



Review: My Fair Lady | Page 16

## Town rejects White Oaks' plan for higher towers

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Councillors reached a stalemate Tuesday night regarding White Oaks Resort and Spa's proposal

to increase building heights in Glendale for a major new residential development.

Ultimately, both White Oaks' request to allow the development of four new towers and a proposal from one councillor to reduce

the proposed buildings' heights were rejected at the committee of the whole planning meeting.

White Oaks wants to build four tall buildings: two apartments of 17 and 21 storeys, containing 390

residential units and two mixed-use buildings, 18 and 25 storeys, with 420 units.

The Glendale secondary plan currently allows for buildings in the area along Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue to have one tower at

20 storeys at the rest at 16 storeys.

White Oaks' proposal was ultimately defeated in a 5-4 vote.

Couns. Maria Mavridis, Adriana Vizzari, Erwin Wiens and Lord Mayor

Gary Zalepa voted in favour, while Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Sandra O'Connor and Nick Ruller were opposed.

Continued on Page 2

## Controversial Parliament Oak hotel approved in close vote

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Despite pleas from residents opposed to it, Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors approved a developer's controversial plan to build a 129-room hotel on the site of the old Parliament Oak school.

The approval by the planning committee allows Two Sisters Resorts Corp. to move forward with the 19-metre tall hotel in the middle of a residential neighbourhood in Old Town.

The project will include a restaurant and patio, spa and personal services, banquet/conference facilities and associated retail uses.

Following hours of presentations and debate Tuesday night, the zoning amendment making way for the proposal by developer Benny Marotta's company was approved in a 5-4 vote.

Couns. Tim Balasiuk,

Continued on Page 3

## When life gives you lemons

NOTL youth support FACS Niagara with lemonade sales



Siblings Jayden and Kate Polgrabia sell lemonade for a cause on June 7 at the NOTL Farmers Market. Story on Page 5. RICHARD WRIGHT



Wayne Murray at council.

## 'This is not Disneyland': Residents angered after two hotels approved

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Some residents are feeling unsettled and upset after the approval of two new hotels in Old Town

Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Tuesday night's committee of the whole planning meeting made way for Benny Marotta's 129-room hotel on the old Parliament Oak school grounds, just two weeks after after Rainer

Hummel's 81-room Queen Street hotel was approved on May 28.

Resident Marilyn Barlett has been outspoken against both of the developments.

In an email last month to Alexandria Attree, the

town's administrative assistant, Bartlett said the Hummel development proposal "has significant adverse consequences for residents, who surround it on three sides, and for the unique and historic character of the

town at large, the very thing that brings visitors and tourists to this town."

Speaking to councillors on Tuesday evening, Bartlett said the town is putting

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# 'This is not the end of the story,' Glendale resident says

Continued from Front Page

A motion by Cheropita to have further discussions with developers and to adjust staff's report on the development to include a height reduction also was defeated, again in a 5-4 vote.

Cheropita, along with Burroughs, Mavridis and O'Connor supported that motion, while Balasiuk, Ruller, Vizzari, Wiens and Zalepa were against it.

Cheropita proposed the height parameters be reduced to 20 storeys maximum for one building and three buildings at 16 storeys maximum.

Zalepa did not agree with Cheropita's idea to suggest a height reduction of the development, calling it "unprofessional."

"It's interesting that we think we can figure out what a sustainable development can be by just free-wheeling here," he said.

"Normally what happens is the developer has done their homework — and I'm sure this one has — to determine what's feasible from a business perspective."



Left: The proposed White Oaks development would see four highrise buildings built in Glendale. SUPPLIED

Top right: Stephen Bedford from Landx Developments said the new highrises will serve as a gateway.

Bottom right: Counc. Gary Burroughs and Erwin Wiens disagreed about the proposed development. JULIA SACCO



Hardaker's argument was residents' concerns with the increase in height in the development.

Hardaker presented 644 signatures, in total, from Glendale residents objecting to the application.

Many submitted comments about how the proposed heights do not mesh with the picturesque look of Niagara-on-the-Lake and go beyond the permissible limits in town.

After the motion to approve 17, 18, 21 and 25 storeys was defeated, Hardaker felt a small relief, but noted this was not the end.

"Right now, I am feeling like 'The Mouse That Roared,' or better, how David beat Goliath," Hardaker said in an email to The Lake Report.

"This is not the end of the story, though," he said, noting there was a notice of motion tabled for the next committee of the whole planning meeting, which directs staff to work with White Oaks on an amended proposal, based on the Glendale secondary plan.

"So, this will come back." [juliasacco@niagaranow.com](mailto:juliasacco@niagaranow.com)

Wiens agreed with Zalepa, voicing his concerns with the idea of "planning on the back of a napkin."

Cheropita defended her request for a height reduction, saying that she

went through every page of the report and her request for a reduction to 16 floors came straight from the Glendale secondary plan.

O'Connor agreed. "This 16-storey is not picked out of the air, it's not from the

back of a napkin — it's what's in our official plan."

The original application from Landx Developments proposed the 17- and 21-storey apartment buildings and 18- and 25-storey mixed-use

buildings.

The application was met with outrage from many members of the community, including Steve Hardaker, who made a presentation at Tuesday's meeting.

The main point of

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## Hummel says Marotta's 5-star hotel needed

Continued from Front Page

tourism and employment ahead of preserving the heritage and character of NOTL.

She echoed that statement to The Lake Report in an interview Wednesday afternoon, saying she feels "sick."

"This is a town where people live. This is not a tourist destination. This is not Disneyland," she said.

According to provincial policy, Bartlett said, communities should be "livable."

"I don't see how two hotels within blocks of each other in the heart of the Old Town makes this community more livable," she said.

Bartlett isn't alone in her concerns.

Before Tuesday's meeting, resident Robert Bader sent out an email to fellow angry residents urging



A view of the proposed Parliament Oak hotel from Regent Street. SUPPLIED

them to sign up to speak out to councillors in response to the potential Parliament Oak approval.

"If you thought last week's debacle approving Hummel's 44-foot-high monstrosity at the entrance to Old Town was bad, this worse report by staff recommends approval of Marotta's 60-foot edifice in the centre of town on the Parliament Oaks institutionally zoned lands," the email read.

Hummel, whose hotel was approved during that May 28 meeting, told The

Lake Report he feels positive about the Parliament Oak hotel plan.

"I think it's going to be an absolutely first-class addition to Niagara-on-the-Lake, because everything that Benny does is first-class," Hummel said.

He echoed what was said during Tuesday's meeting, which was that NOTL lacks five-star accommodations for guests.

"We need that kind of hotel in town. There's an entire clientele that doesn't come here because the quality they're looking

for and willing to pay for doesn't exist," he said.

"He is going to fill that gap."

Bartlett said she and many other residents plan to speak on the issue of the Parliament Oak hotel at a coming meeting — but, right now she feels a bit defeated.

"I guess we have the opportunity to speak again, but I really wonder if anybody is listening," she said.

Nonetheless, Bartlett pledges to be in attendance when the time comes.

[juliasacco@niagaranow.com](mailto:juliasacco@niagaranow.com)

## Community 'ready to accept' Parliament Oak hotel: Zalepa

Continued from Front Page

Gary Burroughs, Sandra O'Connor and Nick Ruller were opposed.

Couns. Wendy Cheropita, Maria Mavridis, Adriana Vizzari, Erwin Wiens and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa were in favour.

With the planning committee's favourable vote, the only further hurdle the plan faces is a formal vote by council.

The next council meeting is June 25.

A number of residents immediately walked out of the meeting following the decision.

Before the zoning change to commercial from institutional use was approved by the committee, nine residents made presentations to voice their concerns.

Gracia Janes spoke on behalf of the NOTL Conservancy.

The King Street resident considers the amendment to be "completely contrary to over 50 years of town, regional, provincial, national planning for this very special heritage town," Janes said.

Other residents echoed the same sentiment.



Connie Tintinalli is concerned that NOTL is losing its charming residential streets. JULIA SACCO

Before Connie Tintinalli moved to NOTL, she said she admired its small-town charm.

"Before we moved here almost 25 years ago, my husband and I liked to come and wander the quiet residential streets and dream of living here. Those quiet residential streets are disappearing before our eyes," she said.

Tintinalli said building a hotel in the middle of a residential area will totally disrupt the community.

Aside from aesthetics, other issues were raised by residents.

