing will help to address the need for affordable housing across Niagara.

"Our timelines are aggressive and reflect the urgent need for more housing for students and the broader community," said Kennedy.

The college also will continue to work "with private and public partners in Niagara to explore additional housing solutions."

In addition to new residence buildings, the plan also includes renovations

and improvements of existing on-campus residences to expand capacity and enhance students' experience.

The college has year-round programs for more than 10,500 full-time students in over 130 diploma, graduate certificate, apprenticeship and bachelor's degree programs.

The college also has more than 3,000 part-time students each year, who study in more than 600 credit, vocational and general interest programs.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for over 13 years and is active in many community organizations.

Virgil resident's rainbow garden brings Pride to neighbourhood

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report



Ray Rempel planted his Pride garden with the help of grandson Mitchel Dursken as a way to show his support for the LGBTQ+ community. JULIA SACCO

Ray Rempel has always had a passion for equality, beginning with his time as a teacher in Kansas in the 1960s – he has never seen any reason to treat people differently based on their identity.

"My first experience with the gay community wasn't even a community. It was a couple of kids in high school who were gay," Rempel told The Lake Report.

Over the years, he made friends and acquaintances within the community and "never batted an eye."

"I just can't comprehend the silliness. That people tend to throw up barriers any time things are deemed to be a little different from the norm," he said.

Rempel has also always had a passion for gardening, finding time to make it a regular hobby over the last 20 years.

Amid some political tensions in town, including the June vandalism of Niagara-on-the-Lake's newly installed rainbow crosswalk, Rempel decided to combine two of his passions.

"I would like to think that it isn't (a response to the crosswalk vandalism), but it is," he said of his project.

On his property, at the corner of Elden and Penner

streets in Virgil, Rempel worked with his grandson Mitchel Dursken to plant a Pride garden in support of the two-spirit and LGBTQ-IA+ community.

The process was rather simple, Rempel said, and along with the help of Regal Florist and Garden Centre, he was easily able to find flowers for each colour in the Pride flag.

"I thought I'd have

difficulty getting purple flowers, but I hadn't even thought of pansies," he said.

Rempel's Pride garden isn't his first act of advocacy, having done activism in support of people with brain injuries after his son Jeremy was in an accident resulting in a brain injury.

His work led to the establishment of the Ontario Brain Injury Association.

As someone who has worked with marginalized groups in the past, such as those with visible disabilities at the brain injury association, Rempel shared his shock that those in similar positions still have issues with the gay community.

"I don't understand it," he said.

One of Rempel's students from back in the '60s still

stays in touch with him through Facebook to this day.

John Lischeid now lives in Vermont with his husband but still looks back fondly on his time being taught by Rempel.

"He was very inspirational, one of those young, dynamic teachers who was just out of high school," said Lischeid.

For the group of kids in school who weren't drawn

to the "traditional" sports and activities, Rempel create a safe space for growth as a drama coach and leader of the debate team, Lischeid said.

Even now, back living in Niagara and long out of teaching, Rempel is working to make the places he occupies more welcoming.

"I just want us to move toward a more inclusive society," he said.

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Town approves new carriage operator

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The roster of people who drive horse-drawn carriages in Niagara-on-the-Lake has gotten a little larger this summer.

A dispute over who gets to run horse-drawn carriage services in town came to an end two weeks ago. Now, NOTL officially has a third carriage operator.

Resident carriage driver Ronda Cave has been granted one of two available licences to operate for the 2023 tourism season.

The other was granted to Megan Sentineal, the niece of Jeff Sentineal – the owner and operator of Queens Royal Tours.

During the special council meeting on June 20, Jeff told council he is authorizing his niece to run his business this season while he takes a step back from the job to prioritize personal



Ronda Cave was granted a licence to operate horse carriage tours in Old Town. FILE/EVAN LOREE

health issues.

“I’m not giving up anything I own,” Sentineal said.

Coun. Maria Mavridis recommended the town grant one of these licences to Cave for the 2023 season and the other to Sentineal.

Mavridis also suggested the town support Sentineal’s plan to let his niece take over the enterprise in his name.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor was concerned about adding a third carriage operator

to town.

“I haven’t seen sufficient justification to add a new party,” O’Connor said.

O’Connor was the only councillor to withhold support for Mavridis’ motion, which was otherwise approved.

To make the business operational, Sentineal needed a licence from the town permitting his workers to occupy space in Old Town to park carriages and rest horses.

However, council learned at a meeting May 16 that Cave was effectively managing her own horse-drawn carriage venture under Sentineal’s licence.

And she’s been wanting to make it official and become NOTL’s third horse-drawn carriage service.

According to the town’s operating agreement with the carriage industry, only Sentineal Carriages and Queens Royal Tours are allowed to operate in town.

Sentineal Carriages holds three town-issued licences and in previous seasons, Queens Royal Tours has held two.

Chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie explained that the two licences usually available to Sentineal were up for grabs because they were in a state of “non-use.”

Non-use status means the business is paid for but is not operating.



The NOTL Museum will lead the commemoration at the Voices of Freedom Park. SUPPLIED

Town commemorates 230 years of Canada’s first anti-slavery law

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

As a Black woman in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Jan King-Watson is doing what she can to help educate the community on Black history and culture – including crucial historical moments that happened in the early days of this town.

A celebration of the 230th anniversary of the Act to Limit Slavery, the first legislation in the British colonies to restrict the slave trade, happening this Sunday is part of that education.

The NOTL Museum will lead the commemoration at the Voices of Freedom Park, and King-Watson will be there to share a few words.

Also taking part in the tribute are Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, Rochelle Bush, Wayne Moore and performers Jeremiah Sparks, Tamiya Cox and local musician Aaron Berger.

Artist Wayne Moore will be unveiling an original commissioned piece of art, inspired by Chloe Cooley’s story, to be installed at the museum and joining its permanent collection.

The Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada, enacted in 1793, prohibited the importation of new slaves into Upper Canada.

The catalyst for the act’s formation was Chloe Cooley, an enslaved Black woman who, in March 1793, was taken across the Niagara River by her enslaver to be sold in the United States.

However, Cooley screamed and fought to get away, alerting multiple witnesses to her abduction,

including Black loyalist Peter Martin, who reported the incident.

Rochelle Bush, one of the speakers at Sunday’s event and owner of Tubman Tours Niagara, said that the Act to Limit Slavery and Chloe Cooley’s story are essential pieces of Black history in our area.

“There’s so much history here: that’s why I focus on the lower end of the Freedom Trail, which would be Niagara-on-the-Lake,” she said.

When it comes to the general public’s understanding of Black history, King-Watson said, “We still have a lot of work to do here in Niagara, certainly in Canada as a whole.”

That being said, she expressed her pride in the museum and all they have done to commemorate stories of Black history.

“I’m so proud of the work they’ve decided to do on this whole topic, really recognizing the Black and Indigenous and other people of colour,” she said.

King-Watson especially thanked the museum’s director of community engagement, Barbara Worthy, who she said has done plenty of work moving education on Black history forward.

Sarah Kaufman, the managing director and curator at the NOTL Museum said that this milestone anniversary marks the museum’s first celebration of the Act to Limit Slavery.

“It’s a significant event for the community,” she said.

The anniversary celebration is free to all and will run from 11 a.m. to noon.

Cracked cherries mean bigger peaches

Continued from Front Page

peaches, plums and nectarines, a fairly expensive task — especially when you have 250 acres of tender fruit as MacSween does.

“Not many of us have many cherries left, but that’s the only crop this rain has hurt,” he said.

Edmund Qin, owner of Parkway Orchards along the Niagara Parkway, said up to 40 per cent of his cherry trees have been affected by the heavy rain in late June and early July.

He said also that compared to last year he has 50 per cent fewer cherries due to the cold and wet spring and lack of active bees.

“I don’t have much left. Normally I can last to July 10 or 11,” Qin said.

Now, he said he doesn’t know.

MacSween has 10 acres of cherry trees and due to the rain thinks he’s lost about five acres to cracked cherries.

In a good year, he’d normally have five acres of crop for his family’s market on Lakeshore Road and sell another five



Scott MacSween from Quiet Acres Farm says about five acres of cherry trees were affected by cracking due to the large rainfall seen over the weekend. SOMER SLOBODIAN

acres to grocery stores such as Loblaw’s.

With this year’s reduced crop, he’ll only be supplying his market, he said.

Cherries are his most valued crop, he added.

“I would make more on an acre of cherries than I would any other tender fruit crop,” said MacSween.

He said he earns about \$20,000 per acre of cherries and estimates he’ll lose about \$100,000 worth of cherries due to the rain.

Major rainfalls like Niagara has experienced are the culprit. If it rains a lot when the cherries are mature and ready to be picked, the

cherries absorb the water and then crack open.