Claire Cameron, a former councillor, took to the podium to speak on behalf of the Niagara Foundation regarding the loss of public and community space with

the rezoning of the school grounds.

"If approved as-is, it will drastically and permanently reduce the amount of land where residents might experience the traditions and culture of our community," she said.

Cameron said the foundation is not opposed to hotels and tourism on principle, but believes a truly complete community "needs room to exist."

Resident Marilyn Bartlett's presentation was echoed some of Cameron's statements, saying the proposal puts tourism and employment above the needs of residents.

After a short break, councillors deliberated the controversial issue.

Ruller seemed to side

with residents, saying the land could be used for something that more residents could make use of.

Balasiuk shared that sentiment, noting that Niagara doesn't have enough institutional land any more.

"I think we'd be remiss if we ended up just folding on this piece of property. I think it's an opportunity to have something built that's in line with the zoning," he said.

On the other end of the spectrum, Cheropita saw the development as a great way to bring luxury to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"When we did the tourism strategy, it was uncovered that one of the gaps we had in NOTL is that we did not have five-star accommodations," she said.

Zalepa commented that ultimately the hotel will be a positive for the community.

"I know that it's a balancing act of hearing from some people in the community, but there's 19,000 other people who live here too — and speaking with many of them I felt that this is a project that the community is ready to accept, if it is done right," he said.



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# Pumphouse centre receives \$5,000 boost from Chateau des Charmes

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre's ongoing partnership with a local estate winery continues to grow, solidified this spring with a \$5,000 cheque from the winery.

Château des Charmes is the art centre's presenting sponsor, providing financial support to the arts centre and sponsoring its exhibitions with a selection of local wines for art aficionados to sip as they take in the exhibited works.

Château des Charmes' president, Paul Bosc, presented a \$5,000 cheque



From left, Rima Boles, the Pumphouse's art director, Lise Andreana, the Pumphouse's board chair, Paul Bosc, president of Chateau des Charmes, and Victoria Gilbert, volunteer at Pumphouse. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

to representatives of Pumphouse, including the centre's art director, Rima Boles.

"Art possesses a remarkable ability to unite and enrich us all, and Château

des Charmes is honoured to contribute to the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre's tireless efforts in sharing this gift with our community," said Bosc.

Boles expressed her grati-

tude to Bosc and the winery for its partnership with the art centre.

"Their commitment to fostering the local arts community is truly invaluable. With their continued support, we are empowered to advance our mission of bringing art for all," she said.

The art centre has events in the works for this summer, including a new exhibition featuring works from the NOTL Arts Collective, set to be unveiled on July 11.

For more information about this and other upcoming events at the centre, visit niagarapumphouse.ca.

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**Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) is asking the OEB for:**

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- Apply to become an intervenor
- File a letter with your comments

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You must engage with the OEB on or before **June 24, 2024** to:

- Provide input on the hearing type (oral, electronic or written)
- Apply to be an intervenor

If you do not, the hearing will move forward without you, and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

#### PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. If you are a business or if you apply to become an intervenor, all the information you file will be on the OEB website.

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This hearing will be held under section 8 of the **Municipal Franchises Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.55.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.







The Skubel family, including mom Samantha, dad Dylan, kids Jolie and Bennett took part in LemonAID Day. TRACEY HOPE

## Lemonade stands highlight compassion of youth

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

If selling lemonade from a roadside stand will help another youngster go to summer camp, then Jayden and Kate Polgrabia of Niagara-on-the-Lake are jumping in with both feet.

"I feel really good doing this," said 14-year-old Jayden from his stand at the NOTL Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 8.

"It is a good feeling because we are helping others," piped in his sister Kate, 11.

Across Niagara, dozens of lemonade stands popped up as part of the Mountainview LemonAID

Day Kids Helping Kids campaign, including nine in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

All proceeds, which includes those from an online option for donations, go toward sending vulnerable and in-need children to day camp, overnight camp or toward a fund that will allow foster parents to take their children on private camping excursions.

Family and Children Services Niagara manage the funds and decide which camp option is best for the child and family.

"So, for the kids who need a good overnight camp experience, they (case workers) will recom-

mend that," said Caroline Polgrabia, chair of the Family and Children's Services' Niagara Foundation, which is the fundraising arm of the services group.

"Most of it is day camp right here in Niagara." For Jayden, his motivation comes from the results of helping others, but also from his personal and fortunate experiences of getting away and enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

That, he said, is what he wants other youngsters to have in their lives.

"I know what camp feels like and I feel that other kids that are in need could

use that experience."

Kate feels the same way — when asked if she had a message for the kids she is trying to help, she spoke about camaraderie and the value of healthy peer connections.

"It really is a lot of fun and you get to meet a lot of new great friends."

As a result of both the online donation campaign, which started in early May, and the weekend's in-person lemonade stand fundraiser, a total of \$50,498 was raised across Niagara as of June 11.

Online donations will continue to be taken until June 30, said Caroline. [wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)

## Man with gun sends neighbourhood into lockdown

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

An armed domestic dispute ended peacefully in St. Davids in the early hours of Friday, June 7, with a NOTL man in custody — but not before a large police and special-unit team showed up and ordered neighbours to take cover in their basements.

Niagara Regional Police Services arrived at the home near Cannery Drive and Dominion Crescent on the evening of June 6 around 8:40 p.m. to inves-

tigate a call regarding a person with a gun.

Their investigation "revealed an adult female and an adult male got into an argument, which escalated into the male pulling a gun at the female," police spokesperson Const. Jesse Vujasic said in a news release Friday morning.

"The female was able to exit the residence and call the police."

Vujasic said uniformed officers, detectives, the K9 unit, negotiators and an emergency task force unit surrounded the home.

A man surrendered at about 1 a.m.

No one was hurt but residents got quite a scare, however.

Online reports suggest police took no chances with the situation.

"Heavily armed police officers (between 6-8) barricade a block and are patrolling with police dogs," one resident said on Facebook.

"The (police) have knocked on doors and advised residents to go downstairs," the post continued.

Additional online chatter revealed more harrowing details.

"Cops with rifles are parked in my driveway to block the road. It is pretty scary," posted another resident.

A 28-year-old man from Niagara-on-the-Lake was charged with pointing a firearm, assault with a weapon and careless storage of a firearm.

The suspect, whose name was not released in order to protect the victim, was held pending a bail hearing. [wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)

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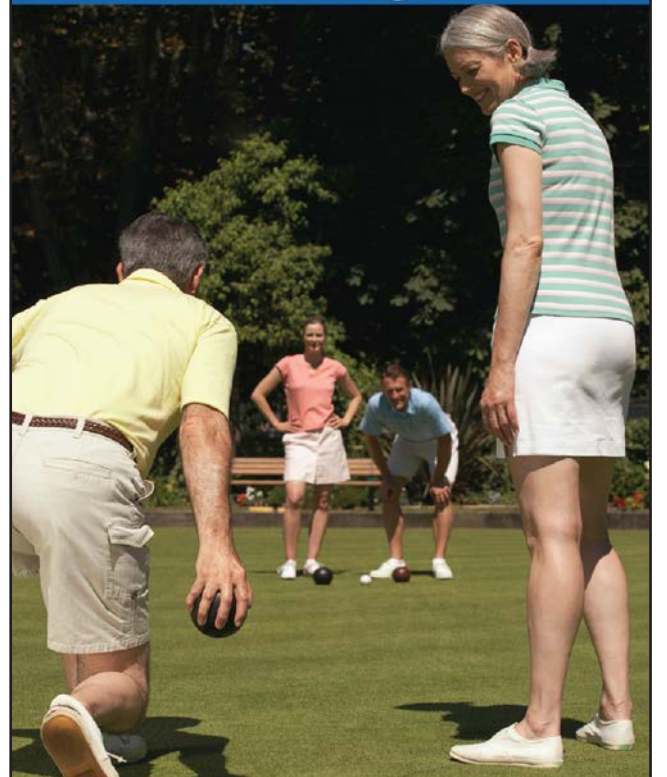
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## Fire safety campaign helps get pets adopted

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

And everyone thinks it is only dalmatians that are a firefighter's best friend.

Turns out the profession has a love affair with other breeds as well — even cats.

Once a week from now until the end of August, members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department will be posting pictures of themselves on social media channels with animals from the Greater Niagara Humane Society.

The campaign is being tagged "the Dog Days of Fire Safety."

The goal is three-pronged: to provide basic fire safety tips that everyone should know, tips that people with pets in the home should know and to pull on the heartstrings of NOTL residents enough that they will adopt an animal in need.

Fire chief Jay Plato said all too often pets get lost in the hectic and terrify-



Fire department members Karley McKeigan, Brad Disher and Dylan Skubel with Jack Russell terriers Dragonfruit, Acai and Honeydew, boxer cross Sonic and a kitten named Cassiopia. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ing shuffle of a fire escape scenario.

"If you have a home escape plan don't forget to include your pets in it," he said, adding that it is important to know your pets habits when it is trying to get away from a traumatizing experience.

"Usually an animal takes off or gets scared and goes and finds their safe hiding place which could be somewhere in the little nooks and crannies that are not

easily accessible, especially when you are trying to get out in a hurry."

"We take these things for granted inside the fire department," he said, "but we want to ensure that the general public is also considering these things when coming up with their safety plans."

The first posts went out Friday, June 7, with a collage of pictures of members with three Jack Russell terrier puppies named Dragon-

fruit, Acai and Honeydew, a boxer mix breed named Sonic and a kitten named Cassiopeia.

Each one of the animals was brought to NOTL by humane society employees who are ecstatic that the department reached out to them to find homes for animals and to help be a part of an important public service campaign.

"We are thrilled to partner with the fire department to promote both fire safety and pet adoption," said senior manager of operations Cortnie Welychka.

"This unique collaboration aims to protect our community while also giving loving animals the chance to find their forever homes. Together, we can make Niagara-On-The-Lake a safer and more compassionate place for everyone."

The posts will appear on the fire department's Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram pages every Friday until Aug. 30.

[wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)



## LIBRARY BOARD

### RECRUITMENT

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# Museum's spotlight on donors: **Lauren and Vaughn Goettler**

Barbara Worthy  
Special to The Lake Report

When philanthropists Lauren and Vaughn Goettler arrived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, their passion for history, preservation and community engagement immediately found a home.

Not only in the 1908 four-level cottage heritage home they purchased in 2015, but also in their desire to champion projects that would improve, inspire and challenge the community.

In 2020, they formed the Goettler Family Foundation to do just that and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum received the very first gift from the foundation.

"I've always been a history buff," said Vaughn Goettler, "and museums are a vital connection to our past — to the stories and people that remind us of the good as well as the bad."

"Museums actually help us understand the roots of our community and gain a sense of who we are."

That commitment to history convinced the Goettlers that the NOTL Museum's expansion plans were es-



Lauren and Vaughn Goettler's six-figure donation to the museum's capital campaign is helping to preserve NOTL history.

sential and so they became one of the first donors to the capital campaign.

"This museum is already the little heartbeat of the town," said Lauren Goettler. "But it really needs to be a bigger heartbeat."

By spearheading the campaign, their six-figure donation created exactly

what the couple intended and that heartbeat continues to grow.

Jodey Porter, director of the foundation, echoes the Goettlers' sentiment.

"It's very important to champion the activities of museums and of the NOTL Museum in particular. The sanctuary of history

is beyond valuable today, because there are very few places where that can happen."

Porter, herself a descendant of United Empire Loyalists, has overseen the foundation's philanthropic projects, from supplying water to villages in Africa, creating fish farms in

Bolivia, planting pollinators along Niagara's heritage trail, to supporting countless local art groups.

"If Niagara-on-the-Lake didn't treasure its history, which is what the museum does for us, we would be just another suburb of St. Catharines. Our history is what makes us different."

Both Goettlers acknowledge the role the NOTL Museum holds in preserving and protecting treasures of local history, and for sharing that knowledge through its outreach programs and decades of archival collecting.

"If we didn't have the museum," said Lauren Goettler, "just think of what we would lose. I love the fact that our history is there, and we know it's safe."

As retired entrepreneurs, the couple believes philanthropy is a social enterprise, with huge rewards.

"This is an affluent town," said Vaughn Goettler.

"It shouldn't be difficult to support cultural activities here and humanitarian projects overseas. Those of us who are able, should stand up and be counted."

Which is exactly what Lauren and Vaughn Goettler do, with a passion.

And, as everyone associated with the NOTL Museum knows, that kind of commitment turns dollars into critical improvements, preservation and a future expansion that will honour the unique history of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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## Nice day for a drive



Marc Honsberger and daughter Eleanor take a summer cruise in their 1955 Porsche. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

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**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "A sweet smile and a soft word usually have their desired effect."  
 - Letitia Elizabeth Landon

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### Guest Column

## Cutting down tree isn't the solution



David Israelson  
 Special to The Lake Report

It is indeed a terrible tragedy that a motorist was killed earlier this month when his car hit a tree on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It is especially sad that this is the second fatality in which a car hit the same tree, nearly one year after this most recent awful event.

It does not follow though, that "the tree has to go," as The Lake Report's managing editor Kevin MacLean wrote in last week's newspaper, (editorial, "No more fatalities — cut down the tree").

As MacLean himself concedes, "we are not sure what happened or why" in this most recent tragedy.

"Any number of factors could be at play," he says.

This is where the logic ends. Calling for action

when one is not sure why will not make anything better.

Suggesting that this fatal crash is somehow the fault of a tree for being at the side of the road makes no sense — especially when the facts and information about what might have caused the accident are not available yet.

True, there is a 60 km/h speed limit on that stretch of Lakeshore.

Should the speed limit be lowered? Possibly — let's consider that after we have all the facts.

It's an inadequate response simply to argue that the legal speed limit is one "that many of us have trouble adhering to." There's a simple solution to that. Slow down. Obey the law.

It is arguable that if the tree on our Lakeshore Road were not there, a driver who misses the curve would "simply end up on a soft, marshy patch of greenery." That is hypothetical. Where are the engineering studies that would back this up?

There are other solutions.

For example, in Port Colborne, on the shore



This tree on Lakeshore Road claimed another life last week. But is it the tree's fault? KEVIN MACLEAN

road hugging Fort Erie, the other nearby Great Lake, there's a stretch that goes through a small residential area that is festooned with speed-limiting obstacles and 40 km/h signs.

Why not consider something like this, rather than hacking down a tree?

This road section is not the only one where it is dangerous and where it would be safest if drivers slowed down. Should we cut down all the trees at all treacherous curves across the town?

It would be different, perhaps, if removing the

large tree on Lakeshore could reverse the tragedies that happened on that road. It won't.

Rather than a meaningless chainsaw gesture that's based on no information and which won't help anyone, let's honour the memories of those who perished on our road with moves such as lowering the speed limit, posting visible warning signs and making sure that all of us obey the law.

David Israelson is a writer and non-practising lawyer who lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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## The tree is **not to blame** for road fatality

Dear editor:

Further to your June 6 editorial, “No more fatalities — cut down the tree,” clearly, much more analysis and cogent thought must be engaged before rushing to your premature conclusion.

Fatal accidents generally occur for one three reasons: distracted driving, substance abuse or medical emergency.

Every day, or week in Ontario, people die on our roads for one of these reasons — in head-on collisions, crashing into guardrails, bus shelters, telephone poles and even trees.

In each of these past instances, do each of the municipalities then relocate guardrails, bus shelters, telephone poles and cut trees down?

I think not.

Along the roads of Niag-



A tree on Lakeshore has claimed two lives in under a year, but writer John Buchanan says the tree is not the issue.

ara-on-the-Lake one can see numerous small floral memorials that have been placed where a loved one lost their life on the road.

We have all seen and

been touched by these roadside reminders. To the best of my knowledge, no tree was involved in these sad cases. No, the accidents were likely attributable to

one of the three reasons cited above.

I agree with nearby resident Shirley Madsen: the tree was not at fault.

Here’s another way of looking at it: what if, instead of a tree at that spot along Lakeshore Road, there was a sidewalk running the along the roadside and pedestrians happened to be on that sidewalk at the moment the driver mounted the curb, would you blame the pedestrians for the deaths?

No, dear editor, the tree was not at fault.

Failing medical emergencies, drivers must assume responsibility for their actions.

I would suggest that virtually 100 per cent of your readers would wish this to occur.

**John Buchanan**  
NOTL

## Some intricacies of **Rand Estate** explained

Dear editor:

I wish to comment on The Lake Report’s weekly articles on the Ontario Land Tribunal hearings into Randwood, starting with the April 18 issue.

Richard Hutton’s article says Leah Wallace worked for the town as a heritage and urban design planner from 2000 to 2012 and “was first retained by Two Sisters/Solmar back in 2017.”