“(It’s) as if you’ve taken a knife and just cut it open,” said MacSween.

When cherries to crack, they become unsellable.

“It’s unfortunate, but it all comes with growing fruit, especially if you’re a sweet cherry grower,” he said.

MacSween hopes he’ll make up for what he lost with his peaches, nectarines and plums.

He said the peach crop is his “bread and butter” and that he has a “beautiful crop” of peaches this year.

Michael Kauzlaric from the Vineland Innovative

Research Centre said only the fruit is affected, not the trunk of the tree.

Not all varieties of cherries were affected on MacSween’s and Qin’s farms, but many were.

When the cherries crack and can’t be sold, which happens every four years, MacSween said he has to leave them behind on the land.

This means more work for the seasonal workers on his farm, he said, because now they have to sort through the branches and assess which ones are salvageable.

Consumers won’t buy the damaged fruit, so the unsellable cherries become an all-you-can-eat buffet for the birds.

“That’s why a lot of us have small acreages of cherries: because they break your heart,” MacSween said.

However, Kauzlaric says people should be more open to buying fruit that has imperfections.

“Consumers should be willing to accept not-so-perfect fruit as it only comes around every 12 months,” he said.



FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND 

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Cyclists set \$100,000 goal for Ukraine charity ride

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

It's time to break out the bike pumps because Steppe Up for Ukraine is back in town.

After debuting the charity ride last year to great success, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Christyna Prokipchuk is looking to double donations for Ukraine this month.

The month-long fundraiser will culminate in the cycling ride, taking place Saturday, July 22.

The ride is taking place on Saturday, July 22.

Prokipchuk, who's from Ukraine herself, hopes she can raise \$100,000 in humanitarian aid for the country but worries there isn't as much interest in the war in Ukraine as there was last year.

"I do think it's going to be harder this year because the war in Ukraine is not sexy for a lot of people anymore,"



Christyna Prokipchuk, left, and Larry Duncan sit on the committee for Steppe Up Ukraine, a ride to raise money for Ukrainian refugee. EVAN LOREE

she told The Lake Report. Still, she and fellow organizer Larry Duncan are optimistic they can get it done after passing last year's \$30,000 goal three times over, raising \$90,000.

Prokipchuk said she wants to "keep the drum beating" in support of the many people who have been

displaced, injured or killed because of Russia's invasion. "My father was born in Ukraine, all of my grandparents were born in Ukraine," she said.

Prokipchuk wonders what might have happened to her family if they had stayed.

"If my parents didn't make the decision to move

here, I could be there right now," she said.

If not for their decision to come to Canada, she thinks there's a good chance her father and two brothers would have died at war.

"And that's just a matter of where we're born. We have zero control over where we're born," she said.

The war in Ukraine began when Russian troops invaded the country without provocation on Feb. 24, 2022.

The Government of Canada said on its website that Russia has "committed atrocities" against the Ukrainian people by targeting civilians.

Human Rights Watch describes the Russian bombings of Ukraine's civilian areas as "indiscriminate and disproportionate."

These facts were not missed by fellow organizers Duncan, also from NOTL, who said the bombings were "war crimes" and the larger war was "horrid."

"We can't stop the work," he said. "We can do something to help," he added.

Last year, Prokipchuk and her fellow organizers designed two routes for riders, one 20 kilometres and the other 120 kilometres.

This year, they've added a 60-kilometre route as well.

Riders will be starting at the same location as last year, St. Mary's Catholic Ukrainian Church in Niagara Falls.

The church will be offering a free lunch to bikers at the end of the ride.

Duncan said everything raised by the ride will be donated to Help Us Help and to the Niagara chapter of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

According to the charity's website, it provides humanitarian assistance in the form of education and training for orphaned and displaced Ukrainian children. Prokipchuk said they've been doing work in Ukraine for over 30 years.

It also provides counselling to veterans and their families as they transition from active duty to civilian life.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress advocates for the interests of the Ukrainian people at a national level.

One of the reasons Prokipchuk and the other four members of Steppe Up Ukraine's fundraising committee are able to keep costs low is that they rely on donations and volunteers.

For example, Prokipchuk said their campaign shirts were designed for free and water stations are sponsored by community groups.

Rosewood Winery will be sponsoring one such station at its estate in Beamsville, where the 120-kilometre route reaches its halfway point.

People interested in stepping up for Ukraine can donate at the campaign's fundraising page, at justgiving.com/campaign/STEPPEUPforUkraine23.

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Free ‘Sweet Songs of Summer’ concerts featured at **Cherry Festival**

Staff
The Lake Report

When celebrated soloist Melissa-Marie Shriner takes to the dais for two free concerts at the St. Mark’s Cherry Festival, on Saturday, July 8, she will feel right at home, performing with longtime friend and colleague Jim Bourne, the church’s music director.

“It’s always fun choosing music for a concert,” says Shriner, whose versatile voice is as happy with jazz at it is with opera. “We’re calling it Sweet Songs of Summer.”

They have chosen songs that appeal to a large audience, are “memorable and some even have a berry or fruit theme, which we thought would be a lot of fun for this event,” she said.

Among the tunes they’ll perform are “My Cherie Amour” and “Blueberry Hill.”



Soloist Melissa-Marie Shriner and Jim Bourne, music director at St. Mark’s Anglican Church, will perform “Sweet Songs of Summer,” as part of the 34th annual Cherry Festival this Saturday at St. Mark’s. There will be two free concerts, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. SUPPLIED

When Bourne invited the well-known local singer to perform at the 34th annual Cherry Festival, he saw it as an extension of the church’s effort to showcase all kinds of music in its acoustically revered space.

“The music will be great fun,” said Bourne. “Well-loved songs from Broadway, to pop, blues through to country. We particularly hope to send the audience out the door humming a tune,” he said. Shriner has an extensive

vocal career, entertaining audiences throughout Ontario and Europe.

She has performed with Harbourtown Sound, Choralis Camerata, Avanti Chamber Singers and as a feature act with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival/Twilight Jazz Series.

She also is the artistic director, producer and performer of the Melissa-Marie Shriner concert series.

In addition to directing the St. Mark’s music program and choir, Bourne is also a singer, conductor and coach, including work with the Elora Festival Singers, Stratford Summer Music, Festival of the Sound, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Tafelmusik, the Edison Singers, among others.

The half-hour concerts are at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, at St. Mark’s Anglican Church, 41 Byron St.



A view up Samuel Street in the Village. SUPPLIED

Village hosts **25-year** celebration Tuesday

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Village community in Niagara-on-the-Lake turns 25 next Tuesday with a community-wide celebration.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa will be in attendance along with Village Community Association president Ardeth Staz and writer Nigel Napier-Andrews, who has written a history of the community.



First residents Adam and Eleanor Wilkie, who still live in the community, and other originals Sally Harmer, Shirley Rock, War-

ren and Luba Fraser will be honoured during the celebration.


John Hawley, the original developer of the Village, will speak about his vision for the community and how it remains alive in the neighbourhood.

Staz said there also will be a donation presented to Rising Angels charity in honour of Hawley’s late wife Liz, who was “instrumental in keeping the development true to its vision.”

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. at Dietsch Park and include cake for all guests and live music from Jessica Wilson.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

“Be grateful for whatever you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”