The date 2012 is incorrect. Leah Wallace was the town’s heritage planner until her retirement in 2016 at which point Denise Horne, who testified on behalf of the town at the tribunal, took her place.

Ms. Wallace became the heritage consultant for Solmar within a year of leaving the town’s employ.

The Lake Report’s April 25 issue talks of the testimony of a landscape archi-

tect retained by Solmar.

He stated that some of the structures the town has deemed of heritage value cannot be attributed to the Dunington-Grubbs, the well-known Ontario landscape architects.

There is an explanation for his statement. Many of the designs done by the husband-and-wife team, now in the University of Guelph archives, were not labelled.

Leah Wallace, who studied the collection at Guelph in 2011, told me afterward that only a few of their designs were clearly labelled as being done for George Rand, the owner from 1919 to 1942.

However, a number of others, she said, can be attributed to the Dunington-Grubbs because structures on the Rand Estate exactly replicate their designs.

As to the appropriateness of using the so-called pan-handle land as the access point to the proposed 191-unit Solmar development, I would like to explain why this narrow stretch of land exists.

Calvin Rand told me that, in 1991, when the front buildings on John Street were sold to William and Carol Fox, who used them to house the School of Philosophy, he realized he had no access to his family cottage, swimming pool and gardens.

He negotiated with the Foxes, who allowed him to buy the 18-metre-wide stretch of land between 176 and 210 John St.

Before Benny Marotta bought the back part of Randwood from Calvin Rand’s daughters, I occasionally walked, biked

or drove down that strip of land.

Navigating it is difficult because there are a large number of trees and tree roots crossing the dirt laneway. It is a shame that so many tall, mature trees may have to be cut down if Solmar refuses to agree to another entrance to the subdivision.

Before suspending the hearings until July 29, a tribunal member announced that a visit to the Rand Estate by the three hearing panel members had been cancelled.

I certainly hope this does not mean they have made a decision before hearing all the testimony that will be provided by witnesses called by the town’s and SORE’s lawyers in July and August.

**Elizabeth Masson**  
NOTL

## MAC golf tourney raises **\$16K** for Ronald McDonald House

Dear editor:

Last week’s charity golf tournament organized by Evan and Jessie MacDonald, of MAC Inc. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was a remarkable success, raising \$16,268 for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton.

We were fortunate that the weather co-operated, allowing us to enjoy a full day at the NOTL Golf Club without any interruptions from rain.

It was a day filled with camaraderie, shared enthusiasm, and, most importantly,

generous support for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton.

This charity is particularly close to Evan and Jessie’s hearts. Ronald McDonald House provides a crucial service to families in the area by offering a home away from home for families while their little ones are in the hospital.

The money raised would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, contributors and participants.

Evan and Jessie are incredibly grateful for this

overwhelming support, which exceeded last year’s donation.

As realtors at Revel Realty, Evan and Jessie are acutely aware of the financial strains many families and businesses face.

Therefore, seeing such a strong turnout and generous contributions for this cause was truly heartwarming and inspiring.

The kindness and dedication displayed by all the participants has translated into tangible support that will make a significant

difference in the lives of families in need by directly funding a room at Ronald McDonald House.

The success of this tournament not only reflects the generosity of our community but also highlights the importance of coming together to support those in need.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and making even more substantial contributions in the future.

**Gillian Stoddart**  
MAC Inc.



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# The **four faces** of Regency-era properties



**ARCHITEXT**

Brian Marshall  
Columnist



Clockwise from top left: 19th-century Regency Cottage, Regency manor, Regency bungalow, and Regency Tuscan. Columnist Brian Marshall says the marks of Regency architecture can be found across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to speak in various venues about heritage architecture. During these talks, one of the things I've consistently noted is that most people wrestle somewhat with the Regency architectural style — perhaps because the different expressions of this school can, at first glance, appear unrelated.

So, I thought that this week, we might visit Regency through four of its expressions.

Beginning at the start, the Regency style grew out of the 18th-century Romantic philosophical movement, which rejected the prevailing British conservative social mores that promoted rationalism, order and harmony — the values that launched the Industrial Revolution.

Instead, Romantics celebrated individualism, variety, emotion and a profound connection with nature. By 1800, the work of British poets, authors and artists of all stripes were expressing the tenets of the movement.

Indeed, even the Prince of Wales — a man who considered himself “the” authority on matters of style, culture and taste — was committed to Romantic expression.

Despite the fact both the king, and his ministers, considered the prince a ne'er do well as a result of his (let's say) flamboyant lifestyle and spending, in 1811 when Parliament was forced, by the mental and physical afflictions George III suffered, to pass the Regency Act, it was the unpopular Prince of Wales (future George IV) who was appointed regent.

In short order, he commissioned fellow Romantic, the architect John Nash, to design grand projects embodying the principles of the movement.

This decision legitimized and popularized an architectural school that had been slowly evolving during the previous decade.

Now, given that two central tenets of this movement were individualism and variety, the evolving architecture could have splintered with each facet shooting off in completely different directions, however, that did not occur for several reasons.

First amongst which was the requirement that these new designs must have a profound connection with nature, adhering to the picturesque discipline of integrating the architecture within the surrounding landscape.

As a result, the architects' designs appeared to be set closer to the ground while deliberately emphasizing the horizontal lines of the building through the introduction of verandahs, distinct watertables, belt courses and roof lines, which drew the eye out into the landscape.

Particular attention was

paid to the play of light and shadow generated by the sun, existing natural features, new plantings and other elements of the building's design which served to establish a marriage between the architecture and its setting.

Then, second, to be deemed successful within the Romantic playbook, the designs had to evoke a pleasurable natural emotive response — with the key word being “natural” — thus most decoration was subtle and understated.

These designs depended heavily on exacting execution of classic architectural principles (such as proportion and balance) to achieve that pleasing emotive response.

Regency architects drew some inspiration from neoclassical design, but this was leavened with elements from rural Italian (Tuscan), Moorish, Indian and Oriental architecture.

That said, these “exotic” elements were molded, altered and simplified through the filter of accepted and emerging British picturesque parameters.

And, this filter continued to be refined as the Regency style crossed the Atlantic and climatic considerations

in Canada were encompassed.

At this point, let's turn our attention to Upper Canada beginning in the years after the War of 1812.

The earliest Regency homes that appeared after 1814 were one or one-and-half-storey dwellings based on a design that had been inspired by returning military officers' descriptions of the Indian bangla, which early British colonists had modified into modest gentlemen's houses.

Built low to the ground on a square or, not infrequently — in a nod to the then prevalent five-bay Georgian form — a rectangular footprint.

The buildings had low hip roofs, symmetrical facades, tall chimneys and commonly sported verandahs which were often serviced by French doors.

Wildly popular in Upper Canada, these Regency cottages quickly became the most common housing form in the province during the first half of the 18th century.

In 1818, the new Parliament building of Upper Canada was constructed in the Regency style.

This expression offered the opportunity for a larger,

more impressive manor home in this new architectural style for both those who needed additional space and the more affluent in society.

Two storeys tall and sheltered under a hip roof, the footprint was square and gave the building a cubic form.

Generally with three-bay ranked (first and second floor openings placed one directly above the other) facades that were rigidly symmetrical — the bays precisely set to divide the facade into four equal parts with the main entry located exactly at the centre point — these houses presented projecting watertables and belt courses to the street to emphasize the building's horizontal lines.

Some sported verandahs while others had broad staircases leading to the main entry which commonly held side and transom lights in the clean, uncluttered surround.

Window openings were generally larger than those found in Georgians of the period and the chimneys invariably taller.

The next Regency variant eschewed the hip roof returning instead to a typical end-gabled rectangular,

storey-and-a-half Georgian building form.

However, in every other aspect, it displayed Regency styling elements with wrap-around verandahs, stepped down from the roof eave to increase the horizontal lines, typically featured picturesque trellage supports and was serviced by French doors in each opening.

The main entry and its classical clean surround with sidelights and transom light was always centred in the symmetrical facade.

As a gestalt, the presentation was a Romantic garden house and completely in-keeping with Regency design parameters.

For our last example, we arrive at the most picturesque of all the Regency expressions: the Tuscan villa.

Inspired by the rustic Italian farmhouses that were pictured in many of the Romantic paintings of the day, the first and prototypical Tuscan villa was John Nash's own home, built in 1802.

These asymmetrical (the right side of the facade did not match the left side) L-shaped plan designs always featured a dramatic tower with the main entry at its base and were usually sited on relatively small, informally landscaped grounds.

Introduced into Upper Canada in the 1830s, they were a hit amongst the nouveau riche as a display of their newfound wealth.

As time went on, the more classic Tuscan (like ca. 1838 Bellevue in Kingston) with its clear statement of Romantic tenets was gradually transformed by the use of heavier, more ornate elements that would lead to the evolution of the towerless Italianate style.

The Romantic and Regency architecture left a profound mark on the landscape of Upper Canada during the 50 years between 1815 and 1865.

Indeed, it's a mark that is easily found across Niagara and in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Serious concerns about planned hotel's underground parking

Dear editor: I have lived for many years at 184 Queen St., at the corner of Simcoe Street, and I am very concerned about the proposal to build a three-level underground parking lot below the planned hotel at 228 Queen St.

I have a PhD degree in hydrogeology and am especially concerned about the very shallow water table level of about three metres on our property and on adja-

cent properties in the area.

I am convinced the water table will cause considerable difficulties with the excavation of a three-level parking garage because of the inevitability of copious ground water inflow.

Dealing with this could have an excessively high cost, which could cause a situation where the developer tells our council that they cannot build the underground parking.

I rate this as highly likely

and if our council agrees to this then up to 177 guest cars could need daily parking in our already-overcrowded parking lots.

In addition, if the dewatering is not properly managed, it is possible the hotel's foundations or those of nearby buildings could be undermined and risk causing the buildings to collapse.

Recent changes in laws favour easier approval of building plans.

The result is that we, as residents of our uniquely beautiful and historic village, have the responsibility to elect a council that will preserve and not downgrade our village, which is visited by huge numbers of people from all over the world.

Five of eight current council members were in favour of a carte blanche approval for the hotel at 228 Queen St.

Chris Jennings NOTL



A rendering of the hotel proposed for 228 Queen St. FILE

Review official plan before considering Parliament Oak proposal

Dear editor: The process for considering development applications in Niagara-on-the-Lake needs to be more transparent.

Of late, it appears, almost anything goes, regardless of the town's official plan.

The rationale given by town planners is a plethora of the latest buzz words: provincial, regional or municipal policy guidelines; build more homes faster; Bill 185, about cutting more red tape, etc.

The application for a large hotel at 325 King St., the former Parliament Oak school site, is a good example.

My husband, Peter Howe, sent a memo to council and the planning department in



A rendering of the proposed Parliament Oak hotel. FILE

April 2023 questioning the completeness of the application and whether it was appropriate to address it as an official plan amendment.

Due to the gravity of what was being proposed and based on his understanding of the Planning Act, Peter

suggested that it should be part of a complete official plan review as required by the Planning Act every five to 10 years.

This question was met with silence, not even the courtesy of an acknowledgement.

As a matter of interest his analysis is attached to the public comments that form part of the current staff recommendation report.

Furthermore, the many comments and concerns voiced by residents (found in the public comment section of the same staff report) also appear to have been completely ignored.

So, was the "fix" already in last April and the application just bumped along through the process to pop out like a Jack-in-the-Box now?

This raises for us the question of how our planning department receives applications, processes them and responds to substantial concerns from the community.

Apart from regional and provincial guidelines, what criteria in addition to the town's official plan do our planners consider?

And who is providing that guidance? Is it the acting CAO, the lord mayor, the deputy lord mayor or other advisers? Who holds the pen?

This staff recommendation reads as though it was written by the developer and appears to completely ignore all feedback from residents.

So, what is the answer here? Just capitulate to every developer's ask or strategically pick your battles?

Rezoning scarce institutional community space to commercial in the heart of

a residential district is not right.

Isn't this worthy of investing dollars to fight? We can't create more of this category of land for our growing town once it's gone.

By the time you read this, the decision as to next steps will have been made.

I hope that our council "hears" the community and sends this back to the planning department, before the June 25 council meeting, with a recommendation to return it to the developer as not approved.

This official plan amendment "ask" is such an overreach that it should only be considered in the context of the next official plan review.

Judy McLeod NOTL

Hummel hotel is simply out of place The decline of NOTL continues

Dear editor: I agree with the viewpoint of columnist Brian Marshall that some towns listen to their residents and some do not, (The Lake Report, column, June 6).

The subject is developer Rainer Hummel's proposed hotel at 228 Queen St.

What an utterly ridiculous proposal this is.

Without question the hotel is no more a fit with the surrounding area than the Solmar proposal for a hotel at Randwood that has since been withdrawn temporarily due to local

opposition and its inappropriate design.

Instead, it is simply a way to benefit Mr. Hummel and his pocketbook at the expense of the residents who may have to live with this inappropriate project and design.

In the artist's concept, it appears no effort whatsoever has been made to assimilate with the historical district or to the heritage character of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is simply out of place.

This seems to me to be a shameful beginning of the

end of NOTL as a historical and heritage destination.

I certainly hope I am wrong in my opinion.

However, for this we can thank the developer, the elected council whose fundamental responsibility is to represent the residents of NOTL, and those unelected staff members who are all responsible for approval of the application.

The competence and judgment of some of those mentioned is, in my opinion, highly questionable.

Derek Collins NOTL

Dear editor: With the ever-increasing approvals of multi-storey condo buildings, high-rise hotels, Dairy Queen, the Tour de France every weekend on our roads and residential streets, overtourism etc., is it any surprise that Niagara-on-the-Lake did not make the list of "The 5 best places to retire in Ontario," as published by insidermonkey.com?

We cannot unring the bell on these development decisions.

The culture of our town continues to be eroded



with each passing council as they continue to march to their own drummer and repeatedly ignore their constituents' concerns and aspirations.

Subsequently residents

are stuck with these eyesore, ill-advised structures in perpetuity in our heritage district.

Sadly, NOTL is now viewed by our tourists as merely a day tripper's bucket list destination: Spend an hour or so, walk around, buy an ice cream and leave.

Our elected officials and other tourism-related parties should take note. NOTL is on a very measurable decline in the eyes of the outside world.

Samuel Young NOTL

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## Councillors must represent **community's** interests

Dear editor:  
Land developers buy properties for which they hope to be able to increase the intensity of use in order to increase the land's financial value and therefore be profitable for their companies.

After the developments are built and sold, they take their profits and repeat the process. That's their business plan.

The lasting effects their



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

developments have on the community are never considered.

Town councillors are elected by the residents and other property owners to be their voice and to represent their best interests.

Recent decisions made by the majority of Niagara-on-the-Lake's councillors to change residentially zoned lands into tourist commercial zonings suggests the developers' best interests are more important to them than those of the community and its residents.

The latest approvals are being given to two new hotels, which simply left the developers with higher land values and less housing for our residents.

I think we deserve an explanation from councillors who voted in favour of the developments and obviously against the wishes of the community of the Old Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Wayne Murray**  
NOTL

## Hotel plan would **dominate and transform** community

Dear editor:  
I am appalled and beyond disappointed that our town representatives could conceive, in their wildest nightmares, of the proposed hotel at Queen and Mississauga streets.

This drastically enormous modern design is testament to the unreasonable greed of developers in their efforts to entice insane numbers of tourists to our "pretty,

village-type surroundings."

This travesty will completely dominate, transform and destroy any such pretty surroundings, along with the lives of residents.

The attraction of Niagara-on-the-Lake has always been its beautiful homes on tree-lined streets. Surely these massive structures in these locations are killing the main reason for its attraction.

Why on earth do we have an official plan if the people in our planning department can change it whenever they feel the slightest pressure or influence?

Why must they bow to these pressures on both our main streets, King and Queen, and not come up with more suitable answers themselves.

We desperately need an emergency care facility in

an area highly populated by retirees. Where are the planners when real planning is required?

I had thought myself too old to be on a rant to the paper but in the face of such duplicity and lack of backbone from our town representatives, I despair.

I had to add my voice to those of other residents.


**Ann Handels**  
NOTL

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# Four more kilometres of **heritage trail** will soon be finished



Tony Chisholm  
Special to The Lake Report

The Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee was established in 2017 to develop the old rail line in Niagara-on-the-Lake into a finished multi-use trail for active use and enjoyment by the public — and to boost awareness of its historical significance.

The trail in NOTL follows the historic rail line of the old, later the Michigan Central Railroad, which provided a connection for steamship passengers coming from Toronto to Niagara Falls, Buffalo and beyond for nearly 100 years.