- Oprah Winfrey

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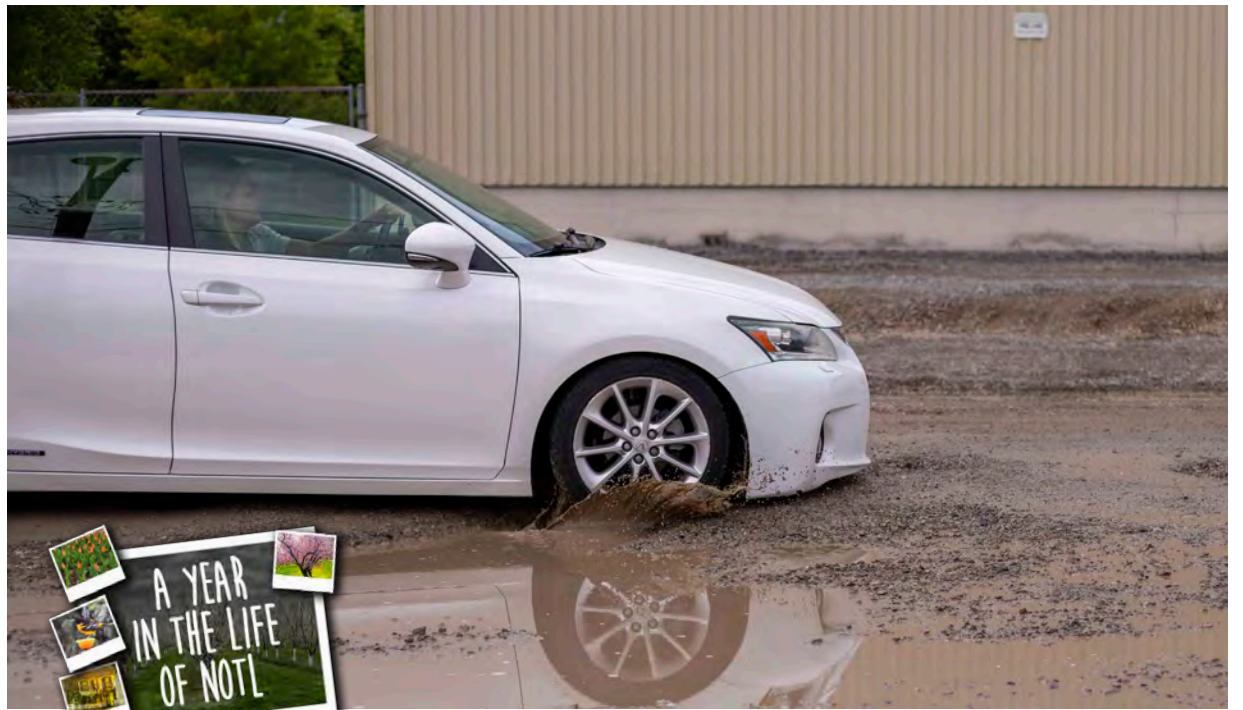
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It's a ... little bit **bumpy**



As work continues along Niagara Stone Road in Virgil, the heavy rains on the long weekend caused some deep pot holes and forced drivers to slow to a crawl to avoid bottoming out. MADDY GORDON

Editorial

Happy birthday and much more

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

In the wake of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Canada Day celebrations, it is worth taking a few minutes to reflect on some of events and news of note in our fair town over the past few weeks.

Over the years, the **Canada Day Cake Parade** has turned into major July 1 spectacle and must-see. The hours of painstaking work and design by chef Catherine O'Donnell and her team from Willow Cakes & Pastries make the cake a real highlight.

Along with the Rotary Club barbecue, Legion festivities, various fireworks, Fort George presentations and more – plus enormous crowds of residents and visitors – NOTL produces a national birthday party that's second to none.

So, to everyone who helped to make the day a success yet again, mission accomplished.

Speaking of missions, St. Davids amateur boxer **Mckenzie Wright** is heading to Colombia soon to fight for the opportunity to represent her country

at the Pan Am Games. And maybe the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Congrats to the petite pugilist, whose dominating performances to date have shown her to be one of the best boxers ... anywhere. And the full-time nursing student has done it on a shoestring budget, fitting in her training around an already busy schedule. She deserves our community's support.

Hands up whoever enjoys having to wait to cross one of the Welland Canal bridges? While Great Lakes freighters are a marvel to watch, sometimes you just need to be somewhere.

Another young NOTLer has created a handy smartphone app to help you know the status of the bridges.

Congrats to **Steven Shelestowsky**, an 18-year-old University of Guelph student, specializing in, of course, computer science. Well done.

As two stories on our front page this week attest (cherry crops reduced and a cautionary tale about oak wilt), agriculture is an important industry in Niagara. No surprise there.

So, it was welcome news last week when we told you that **federal and provincial governments** were giving \$5 million to compensate farmers for devastating winter kill that hit the region in 2022. They're also offering beekeepers the same amount.

Of course, it's mid-2023 and one might ask why it's taken a year – and why it requires a photo opp with a handful of area politicians – to get it done, but the wheels of government do grind slowly.

It was nice, also, to (literally) see inside the historic **Fort Mississauga** and learn about the restoration efforts that Parks Canada has put in to this landmark. With the nearby “stone road” along Lake Ontario's shoreline already a popular trail for walkers (and expected to be expanded soon), it is interesting to note that Parks Canada hopes to someday make the old fort more accessible to the public.

Last week we told you about the annual **Ride for Justice** making a stop at the Niagara Regional Native Centre and how learning about the legacy of Canada's

residential schools has been an eyeopener even for participants of this fundraiser. Just as it should be for the rest of us.

The concept dates to the time of John A. Macdonald but the last residential school closed in 1996, in Saskatchewan. The legacy of this historical wrong should weigh heavily on us all.

We also reported on some serious criticisms by a former supporter levied at James Russell, a man who has been advocating for proper restoration of the **Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground**. While we and others have taken issue with his methods and headstrong approach, we support finding a way to make sure this important historic site is given its due, in much the same way Voices of Freedom Park has.

Meanwhile, the **Friends of the Forgotten**, a group working closely with the town on the restoration project, needs to raise about \$50,000 for further archeological assessments. Community contributions to the group's work are encouraged.

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Urban design committee **rejects** Parliament Oak hotel plan

Dear editor:

The highly anticipated proposal for a hotel at the historic former Parliament Oak school site on King Street took centre stage at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's urban design committee meeting on June 28.

The committee took a decisive stand by unanimously rejecting the proposed hotel development.

This decision carries significant weight, as this esteemed advisory committee wields substantial influence in shaping the town's final planning report, which in turn serves as a vital document for council's consideration in making its ultimate decision on the project.

The urban design committee, primarily comprised of accomplished professionals from the design community, brings together individuals with proven expertise in various fields, such as architecture, landscape architecture, environmental management, urban and regional planning, among others.



NOTL's urban design committee isn't satisfied with plans for a hotel on the former Parliament Oak school property. FILE

Their collective knowledge ensures a thorough evaluation of proposals that affect the town's aesthetic and environmental integrity.

Deliberating for nearly two hours, the committee engaged in an in-depth discussion of the proposed hotel.

After careful consideration, members reached

a consensus and formally approved a final motion, solidifying their rejection of the project.

The committee's decision highlights the significance of preserving the historical and cultural heritage of the Parliament Oak site.

It sends a clear message that any development on King Street must align with the town's vision for sus-

tainable urban design and responsible growth.

As the proposal awaits further consideration by town council, the urban design committee's resolute stance serves as a testament to their commitment to upholding the town's values and ensuring thoughtful, well-informed decisions are made for the benefit of the community.

The committee's motion rejecting the application for a zoning change on the site was approved by all five members: Allan Killin, Chrys Kaloudis, David Snelgrove, Peter Neame and Coun. Wendy Cheropita.

Among the points emphasized in the motion were that "staff and council carry out the required studies to define the need for and potential location of any new, designated commercial areas within NOTL's Old Town" before considering any development proposals in the area.

It also asked that town staff take into account a number of concerns when preparing a report for council on the proposal, including that:

The required market/impact study (as per official plan section 10.4 commercial policies) has not been submitted.

The proposed development is not consistent with the official plan, which requires that projects should be compatible with existing and planned land uses, den-

sities, height and massing in the surrounding neighbourhood, and "have an effective transition in built form between areas of different densities and scale."

The committee stated the massing of the proposed hotel is too large and inappropriate for the location as is its height, which is "much greater than current requirements."

No formal parking study has been done and the proposed amount of parking appears to be quite inadequate given the number of guests, hotel staff and visitors for the facility, the committee noted. As well, no formal landscaping plan has been prepared.

The committee also recommended that council require staff to ensure development proposals are complete, with all required documentation, before being subject to public consultation, advisory committee and staff review, and prior to submission to council for review and a decision.

Alan Gordon
NOTL

Columnist is correct, comprehensive bylaw on **lighting** is needed

Dear editor:

I read with great interest the opinion piece written by Brian Marshall in the June 1 edition of The Lake Report, "Of lights and rights and other things."

As an emeritus member of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America and an executive member of the society's street lighting committee for many years, I found his in-depth knowledge and understanding of lighting to be refreshing.

He is correct in his assertion that a comprehensive lighting bylaw is needed in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to reduce the negative effects of poorly installed outdoor lighting that adversely affects our health and contributes to light trespass on neighbouring properties.

I have been involved in the development of published ANSI/IES recommended practices for street and area lighting as well as preparing outdoor lighting recommendations and standards for municipalities in the GTA and across the country for many years.

These standards and recommendations have always included light-source colour quality and control of glare and light trespass.

I am aware that the Town of NOTL has been working on a nuisance lighting bylaw for some time and I have offered my services to the municipality previously to help move this project along.

Perhaps with Mr. Marshall's opinion piece, we can expedite some action by our new council.

William Smelser
NOTL

Canada does not have a **food security** problem

Dear editor:

Premier Doug Ford's announcement about removing some agricultural land from the Greenbelt to provide housing for urban expansion is a forward-thinking mindset.

The misconception and propaganda by certain politicians, farm groups and lobby groups about food security is misleading and is having a detrimental and psychological effect on all Canadians, especially our youth.

According to federal government statistics, in 2021 Canada exported \$82 billion in agricultural and food products.

We export half of our beef and cattle, 70 per cent of our soybeans, 70 per cent of our pork, 75 per cent of our wheat, 90 per cent of our canola, 95 per cent of our pulses (beans, lentils, peas) and 40 per cent of our food processing, the Canadian

Agri-Food Trade Alliance says.

Canada is the fifth-largest exporter of agricultural products and seafood in the world, selling to more than 200 countries. More than 90 per cent of Canadian farmers are dependent on exports.

Therefore, we do not have food security problems (the ability to produce food) but have food insecurity (the ability to purchase food) due to financial constraints.

When was the last time you went to the grocery store and the following items were not plentiful: meats, produce, baked goods, canned goods etc.?

It is inconceivable that Canada, the second-largest country in the world, with a population of 40 million people, doesn't have enough land to build houses.

Tony Giordano
NOTL

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Despite the legend that the home was spared for a pregnant inhabitant, it is a mystery how the 1804 Clement House survived the burning of Niagara-on-the-Lake. BRIAN MARSHALL

The tale of a War of 1812 survivor home



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

I became a regular visitor to Niagara-on-the-Lake nearly 50 years ago when my aunt and uncle purchased and began renovations on an early 20th-century American Foursquare on Mary Street in Old Town.

One of the things my uncle loved to do during my visits was to conduct “tours” to show me the surviving built history in various locations throughout the town.

It was on one of these tours I first noticed a sadly neglected old house on Four Mile Creek Road.

Even in its dilapidated state, what caught my attention was that the building showed every indication of being an American Federalist style rather than

the common Georgian. An interesting architectural note that was filed away in my memory.

That said, it wasn't until after I moved here in 2015 – and subsequently began the research preparatory to writing a book on Canadian architectural house styles – that I once again stumbled across this old house as I compiled the very short list of homes that had survived the burning of Niagara-on-the-Lake during the War of 1812.

In fact, it wasn't until I had headed out to get some photos of this old survivor that I actually connected the memory of that neglected 1970s Federalist with what I found at the address of the pre-war house on my list.

It took a while to make the connection because someone had visited a lot of love on the house during the interim.

But, before we get to that love, let's set the stage by going back in history to those who built it.

James Clement, like his older brothers Joseph and John, declared himself Loyalist during the Revolutionary War,

serving the Crown during that conflict in the Indian Department.

Forced to abandon his place of birth in the Mohawk Valley of New York, James travelled north to Fort Niagara where, in 1786, he married the youngest daughter of Adam Crysler, Catherine.

In the early 1790s, James petitioned the Crown for land grants: first, a lot in the Town of Newark; second, for his service to which he received 400 acres in the Township of Niagara; third, for 200 acres to be granted to Catherine as the daughter of a Loyalist; and finally, for him to receive title to the 2,000 acres in the County of Norfolk, granted to his Loyalist father.

In short, by the end of 1798, James Clement was the proud holder of grants that totalled 2,600 acres – a lot of which were in Newark.

Circa 1804, James and Catherine completed construction of their home on the lands in Niagara. The design was in the Federal style (a derivative of Georgian) which became popular in the former English colonies of his birthplace

beginning in 1780.

It was a symmetrical five-bay design set with 12-by-12 windows on the main floor and 12-by-8's on the second, interior end gable wall chimneys, and simple eave/window mouldings echoing the shadow lines of the clapboard and corner boards.

Like many Federal-style homes, the central bay of the house included a portico over the main entry with a balcony serviced by a side-lit door that largely duplicated the main entry statement.

Typical of the majority of houses during this period, it was only a single room deep since the expectation was a significant addition would be added to the rear as soon as time and finances permitted.

Certainly, given the burgeoning size of their expanding family (seven children by 1804 with another three added in 1807, 1810 and 1811 respectively), I suspect the addition was not long in coming.

During the first decade of the 1800s, James successfully farmed 500 acres and employed between 20 and 30 workers.

With the outbreak of

the War of 1812, James returned to service as Lieutenant in the capacity of dispatch rider.

Unfortunately, he suffered a wound to his hand and, as was all too common in that period, contracted blood poisoning which took his life in March 1813.

Tragically, Catherine, who was pregnant with their 11th child, died in childbirth in July of that same year leaving their 23-year-old son responsible for his younger siblings.

Now, the common tale has it that the house was spared from the torch during the American withdrawal from Niagara because a pregnant Catherine begged the mercy of the American forces.

However, the burning of the town occurred five months after she had passed away, so we will never know why or how their house survived.

But now, let's return to 1980 when a young couple named Ken and Virginia Douglas purchased the derelict shell of the once proud Clement House.

Their parents were aghast that they proposed to raise their grandchildren in such a structure. Undeterred,

they carried on.

It took them several months while living in a borrowed Winnebago to restore the house envelope and mechanicals to a habitable condition.

Focusing on one room at a time, they worked their way through the house, occupying each room as it was returned to reasonable living conditions.

But simply making the house habitable was only the beginning of their journey, since their goal was to restore it in a fashion that recalled the original.

Recently, I had the privilege to walk through their completed restoration (albeit the work on a 220-year-old house is never really finished) and I must say it is glorious.

Today, the Clement House is a testament to this couple's vision and hard work.

Congratulations folks and may you be an example for others to emulate. Sometimes the best things in life are those you work and wait for!

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

NOTL gives **Craig's Cookies** a home on Queen Street

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The first thing you notice when you enter this building on Queen Street is the sweet smell of freshly baked cookies.

"I just love that I get to bake," said Victoria Bennett, an employee at the new-opened Craig's Cookies store.

She recalled how good it felt to bring home some of the cookies she made to her family, and how excited she was to hand out free cookies to people on Queen Street last Thursday.

"I got to give a box to someone and I was like, so excited, being like, which ones do you want to try?" said Bennett.

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Catherine McGregor and Danni Wood opened the doors to the new Craig's Cookies location last Saturday. They've been living in town for 25 and 10 years, respectively.

Both McGregor and Wood have never owned or run a franchise before, but they love what company founder Craig Pike has

built at Craig's Cookies and wanted to bring that to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It's a happy place to be, and Craig has really created a really incredible environment that's inclusive and diverse and supportive," said McGregor.

"That's where we want to shine as well," she added.

McGregor and Pike both worked together at the Shaw Festival in the early 2000s and have known each other for more than 12 years.

She remembers him baking cookies for opening nights and house parties here in NOTL over a decade ago.

"It felt like this lovely, full circle thing that they would ultimately end up back here," she said.

She's been on Pike's journey since day one, she said. She remembers when he called her at 7 a.m. one day to ask if he should open his own shop in Toronto in Parkdale.

That location later became his first storefront in 2018.

He now has five locations in Toronto, one in St. John's, N.L., and now his first-ever franchised store, here in NOTL.

McGregor also remembers putting letters into the menu board the day before Pike's Church Street location opened.

Early this year, when Pike started tossing around the idea of franchising Craig's Cookies, McGregor said it was the same time as when she and Wood were having several chats over wine about wanting to start a new project together.

Also around the same time, a little storefront to rent on Queen and Victoria opened up — possibly the perfect place for a new Craig's Cookies location.

It seemed like a good thing to do together, said McGregor.

"There's something about a couple of sassy middle-aged ladies trying to make a go of something new," she said.

To prepare, McGregor and Wood were sent to what they called "cookie university" for two weeks at a Craig's Cookies location in Toronto on Church Street.

"It is by far the busiest location, they send out hundreds of orders (a day)," said Wood.

Wood said she worked the



Catherine McGregor is one of the newly opened owners of the downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake location of Craig's Cookies.
SOMER SLOBODIAN

PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

evening shift on June 1, the first day of Pride Month. It was extremely busy, she said, but a quality learning experience.

"It was great because again, we've never done this. It was a really good introduction," said Wood.

The cookies are made fresh every day and never the day before, which means employees are mixing the ingredients and making the cookies on-site every day, said McGregor.

"You just keep going and going and providing

those fresh, amazing, incredible cookies for everybody," said McGregor.

It's hard to pick a favourite, McGregor said, but the gluten-friendly peanut butter cup is her's.

At the moment, Wood's favourite is the Skor cookie, but "that could change tomorrow," she said.

"Some of them were you think there's no way that's gonna work, like a sour candy blaster ... it works," said Wood.

McGregor said it's been great watching her team

bake cookies and be proud of what they've created.

All of the employees share responsibilities whether it's baking, cleaning or front-of-house duties. This gives them a chance to take a step back and work behind the scenes or work with the public, depending on how they're feeling.

"It's a really supportive environment," said McGregor.