This rail connection was a key part of 19th-century tourism that connected tourists arriving in town to other parts of Niagara and Buffalo. Rail service was discontinued in the late 1950s and the railway's land



Work on phase two of the heritage trail began in November 2023 and should be completed up to Line 3 Road later this year. TONY CHISHOLM

is now owned by the Town of NOTL.

The trail's accessibility and prominence had been compromised by years of disrepair, overgrowth of foliage and erosion.

The restored multi-use trail will encourage eco-tourism for hiking, cycling, jogging, dog walking etc. The plan is to eventually connect Old Town and St. Davids and hook up to the Bruce Trail.

The enthusiasm for this project has exceeded our expectations. The interest in local historical and heritage items has increased over the years and the history of the railway that followed the path of the trail is no exception.

The efforts by the volunteer committee have succeeded in raising nearly \$200,000 to date for the first two phases of the trail's restoration.

More than 140 local people have donated in the past few years. As well, area businesses and organizations have been very generous.

There is a very broad interest in this project. With the help of the town, the volunteer committee has secured grants from provincial and federal sources.

One \$60,000 government grant has enabled us to start the reconstruction of

phase 2 from East and West Line to line 3.

To date the committee has been able to erect four large trail entrance signs and improve three entrances with armour stone and plantings.

As well, six permanent interpretive signs have been installed thanks to the generosity of the Goettler Family Foundation.

These informative signs were written by well-known Niagara naturalist Owen Bjorgan and help enhance the experience of those who use the trail.

To construct a proper trail along the 10 kilometres of the former railroad right of way, the plan is to do it in four phases.

Phase 2 is due to be completed this year.

The trail will be continued south from East and West Line along the east side of Concession 1. The portion to Line 1 is partially completed already and the plan is to finish the trail all the way to Line 3 by the end of the year.

That represents nearly four kilometres of the trail completely restored by the end of this year.

Everything about this

project has been positive. The completed trail so far has drawn a large and positive reaction.

Many more people now use and appreciate the value of having a finished multi-use trail so close to town.

How much safer will it be it to provide a wide, finished pathway that would get hikers and cyclists off dangerous Concession 1, while at the same time connecting old town with St. Davids and the Bruce Trail?

Continuing our fundraising activities this year we are planning a dog walk called "Paws on the Trail" on Sept. 7.

We'd like to see all the town's dogs come out with their owners to have fun, walk the trail and help our fundraising efforts.

There are still many challenges to come and more fundraising to undertake for Phase 3. We are very appreciative of the community support and support of town council and staff.

For more information, check out the trail's website at [heritagetrail.ca](http://heritagetrail.ca).

*Tony Chisholm is vice-chair of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee.*

## Opportunity to Join Board of Directors at Tourism Niagara

### About the Organization

Tourism Partnership Niagara (TPN/ RTO2) is currently recruiting for two Niagara-on-the-Lake members to join the organization's Board of Directors. TPN is responsible for marketing the Niagara Region as a world-class, four-season travel destination to domestic and international markets. TPN's role is to increase awareness and effectively present Niagara, while influencing consumers at the intent and consideration phase of the path to purchase. TPN plays a leadership role in the Niagara Tourism and Hospitality apparatus that helps shape the Niagara narrative to attract business and leisure consumers to Niagara. TPN's vision is for the Niagara Region to be the #1 tourism destination in Canada that people want to visit again and again.

### About the Role

The Board of Directors of the Tourism Partnership of Niagara (TPN) acts as the organization's highest level of decision-making and holds the ultimate authority over the legal entity of the organization and its well-being. Directors are appointed to the board and oversee the management of the corporation (e.g., through governance training, board meetings, annual general meetings, selection/retention/succession planning, reviewing, and updating by-laws). Directors must have the required skills, knowledge, experience, capabilities, and behavioural competencies to enable the TPN to meet its objectives. The Board of Directors consists of individuals, recruited by TPN, from across the Niagara Region acting together, in the best interest of the organization, to set its vision and oversee its governance and fiduciary responsibilities. The Board of Directors sets long term policy and direction for the organization.

### About You

Along with ties to the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, the candidate should have familiarity and working knowledge of the tourism products offered, such as: Accommodations, Attractions, Arts/ Culture/ Heritage, Culinary, Wineries and Craft Beverages, Education/ Academic, Festivals, Events, Meetings & Conventions, Travel Trade, Indigenous/ First Nations, Retail, Sport, Transportation, Tourism Industry Suppliers and Associations. The following skills and experience will be considered an asset: Board Governance, Finance, Marketing/ Public Relations, and Strategic Planning.

**Interested candidates should submit interest via cover letter and CV to [office@visitniagaracanada.com](mailto:office@visitniagaracanada.com) by June 21, 2024.**

The Tourism Partnership of Niagara  
5741 River Road  
Niagara Falls, ON  
L2G 3K9







### Leon's VIP Sale Event!

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Leon's will be hosting a **FREE BBQ** for the general public June 20 and 21!

Customers can stop by for free hotdogs, free refreshments, free popcorn and coffee. Live music, inflatable games for the kids, enter to win free contests and free pillows with any purchase, valued at \$99. Kando Pools will be on location offering great promotions on hot tubs and pools! Giant FM will be live on location on Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. with free contests and giveaways. **Sales throughout the entire store and 0% financing available on OAC.** You won't want to miss this event!

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## Concert recalls Canada's D-Day sacrifices

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

D-Day has been called the greatest land invasion ever, the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

On June 6, 1944, some 156,000 Allied troops landed on a strung-out 150-kilometre front along the Normandy coast of northern France.

The 14,000 Canadian troops landed near the eastern-most flank on a deserted, wind-swept beach, code named Juno.

Thousands didn't return home.

To commemorate the sacrifice, St. Mark's Anglican Church and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124, collaborated last week, presenting a musical tribute to Canada's D-Day heroes, 80 years on.

Michael Bloss, the new interim music director for St. Mark's, accompanied Melissa-Marie Shriner, well-known Niagara soloist, presenting timeless music



Soloist Melissa-Marie Shriner and Michael Bloss, interim music director at St. Mark's Anglican Church, perform a musical tribute to Canada's D-Day heroes, on the 80th anniversary of the historic invasion. TIM TAYLOR

from the 1940s, works made famous by Vera Lynn, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and more.

St. Mark's parishioner and former actor, Jamie Mainprize, and Al Howse, president of the local Legion, presented poignant readings in tribute to Canada's D-Day participation.

As a musical welcome for the concert audience, Bernadette Secco, NOTL's ac-

complished chimer, played music from the 1940s on the historic 19 bells in St. Mark's belfry.

Secco will once again be performing bell concerts on the Sundays of the three summer long weekends.

"It's a beautiful place to sing," said Shriner. "The acoustics here are wonderful. You barely need to make a peep and you sound very full."

Shriner undertook an extensive search of wartime songs and other songs from the era.

"In the end, I chose a number of songs that are already part of my repertoire — songs that I use regularly around the region."

A graduate of the Brock University music program, Shriner, performs in recitals and solo shows throughout southwestern Ontario.

Shriner, who performed at last year's Cherry Festival, operates a private music studio and teaches voice and contemporary piano.

Bloss comes to St. Mark's after tenures at Christ Church Cathedral in Hamilton, the Cathedral Church of St. James and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto. He also serves as a captain with Cargo Jet Airlines.

"I was very touched by the whole thing," said Greg Walker, a member of the St. Mark's concert committee. "The music and the narration were very moving."



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Books at the Barn was a popular destination for book lovers last year. SHARON FRAYNE

## Books at the Barn returns to showcase NOTL authors

Paul Masson  
Special to The Lake Report

Once again the Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers' Circle will provide an opportunity to meet with local authors on the day of the St. Andrew's Strawberry Festival.

I will host a book fair in front of my red barn at 322 Simcoe St., across from the church, on Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year, eight local authors will be in attendance, their works spanning a number of genres and subjects.

Sally Basmajian will be on hand to talk about her latest works, a psychological thriller entitled "Fountain of Evil" and "Apprentices in Magic," a middle-grade (for kids 9 to 14) tale of wizardry.

Terry Belleville is the author of "Raising the Bar," in which a young couple struggle to restore a ramshackle country pub in Australia in the 1930s; a collection of nine short stories, "Matters of Kindness;" a romantic comedy entitled "The printer, the actress, and the cat she couldn't mention;" and "Things That Happened Or Might Have," a collection of 15 short stories, many of them true.