Craig's Cookies is now open in NOTL at 106 Queen St., Unit E, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Virgil teen was interested in coding at **age 10**

Continued from Front Page

been old enough to publish it," he added. The legal age to publish an iPhone app and have a developer account is 18.

Shelestowsky created the app exclusively for iPhone users since one already exists for Android phones.

There used to be an app like this for iPhone users, he said, but it was discontinued.

He remembers the hassle his mom experienced every day when she would drive him to Eden High School.

"There'd be times where the bridge would be up, and my mom would be like, 'It'd be really nice if there was still an app for that,'" Shelestowsky said.

Since many people are iPhone users — Apple is one

of the most popular phone brands in Canada — and many people travel across the Welland Canal daily, he decided to be the one to create it.

It's been getting some recognition from the people at Apple themselves.

During the tech giant's recent developers conference in early June, he had the opportunity to participate in a session with Apple developer Philip Davis, who works on the Apple Maps team for the Apple Watch.

"It was kind of mind-blowing," Shelestowsky said.

"He was like, 'Yeah, I really like this type of app that just caters towards a niche group of people.' And that was pretty cool to hear," he added.

Shelestowsky built the app

on software called Xcode, a popular program used to develop Apple apps.

He said he developed an interest in coding at the age of 10 and knew he wanted to pursue it as a career.

His dad, Paul Shelestowsky, said his son gravitated toward computers as a kid and could even type out his last name by the time he was three.

Knowing what you want to do with your life after high school, or even as an adult, is difficult for many people.

There was "never a doubt in his mind" about what he wanted to do after school, his dad said.

He just finished his first year at University of Guelph where he is pursuing a degree in computer engineering.

"With this app, it doesn't feel like work for him. It feels like something he really enjoys," said his dad.

Shelestowsky turned 18 last year on Aug. 20, but he was busy preparing for university, so he chose to take some time to get used to university life before finishing the app this year and getting it published.

Shelestowsky said it was a pretty easy process and only took a few days for his app to become approved.

"It's really cool to see my own app on the App Store," he said.

His dad knows a lot of people who have been using the product already, and said "It's really just great to see something that he created being so well utilized."

He said developers on the app store have the chance to



Steven Shelestowsky shows off his new Niagara Bridges iPhone app at the Carlton bridge. SUPPLIED

apply to take part in these sessions and he was excited when he got picked.

Next, he wants to work on creating an app that will help university and college students better manage their time.

"I found it especially tough to manage my time-

table in university in the first year," he said.

Niagara Bridges cost a one-time price of 99 cents to help offset some of Shelestowsky's server costs.

He hopes to run an update once the new iOS system update is released around September.



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Chef Catherine O'Donnell with this year's mammoth Canada Day cake. Her business Willow Cakes & Pastries donates the cake yearly to the July 1 celebrations at Simcoe Park. This year's theme was Alice in Wonderland. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



From top to bottom: The Fort George Fife and Drum Corps escorts the cake down Queen Street. NOTL politicians Andrea Kaiser, Gary Zalepa and Wayne Gates help serve up cake at Simcoe Park. Ward Simpson works the barbecue. From left, Karen Moore, Eileen Plowman, Dave Plowman and Stephen Moore enjoy some cake. The Plowmans came all the way from Barrie to celebrate in Niagara. DAVE VAN DE LAAR/JULIA SACCO

Simcoe Park, sweet surprises and beyond: Canada Day celebrated in NOTL

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Whichever way you chose to celebrate, Niagara-on-the-Lake was the place to be for Canada's 156th birthday celebration.

The highlight for many of Saturday afternoon was Simcoe Park's barbecue hosted by the Rotary Club, followed by the Canada Day Cake Parade, which featured this year's surprise-themed cake from Willow Cakes and Pastries.

The Alice and Wonderland-themed cake was unveiled along Queen Street to hundreds of bystanders as the Fife and Drum Corps led the dessert of honour down the road.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, MPP Wayne Gates and MP Tony Baldinelli walked the parade route and handed out Canadian flags to onlookers.

At Simcoe Park, a large crowd of NOTLers and visitors anxiously waited to grab a slice.

Residents Joan King and Donna Seymour were happy to indulge in a bit of classic Canada Day fun but spent most of their holiday doing things a little differently.

The two had a table set up in Simcoe Park until 3 p.m. selling Terry Fox t-shirts to raise money for cancer research.

"We're selling shirts because Terry Fox was a Canadian hero," King told The Lake Report.

King and other volunteers from the Terry Fox Run sell shirts yearly throughout the summer and King said Canada Day is the perfect time to do so.

This year's goal is to encourage people to get a team together for the run in September.

"My team has been together since 1992, we've had different people come and go but because it's a team, we keep each other going," said Seymour.

Those who wanted to show their support for a Canadian legend could purchase a shirt for \$25.

In the back of the park, some NOTLers spent their Canada Day showing off their vintage cars to

excited onlookers for the annual Canada Day car show.

"You get to meet people that you would never, ever meet," said onlooker Cheryl Fraser.

"There was a young guy here with his grandparents and he was so interested in the old vintage cars it was amazing. That's where this hobby is headed, with the younger crowd," Dave Fraser, her husband, added.

Aside from Simcoe Park's festivities, Canada Day celebrations took place at Fort George with fireworks at 10 p.m., Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery with fireworks at 10:10 p.m. and afternoon celebrations at the Legion and the Irish Harp.


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Top: A crowd gathers to get some cake. Left: Victor Packard hands out Canada Day flags during the cake parade. Right: Bottom right: The patio at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 was packed.
PHOTOS BY DAVE VAN DE LAAR, JULIA SACCO AND SUAT SIRIN



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

Some birds wield twigs & sticks to accomplish tasks, making them among the handful of animals known to use these.

Last issue:

Category: FINISH THE LINE

Clue: Oscar Wilde wrote, "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is" these four words.

Answer: What is not being talked about?

Answered first by: Al Brockway

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Susan Hamilton, Jane Morris, Bob Wheatley, Mike Gander, Lynda Collet, Claudia Grimwood, Catherine Clarke, Pam Dowling, Marjory Walker-Barone, Deb Valder, Val King, Margaret Garaughty, Gary Davis, Wade Durling, Sylvia Wiens, Elaine Landray, Jim Dandy, Sheila Meloche, Patricia Fraser, Greeba-Ann Birch, Wendy Steek

*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)

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Yellow Door's performance of Mary Poppins Jr. is on July 15. DAVID HASKELL

Yellow Door presents **Mary Poppins Jr.**

Staff
The Lake Report

Tickets are now on sale for the Yellow Door Theatre Project's summer musical production of "Mary Poppins Jr." on July 15 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

A cast of young performers will take to the stage in downtown St. Catharines to bring its version of the 1964 musical film "Mary Poppins" to life, singing hit tunes such as "Spoonful of Sugar," "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" and more.

This is the culmination of the theatre's annual summer program, which saw youth ages eight to 17 years old from across the Niagara region participate in two weeks of music, dance and stage training, led by Yellow Door's instructors.

Yellow Door also partnered with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre to host the summer program, with training taking place in St. Catharines.

The theatre has hosted several family-friendly adaptations of classic Disney and Broadway musicals, including Frozen Jr., Shrek Jr.

and Seussical the Musical.

Yellow Door's founder and artistic producer Andorlie Hillstrom is directing this summer's production.

The theatre will host two performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Partridge Hall.

Tickets range from \$16 to \$25, plus taxes and additional fees.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit firstontariopac.ca and scroll down to "View All Events."

The FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre is located at 250 St. Paul St. in St. Catharines.

Pumphouse Arts Centre's **annual show** and sale returns August long weekend

Staff
The Lake Report

Looking for a new painting to hang in that empty space above your couch? How about a unique pair of earrings or a necklace to add to your collection? Or, maybe you're just seeking some inspiration for your own artistic endeavours.

The return of the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre's annual show and sale next month is likely to help you in satiating your creative appetite.

This is Art at the Pumphouse's 16th year happening in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with 2023's show and sale boasting the participation of 60 different artists and artisans.

The show will take place on the August long weekend, Aug. 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the arts centre next to the Niagara River.

A range of artistic works will be available for attendees to view and purchase, including paintings, photography, sculpture, woodwork, glass, textiles, jewelry and more.



Art at the Pumphouse returns in August. SUPPLIED

As part of this year's event, a silent auction will be held, offering art enthusiasts the chance to bid on unique items donated to Art at the Pumphouse by businesses.

The arts centre is also inviting companies interested in contributing to the silent auction to participate.

A handful of live musical performances will accompany the show, including the Niagara-on-the-Lake Ukesters, comprised of musical duo Steve Goldberger and Andrew Aldridge.

Pig-Out Catering will feed the crowd and provide refreshments, while wine and beer will be available for purchase.