Sharon Frayne has recently published a prize-winning young adults novel, "The Sound of a Rainbow." She is also the author of "Caught Between the Walls," a ghostly tale of the old Niagara Courthouse and

Gaol.

Sarie Marais is the author of a memoir, entitled "Roodborstje."

Diane Martin has created the "Medallion Mysteries" series featuring her four children. The chapter books are for ages 7 to 12. The first book, "When Time Stands Still," will be available at the book fair and "Missing Pieces" (book two) will be coming soon.

Paul Masson will have copies of the mystery novels in the series, "The ABC Files." These include the latest, "Memories of Evil," in which long-ago events haunt the lives of several of the characters, with tragic results.

Kathryn Recourt, who writes stories for children ages 3 to 8, will have available all three books in her Sir Archibald Droolsalot series, including the latest, "Puppy Dog Blues."

Richard West is the author of a series of fantasy novels ("Lightning People: Discovered," "Lightning People: Entangled" and "The Hive Revealed") and a collection of short stories based on Second World War experiences ("Recollections of War").

Our group of authors will be easily spotted beneath a Writers' Circle banner affixed to the barn.

We are looking forward to chatting with actual or potential readers of our works and, if desired, penning personal dedications on their title pages.

## D-Day flag raised in special ceremony

Paul Dolby, Al Howse and Stan Harrington of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124 helped raise a special Canadian flag at the clock tower cenotaph last Thursday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The Legion fundraised and obtained the flag from the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, in northern France, where it had flown. On June 6, 1944, Canadian soldiers stormed ashore at Juno Beach in the historic invasion that turned the tide of the Second World War. RICHARD WRIGHT



### NOTICE OF A HEARING

**Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied for a new certificate of public convenience and necessity for the City of Niagara Falls**

**Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) is asking the OEB for:**

- **An order cancelling and superseding parts of Enbridge Gas's existing certificate of public convenience and necessity (certificate) related to the former municipalities that formed the City of Niagara Falls and replacing it with a new certificate to construct works to supply natural gas in the current City of Niagara Falls.** The new certificate is needed to address municipal boundary changes associated with past municipal amalgamations and annexations.

#### YOU SHOULD KNOW

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING**

There are three types of OEB Hearings: oral, electronic and written. If you have a preference for the type of hearing, you can write to us to explain why. During this hearing, we will question the applicant about its application. We will also hear questions and arguments from participants that have registered as Intervenors. After reviewing all the evidence, we will decide whether to approve this application.

#### HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information about this application and to participate in the process. Visit [www.oeb.ca/participate](http://www.oeb.ca/participate) and use file number **EB-2024-0175** to:

- Review the application
- Apply to become an intervenor
- File a letter with your comments

#### IMPORTANT DATES

You must engage with the OEB on or before **June 24, 2024** to:

- Provide input on the hearing type (oral, electronic or written)
- Apply to be an intervenor

If you do not, the hearing will move forward without you, and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

#### PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. If you are a business or if you apply to become an intervenor, all the information you file will be on the OEB website.

#### LEARN MORE

**Ontario Energy Board**  
 ■/TTY: 1 877-632-2727  
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 ● [oeb.ca/participate](http://oeb.ca/participate)

**Enbridge Gas Inc.**  
 ■ 1 866-763-5427  
 ● Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
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This hearing will be held under section 8 of the **Municipal Franchises Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.55.  
 Ce document est aussi disponible en français.



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# 'My Fair Lady' makes triumphant return to Shaw stage

## MY FAIR LADY ★★★★

At the Shaw Festival Theatre. Three hours, with one intermission. Co-directors: Tim Carroll, Kimberley Rampersad. Lyrics: Alan Jay Lerner. Music: Frederick Loewe. Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion." On till Dec. 22.

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

For the nay-sayers who lamented, "Please, not another 'My Fair Lady,'" rest assured, the performances and presentation of this musical comedy are stellar, with a depth of social issues still relevant today.

The moment the curtain rose to the soaring music score played with strength and polish by the Shaw orchestra there was a palpable emotional reaction in the audience.

Lips moved to words well-known, audible hums murmured along. For many, it was the third and fourth time seeing "My Fair Lady" and they were back for more. They would not be disappointed.

On stage, the action begins with market sellers and toffs leaving the opera House seeking shelter from the rain in the portico of St. Paul's Covent Garden.

Henry Higgins, a scholar of phonetics, is taking notes of the Cockney slang, yowls



Kristi Frank as Eliza Doolittle with, from left, Gryphyn Karimloo, Allan Louis, Graeme Kitagawa, J.J. Gerber and members of the cast in Lerner and Loewe's "My Fair Lady." The show is on now at the Shaw Festival. DAVID COOPER

and mangled vowels of a flower seller, Eliza Doolittle.

A happenstance meeting with a fellow linguist leads to a bet that Higgins will, in six months, turn Eliza from a "guttersnipe" to a duchess speaking "proper English." This will be a clash of two egos.

Kristi Frank triumphs as Eliza Doolittle in a strong, convincing performance of will, determination and sensitivity in her transition from the market to upper-class scrutiny at Ascot and the Embassy Ball.

It is pure pleasure to see Frank hold her own in voice and acting in a role so identified with Julie Andrews, Audrey Hepburn and Marni Nixon.

Tom Rooney, as Henry Higgins, is up against Rex Harrison's famed petulant Higgins of stage and screen. He succeeds with a tighter, controlled and nuanced interpretation.

His criticisms of Eliza are no less whiplash stinging, misogynist, bullying and belittling, but out of his mama's boy selfish entitlement, Rooney draws a dawning tenderness of need and understanding of self.

Sharry Flett is sublime as the refined, long-suffering mother of the indulged, exasperating, ill-mannered Higgins.

She loses her friends whenever he appears. Flett's pacing, pauses and believ-

ability brought the greatest appreciative laughs from the audience.

David Adams as Eliza's father is a dynamic, fast-talking Alfred P. Doolittle, who accepts and is happy with his lot in life as a dustman able to share a few pints with his friends.

He is not happy to be catapulted into money, morals and the middle class by an unexpected inheritance due to his gift of the Welsh gab.

As Freddy Eynsford-Hill, Taurian Teelucksingh has looks, voice and appeal as the besotted pursuer of Eliza. Will he succeed in winning her?

The role of Zoltan Karpathy, Hungarian translator

and accent sleuth at European royal courts, is presented as a bushy-bearded buffoon rather than as a suave sophisticate.

He will be the one to determine if Eliza is a fraud. Unfortunately, we cannot understand his accent or his garbled words.

Crystal chandeliers and the glitter of gowns are the backdrop to the Ball scene. Eliza dazzles in a splendid chiffon-over-satin gown true to 1912 style.

Her trim, fitted skirt suit at Ascot echoes one worn by Rose in the film of the ill-fated Titanic. But where were the broad-brimmed hats with ostrich feathers expected at Ascot?

The contemporary sculp-

tural hats were provoking but immediately recalled Princess Beatrice's scandalously controversial Philip Treacy fascinator worn at the royal wedding in 2011. Intentional?

The exuberance, the charm, the delightful Cockney Quartet, all entertain.

But what lay beneath Shaw's Pygmalion was his socialism and his recognition of the strongly held traditions in England of class hierarchy meant to exclude, rampant speech discrimination, economic inequality, male power vs. the rights of women and the consequences of gender and societal change from the Great War to his death in 1950.

These issues continue. Will Eliza find love with Higgins or Freddy? She knows Higgins will not change. She will always be fetching the slippers.

She is grateful to him but it is Colonel Pickering, the counterfoil to Higgins, who has given her self-esteem, independence and strength because he has always treated her with kindness as a lady. Shaw was adamant who she would choose.

In the words of Alfred P. Doolittle, "I'm willing, I'm wanting and I'm waiting to tell you ..." get yourself to this "My Fair Lady."

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

# Young stars lead the way as Music Niagara's season opens

Staff  
The Lake Report

As they often say, it's the youth that will lead the way to tomorrow — and that happens to be the case for Music Niagara's 26th season.

The organization's annual Summer Festival will kick off with the Young Virtuoso and Choral Festival Series, running from Sunday, June 16 to Friday, July 5.

Five chamber choirs from a diverse array of backgrounds, all comprised of young singers, will perform at venues across Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Opening up the season



The Oakville Choir for Children & Youth will kick off Music Niagara's 26th season with a free performance at Ironwood Cider House on June 16. SOURCED

will be the Oakville Choir for Children & Youth, who will give a free performance at the Ironwood Cider House on June 16 at 4 p.m.