For those unable to attend the in-person event, the online version of the show will run from July 17 to Aug. 13th.

Art lovers can visit the event's website, artatthepumphouse.ca, to preview the works of the exhibitors, connect directly with the creators and purchase their favourite works.

Tickets for the in-person show are \$5 for adults, free for children. They'll be available to purchase at the door, cash only, but the arts centre recommends buying a ticket beforehand online at artatthepumphouse.ca.

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is located at 247 Ricardo St.

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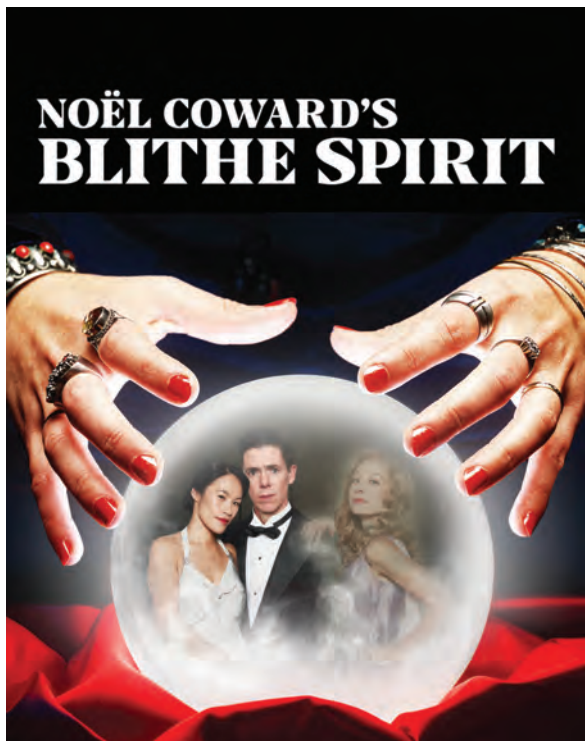
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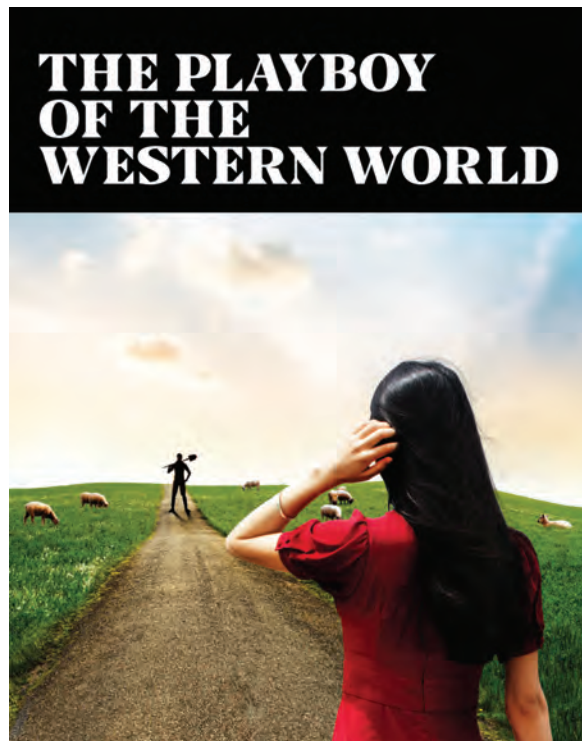
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BY NOËL COWARD

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Julie Lumsden in Gypsy. Photo by David Cooper; Donna Soares, Damien Atkins and Julia Course. Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk.
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Golfers celebrate **Canada Day** in red and white

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Members of the Friday evening Couples League at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club turned out in their red-and-white finery last week to celebrate Canada Day.

Winners on the course were Julie and Bill Smethurst, Jill and Ron Planche with a blistering 1-under 35 in the Canada Day scramble.

Second were Sheila and Larry Blight, Maria and Brodie Townley with 37.

Third went to Gail and Norm Kerr, Mary Holley and Steve Millward (38), followed by Sharron and Bernard Marlow, Kim and Oleh Hrycko (38) by retrogression.

Gerry Shelly was acknowledged for recently celebrating his 90th birthday – and for consistently shooting at or under his age for the past 10 years, a rare golf feat.

Another ageless NOTL golfer, the smooth-swinging Warren Tutton schooled the field in the Thursday men's league



Left: Warren Tutton, shown practising his chipping prior to a previous round, led all the men last week, carding a 1-under 35. FILE Right: Members of the NOTL Golf Club's Couples League were decked out for Canada Day. KEVIN MACLEAN



as the octogenarian fired a 1-under 35 to win low gross honours last week.

He also scored the most points in modified Stableford scoring with 21, while winning gross skins thanks to birdies on #3 and #9. All in all, a pretty productive round for Tutton.

Other winners were: Ben Berti (longest drive #10), Dean Sanders (closest to

the pin in two shots on #2), Alan Robb (closest to the pin #4), Greg Keldson (longest putt #6), Devon Neudorf (longest putt #7) and Jim Garrett (closest to the pin #9).

Net skins went to Josh D'Agostino (#1), John Reynolds (#2) and Don Stewart (#3).

In this Tuesday's men's WOOFs league, Glenn Murray won low gross

with a 3-over 39 and Nino Ferrantelli had low net with 35. Don Allen got a birdie and closest to the pin on #4.

The nine-hole women's league played for the Member's Cup this week, a net competition that uses unlimited home handicaps.

Bonnie Lamourie won the title through retrogression after being tied with Jill Planche with a net

score of 35. Other top net scores were Ruth Dowsett (37), and Judy Wright, Diana Dimmer and Catherine Novick with 38.

Best gross scores: Dimmer (45), Wright (47) and Maureen Dickson (49). Dickson also had the longest drive on #8.

Sue Shark was the sharpshooter in the 18-hole women's league Tuesday, with closest to the pin on

both #4 and #9.

Best gross scores were: Brenda Bell (93), Cathy Murray (95), Val Chubey (96), Judy Mantle and Lisa Allen (98) and Sherk (99). Bell also had the longest drive on #5.

Top net scores were: Bell (71), Murray (73), Chubey (74), Mantle (76), and Marie Ellison and May Chang (78). Robin Foster had the fewest putts, with 29.



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U9 Thunderhawks compete in Midland lacrosse tourney

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara Thunderhawks U9 minor lacrosse team competed in their first tournament of the season last week in Midland.

While the results on the floor did not favour Niagara, the team had the opportunity to play some very talented teams.

The NOTL kids started the tournament with a great battle against the Stayner Hitmen.

“The Thunderhawks consistently kept the pressure on and forced turnovers throughout the game but unfortunately were not able to take the lead,” said team spokesperson Tracey Hope.

“The remaining games against the West Grey Ramage and the hometown favourites, Midland Titans, taught the players to never give up and keep on participating.”

Although Niagara was considerably outshot in the tournament, the Thunderhawks’ goalies, Noah Werner and Hunter Konopka, “always stood tall and never stopped trying to defend the net.”

The U9 team, coached by Gary Friesen, Jared Hope and Jeremy Werner, includes: Ansale’wit Christmas, Austin Cwierniewski, Wesley Dodd, Elliott Epp, Brock Friesen, Tessa Froese, T.J. Gauld, Bennett Hope, Hunter Konopka, Zenon Konopka, Nico Mirabella, Chris Treanor, Lincoln Thwaites, Noah Werner and Rory Woods.



Top: Members of the Niagara Thunderhawks U9 lacrosse team played their first tourney of the season in Midland. Left: Coach Gary Friesen gives the team a mid-game pep talk. Right: Taking a break atop the boards. TRACEY HOPE

FROM THE NOTL PICKLEBALL CLUB

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY WHO HELPED MAKE OUR RECENT NOTL CLASSIC TOURNAMENT SUCH A SUCCESS



* Garry Doeksen, Dan Maksenuk and ALL the NOTL town staff at the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial hockey arenas for their unceasing understanding, hard work and help

* Fred Cervantes and the town’s IT Department for ensuring the VERY necessary bandwidth to the arenas

* Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa for cheering on the Pros at the Friday event

* Our local corporate sponsors. Hugely supportive from the outset: Quinn Wealth Management Services - Manulife Securities, Virgil Stampede, Sandtrap Pub & Grill, Sotheby’s Canada - Kymberley McKee, Eye Wellness, Hotel 124Q, RBC Royal Bank of Canada, One Earth, Audrey Wall Nursing Professional - Foot Care Clinic

* Co-Chairs John Hindle and Ian Langden and the Tournament Organizing Committee

* The 100+ volunteers from the NOTL club. From Reception Desk to referees. From War Room to facilities. Far too many to mention

* The 8 Pros in the Friday evening Pro Event. The 300-or-so players - local, province-wide and from far afield. All ages, all skill levels. Qualified referee Steve Hast from Pittsburgh

* Cogeco Your TV - especially Jack Custers and the hard-working production crew of Anthony Luongo, Rich Ewtuchovich, Colour Commentator Noah Vogel. And others

* Michael Nardi from Life in the Lake social media

* Olivia Hinks-Russell and the Niagara College Massage Therapy Course students

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Have some fun



Across

- 1. Farm honkers (5)
- 4. Declares formally (9)
- 10. High-pitched flute (4)
- 11. Happening together (10)
- 12. Safe stores (6)
- 13. Casual tops (1-6)
- 14. W W II turning point (1-3)
- 16. Lowest-value chessmen (5)
- 19. Deciduous timber trees (4)
- 20. Cloth colourist (4)
- 22. Portable music players (5)
- 24. Deep voice (4)
- 25. May contain peas or beans, for example (4,3)
- 26. Shows broadcast again (6)
- 29. Mental analysis (10)
- 30. Woodwind instrument (4)
- 31. Graceless (9)
- 32. Up (5)

Down

- 2. My Fair Lady --- Doolittle (5)
- 3. Author of "Ozymandias" (7)
- 5. Told (4)
- 6. Consecutive parts of a meal (7)
- 7. International carrier (7)
- 8. Frequently (4,5)
- 9. Misbehaves (4,2)
- 15. Rainless months (3,6)
- 17. Egyptian cobra (3)
- 18. Indicate agreement (3)
- 21. Profoundly different (7)
- 22. Household chore (7)
- 23. Wanders away (6)
- 24. Obtains temporarily (7)
- 27. Model --- Campbell (5)
- 28. Stupefy (4)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

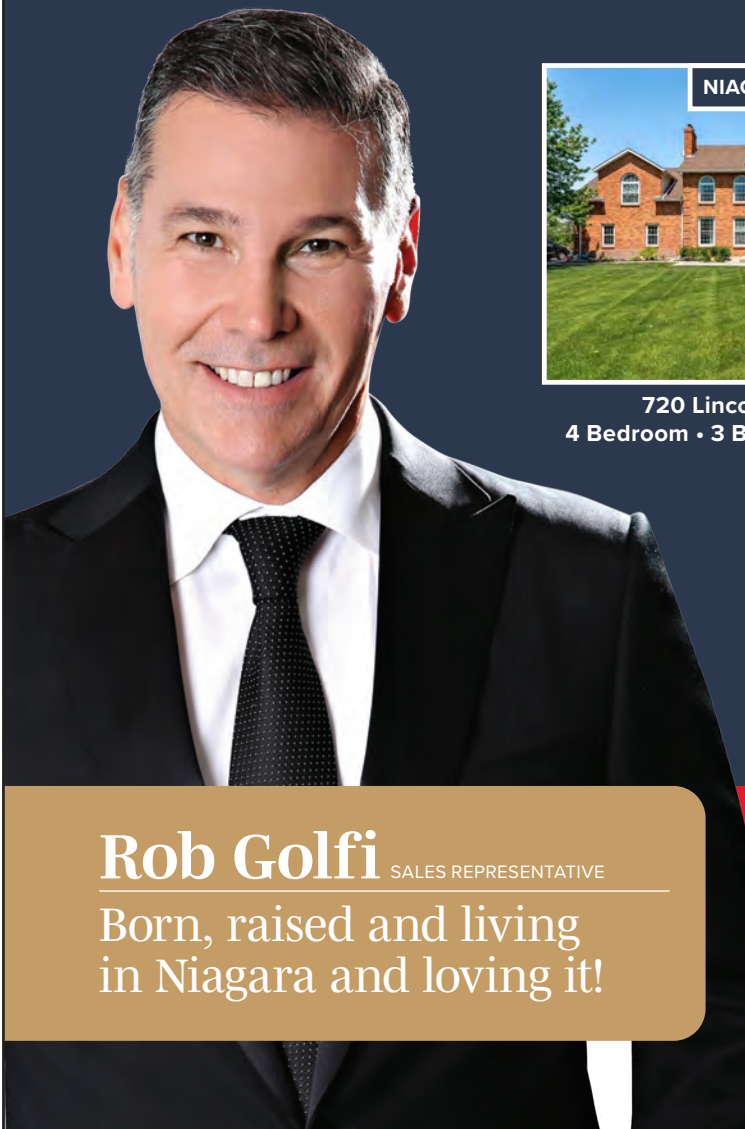
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Newly graduated volunteer firefighter, Taylor Rodrigue was inspired to become a firefighter after feeling helpless at a car accident.
EVAN LOREE

PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niagaranow.com

She wanted to ‘be on the helping side’

New NOTL firefighter set on career path by experience at fatal accident

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Some memories flicker like a dying candle, but for Taylor Rodrigue, there's one that burns like wildfire.

Newly graduated from Niagara-on-the-Lake's firefighter program, she remembers clearly what set her on the trail toward firefighting.

Two summers ago, she and her boyfriend Lorenzo Mazzuca, a firefighter, were driving home after watching the sunset with the family dog, Mickey.

They arrived on the scene of an accident in rural NOTL.

"We came across the aftermath. We had just missed the collision," she said. A cyclist had been struck.

She recalls a bicycle tire on the road, a man in a nearby ditch and a distressed child with his dog trying to wave them down.

The boy was the victim's son and she did what she could to comfort the youngster.

Rodrigue remembers watching her boyfriend perform CPR while waiting for emergency services to respond.

Despite Mazzuca's efforts, the man died in hospital.

"I wanted to be on the helping side," Rodrigue said, but at the time, she wasn't.

"I had no training," she said. "I felt a little bit helpless."

It was not a good feeling, she said.

After hours of talking to police and emergency service workers, the couple returned home – well after midnight.

Rodrigue remembers the two said nothing to Mazzuca's parents, with whom they were living at the time. They were asleep.

But that night, Rodrigue realized she wanted to be a firefighter.

And now, having graduated last month, she says, "If one of the police officers called me tomorrow and asked me to explain the entire situation (at that accident) from start to finish. I would be able to do that."

When she was in high school, she wanted to be a paramedic, but instead "ended up going to college for border services."

Rodrigue tried to do something with the diploma for a few years but never got her big break.

"I now realize that the first responder field I was meant for was the fire department," she said.

Originally from Welland, she now lives in Glendale with Mazzuca and enrolled with the NOTL fire department last summer, starting the program about a year after that fatal incident.

NOTL's volunteer firefighter training program is 300 hours of physical and mental commitment. Most recruits take about a year to finish.

The five-foot-three Rodrigue says it was a "little wonky" at first, being both the shortest on the team and the only woman.

Her co-workers were mostly tall and muscular and many were already friends who had grown up together in NOTL.

"But within a couple of weeks of doing training, we just kind of started all bonding," she said.

The turning point, she said, came when they were practising the Denver drill.

The training exercise originates from the death of Denver firefighter Mark Langvardt, who died on the job in 1992.

After getting separated from his fellow firefighters,

Langvardt became trapped between two filing cabinets on the second floor of a burning printing business.

It took his team almost an hour and multiple attempts to extract him. He died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Denver drill was then developed to teach young firefighters like Rodrigue how to rescue their peers from tight places.

During a visit to the Glendale fire station, Rodrigue gave The Lake Report a behind-the-scenes peek at the props they use when practising the drill.

"This measurement is exactly the same measurements as the window they had to get him out of," she said, pointing to a makeshift wooden window frame and attached plywood hallway.

The rescue takes four people, two working outside the window, and two working inside the hallway.

To hear Rodrigue explain it, the two inside work together to extract the distressed firefighter, and the two outside receive him.

Even with two people working together, a fully equipped firefighter is a heavy lift.

But with her small frame, Rodrigue sailed through the window effortlessly.

It elicited quite the laughter from her teammates, who had been struggling to lift each other out of the shoulder-wide hallway for the whole drill.

"Having a moment of laughter and fun, during this hard drill made the day a little bit better," she said.

After that, "when it came time to more downed firefighter drills," everyone wanted to be in a group with Rodrigue because she was the easiest to lift.

Outside the fire station, Rodrigue works as an insurance broker and volunteers as a cheerleading coach twice a week.

Despite needing the strength to pick up kids and throw them around at practice, she said her size and strength were a big challenge.

"I kept telling myself that that was a weakness," she said.

There were days when she felt she couldn't do the job because she was smaller than most.

But the advice of St. Davids' district chief Dave Rigby kept her going.

"Don't let anybody tell you you can't do this job, because you can," she recalled him saying.

So, along the way, she learned to play to her strengths.

Rodrigue said her size allowed her to fit through small spaces better than others, a skill that came in handy given the six-foot frames of her peers.

Whenever Rodrigue and her team had to squeeze through a tight space they would send her in first and follow once confirmed that the way was clear.

Between the physical training and all the studying, Rodrigue said she didn't have much of a life for the past year.

"I didn't realize that I was giving up all of my weekends."

"Everyone would ask me to do something and I'd say, 'I can't, I have training.'"

She recommends that anyone who wants to fight fires should talk to people who have been through the program and make sure they can commit the time.

But to people who really want this, she says go for it. "You're never gonna know until you try."

EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



View from the Courthouse, 1898

This photograph from 1898 is taken from the roof of the Court House on Queen Street facing northwest toward Regent Street. On the lower left is the Olde Angel Inn, which was also formerly known as the Mansion House and Fraser's Hotel. On the horizon, to the left, is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1831 in the Greek Revival style. At the centre, in the far distance, one can see the Chautauqua Hotel, which was a three-storey hotel built in 1887. Many tourists were treated to poetry, lectures and theatre there. The hotel burned to the ground in 1909. In the centre of the photograph is the rooftop of Grace United Church, built 1852. Isn't it amazing that 125 years later we can still recognize these existing landmarks?

NOTL is a pretty town. It's also noisy, congested and **smelly**



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

The past few days, QThe past few weeks, Queen Street has been chock-a-block with visitors and locals taking the airs and enjoying our unique village.

I observe the passing scenes, as many different groups of people walk and cruise our town. There were some local folks going about their business at the liquor store and the Valu-mart (I know, I know, the Independent. Change is hard. Gimme another month).

There were so many people on the sidewalks admiring the lovely new flower plantings and the store windows. But the

noise levels were intrusive and indeed were having a negative effect on our ability to enjoy perfect and sunny early summer days.

Throw in loud Miller Waste System and Modern Landfill recycling and garbage trucks and Dan's Produce and Sysco food delivery trucks and business is certainly picking up, eh?

There are also red town trucks getting their jobs done and town bylaw officers ready to pounce on parking problems.

Yes, the biggest parking problems are still the meters that don't work. How frustrating do we make it for visitors who have chosen to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a lovely change in their lives — and to spend money?

Sometimes, they're lined up eight or 10 deep, all tearing their hair out, doing their best to figure out our computerized parking apps. Is it really called Honk Mobile?

Plus, for the many weeks, there's been the annoying beep-beep-beep of the cherry picker lift working



Ross Robinson says vehicles on Queen Street are just distracting from the beauty of the street. JULIA SACCO

on repointing the bricks on the upper exterior walls of the old building at the corner of Regent and Queen streets.

It's sad and unfair for tourists, and really sad for tenants of the building who need to sleep during the day.

And these irritants bring us to noisy traffic. I hesitated to ramble on this subject because in the past I have

enjoyed the pulsating rush of a powerful motorcycle between my legs. Chopped exhaust systems and monkey bars are ultra cool. It really can be addictive.

But enough is enough. Social media sites have included NOTL as a destination of choice for day cruises. On sunny days now, it is not an occasional noisy and smoke-belching two-

wheeled cycle making its way down Queen Street.

Enjoying a DQ Blizzard, we hear them approaching from Mississauga Street, revving up as they reach the middle of Old Town. Conversations must be put on hold, as the Easy Riders rev up.

Some of them then choose to pause by the cenotaph to make some more noise and belch smelly smoke. My eyes don't water, but it has become an olfactory degradation.

Not long ago, the United Empire Loyalist folks were holding their annual remembrance. Someone forgot the sound system, so the audience couldn't hear. Then, a Gordon's Food Service truck lumbered slowly by, followed by a Niagara transit vehicle.

It really was a pity because the United Empire Loyalist folks had gone all out to remember their ancestors.

The street hadn't been closed off for half an hour for the ceremony, so it was hard to appreciate this salute to United Empire

Loyalist history.

On Father's Day, my son telephoned from Whistler, a world-renowned recreational town in British Columbia. It used to be a ski resort, but has since been turned into a walkable city — now summers are as busy as winters.

Thousands of people drive to that area, park away from downtown and spend time enjoying the beautiful town: Strolling, shopping, having a drink and enjoying a meal. Whistler is now a year-round resort town.

Surely it is time our visionary folks seriously consider changing downtown NOTL to being vehicle-free. Currently, it is congested, noisy and smelly.

Pictures of Canada's prettiest town are becoming ugly, lined up with multiple lanes of moving and parked traffic.

Jay-walking from the post office to the Valu-mart (I know, I know) can be downright dangerous. Will it take a death or serious injury to make it happen?

I know it won't be easy. There will be challenges. Let's figure it out.

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It's important to loosen tight root balls and pre-water holes before planting. JOANNE YOUNG



Obituary

Randy Hipwell



HIPWELL, Randy Charles – (February 5, 1964 – July 4, 2023)

It is with profound sadness that we announce Randy's sudden passing on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at the St. Catharines General Hospital, with his family by his side. Beloved husband to Carol for 13 years. Proud dad to daughter Emilie and her husband Swayne and son Bryce. Adored Grandpa to Jaheim, Zarah-Lynn, Nwayne and Hanneilea. Cherished brother to Ron and his wife Sandra, Howie and his wife Brenda, Wanda and her husband Garth, and Rod. Special son-in-law to Liz Ignatzyk. Treasured brother-in-law to Chris and his partner Adelina, Rick, Dave and his wife Charlene, and adored uncle to Liam and Sophia. Fondly remembered by a large group of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Randy always took great pride in the work he did from a young age on the family farm into his adult years. Randy served with the Canadian Armed Forces from 1981- 1986. And as we all know, he was an avid Toronto Maple Leafs fan. Most of all, Randy was always a jokester, loved a good one liner, loved to laugh and have a good time.

As per Randy's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Randy, will be held at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 1p.m. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

Some tips for summer gardening



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

hole, pour some water into the bottom of the hole, and allow time for it to soak into the soil.

Once the water has soaked in, go ahead and plant. By adding the water into the soil first, the moisture is right at the roots and ready to be absorbed.

The soil will stay moist and lower down for some time because the sun is not hitting that area and drying it out.

Another tip when you are planting at any time of year, but especially now since the plants have been in their pots longer, make sure you loosen up the root ball with your fingers first.

When you slip off the pot, you may find the roots have been circling around the root ball. If put into the ground that way, the roots will tend to keep circling in the same manner.

Therefore, it is important to loosen up the root ball a bit before planting. This way the roots will go out into the soil quicker.

Watering your plants
Watering your lawn and garden during the dry, hot summers seems to be a guessing game. What is too much water? What is too little water? When is the best time to water?

Unfortunately, it is not a cut-and-dry answer. It is

dependent on several factors such as the amount of sunlight it receives, your soil type and the type of plants you have there. Here are some facts that will help you out:

First, your lawn requires one inch of water per week to stay healthy. It is better to give your lawn this amount at one time as opposed to a fraction of an inch four or five times a week.

By watering heavier at one time, the moisture will penetrate into the soil deeper and remain moist for a longer period of time. When you water a little bit every other day, for example, the moisture quickly evaporates and does little good.

A good way to measure how much water it is getting is to set out a dish or tuna can. When there is an inch of water in the container, that is enough. If you have an irrigation system, the same principle applies – water heavier and less frequently.

Second, not all plants require the same amount of water. You need to get to know the ones that need more water and those that need less. Also get to know the areas that do not receive water from rainfall, i.e. under the overhang and under trees.

Third, newly installed plants will require more wa-

ter than plants that are well-established because they have a limited root ball.

Mulching your gardens can cut your water usage by as much as 30 per cent, saving you both money and time.

Raising the blade height on your mower

As the temperatures go up, so should the blades on your lawn mower. We do this for a couple of reasons, but the main reason is that the longer grass blades are the more that they will help to shade the soil, stopping the sun from drying out the soil.

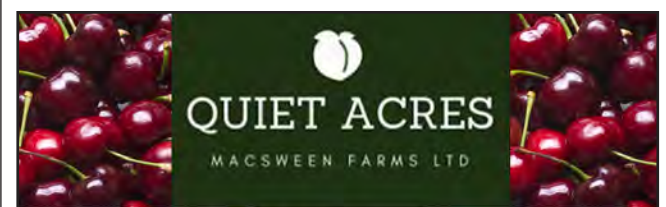
Soil with a healthy moisture level will promote good root growth, too. A strong root system will give you healthy grass and thick coverage.

The recommended cutting height in the summer is three-and-a-half to four inches. Cutting the grass too short in the summer stresses the lawn.

Not only will a short cut cause the soil to dry quicker, but it also thins out the lawn and increases the number of weeds that will come through and the number of insects.

Remember to take some time to enjoy your garden.

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



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