This choir, made up of seven ensembles for individuals aged 4 to 20, is known for its exceptional music education

and encouraging leadership and community engagement among young singers.

Next, hailing from coastal California, the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco will perform at 7 p.m. on June 25 at St. Mark's Church.

This choir was founded in 2012 and was praised by the American Record Guide for its "refined and beautifully controlled singing." It's earned accolades such as the American Prize in Choral Performance and the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

The following day, June 26, the festival is back at the Ironwood Cider House for another afternoon performance, this time from Philippine Madrigal Singers, at 4 p.m.

Joining Music Niagara from the University of the Philippines, the group was founded in 1963 and has been recognized by UNES-

CO as Artists for Peace, for their efforts in promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace.

The festival will be back at the St. Mark's Church on June 30 with an afternoon performance from Yip's Ensembles and the Canadian Youth Chinese Orchestra at 4 p.m.

This concert will talk its audience through diverse musical genres, from classical to contemporary and folk traditions, celebrating musical diversity and collaboration.

Finally, on July 5, for the final performance in the Young Virtuoso and

Choral Festival Series, the Monaco Boys Choir will be at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, for a performance at 7 p.m.

This ensemble has a rich heritage dating back to its foundation in 1974 and boasts a prestigious presence as part of the Monaco Cathedral Choir. This group has become a global ambassador of Monaco's cultural and performing arts tradition.

For more information about each performance, and to purchase tickets for these and other Music Niagara concerts this season, visit musicniagara.org/concerts-2.

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# Museum lecture explores the Wilderness

Staff  
The Lake Report

The property at 407 King St. known as the Wilderness has been in existence for more than 200 years and represents the intersection of this land's Indigenous population, its military and political history and the natural world surrounding the home.

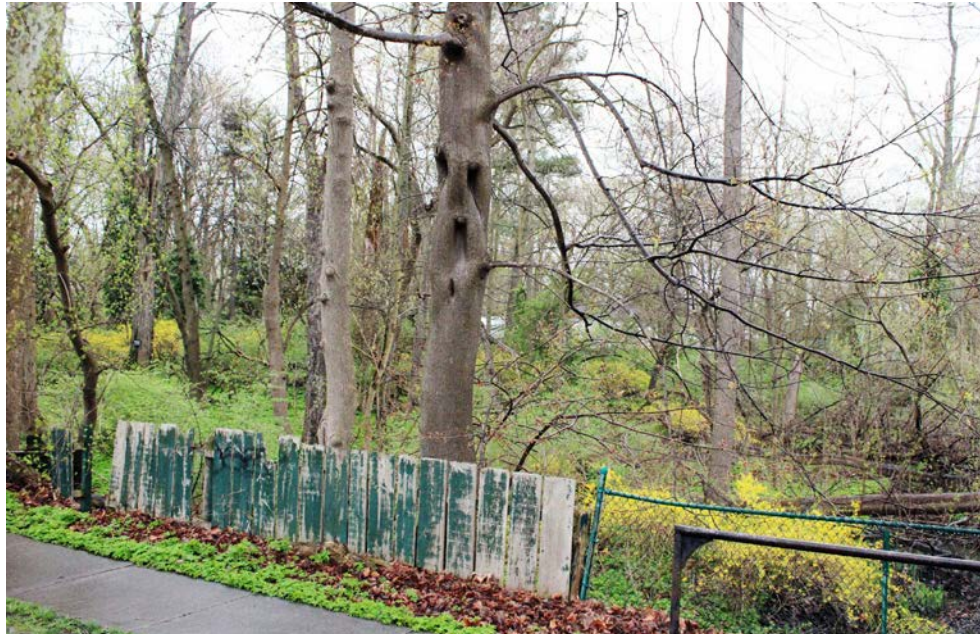
The Wilderness is the subject of an upcoming lecture at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum on Thursday, June 20, by Richard Merritt.

The museum's current exhibition, "The Prettiest Town: Beyond the Bricks & Mortar," highlights the history of some of the community's historic homes, and the stories of the people who have lived on these properties.

As part of its lecture series this year, three of its monthly presentations will focus on important historical properties and houses in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Partially hidden behind its overgrown, deteriorating streetscapes, on both King and Regent streets in Old Town, lies an almost five-acre parcel of land known for more than a century as the Wilderness.

The property was originally built 1799 and presented to Ann Johnson Claus by the chiefs of the



The Wilderness, located at 407 King St. in Old Town, will be the subject of a Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum lecture on June 20, led by Richard Merritt. FILE/RICHARD HUTTON

Six Nations, or Haudenosaunee, in gratitude for her family's "many kindnesses" toward them.

After the property was destroyed during the War of 1812 by American troops, it was rebuilt in 1816 by Ann's son, William Claus, who inherited the property and his wife, Catherine.

"The property is unique for its natural, Indigenous, military, political, architectural and horticultural history," Merritt said in a media release.

In April, The Lake Report reported that the Niagara Foundation has become the owner of the entire property after years

of negotiations and legal proceedings.

The foundation received a half-interest through the will of Ruth Parker, one of three sisters who owned the property.

Parker died in 2013 and her will stipulated that the heritage elements of the Wilderness be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the public.

In his lecture, Merritt will share the historical saga of this remnant of the town's natural and built heritage, including its various owners and residents over the years.

A retired ophthalmologist with a lifelong passion for Niagara's history, Merritt

has authored several books on the subject and was the president of the Niagara Historical Society, Friends of Fort George and the Niagara Foundation.

The Niagara Foundation named him a "living landmark" for his documentation and preservation of Niagara's heritage.

The museum says the talk will conclude with an important update on the status of this property.

"The Wilderness: Worth Preserving" will start at 7:30 p.m. at the museum, at 43 Castlereagh St.

For more information, visit [notlmuseum.ca/whats-on](http://notlmuseum.ca/whats-on).



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: 4-LETTER WORLD CITIES

**Tradition says this city was founded in 753 B.C., but it wasn't built in a day.**

Last issue:

Category: MYTHOLOGY

Clue: Come sail away on this Greek river of myth whose name means "hateful."

Answer: What is Styx?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Larry Mantle, Claudia Grimwood, Lynda Collet, Graham Staz, Kaitlyn Irving, Susan Dewar, Paula Lepp, Wade Durling, Sheri Durksen, Jim Dandy, Bob Wheatley, Catherine Clarke, Kathy Humphries, Esther VanGorder, Ashley Short, Sheila Meloche, Tuija Johansson, Elaine Landray, Marla Percy, Elizabeth Oliver-Malone, Daniel Smith, Sue Rautenberg

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

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

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## Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

# Eagles fly in men's weekly golf league

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Jared Mines led the way in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's weekly men's league last Thursday, firing a 2-under 34 to win low gross and accumulating 24 Stableford points to win that category, too.

Big shooters swooped in to grab several skins by scoring eagles on the two par 5s.

Reigning men's open champion James Grigjanis-Meusel's eagle-3 on the third hole won him both a gross skin and a net skin, while Wil Neufeld notched his own eagle-3 on the long par-5 fifth hole.

Jim Rye scooped a gross skin with a birdie on #9.

Other net skins (all net eagles) went to: Drew Porter (#1), Max Horning (#2), Michael Sanders (#7) and Tom Elltoft (#8).

Doug Dineley was closest to the 150 marker (#1), Neil Robinson sank the longest putt on #2, Grigjanis-Meusel bombed the longest drive on #3 en route to his eagle, while Warren Tutton (#4) and Rye (#9) were



NOTL Golf Club's reigning men's open champion James Grigjanis-Meusel won two skins with his eagle-3 on the par-5 third hole in men's league last week. FILE/KEVIN MACLEAN

closest to the pin on the par-3 holes.

In Tuesday's WOOFs league, Jim McMacken was tops with a 1-over 37. Low net was Al Kavanagh, with 34. Jon Schmidt's birdie on #2 won the hidden hole and Norm Kerr was closest to the pin on #4, and also had a birdie.

Lyn Sanders shot 45 in the women's nine-hole league on Tuesday morning to win low gross honours.

Next were Cathy Saytar and Penny Green (46), and Deborah Williams and Judy Wright (48).

Williams also was closest to the 150 marker on #1, while Sally Miller won a draw for a lesson with the pro.

In last week's competition, Linda Williams won closest to the pin on #4.

The 18-hole women's league played a hidden holes contest last week.

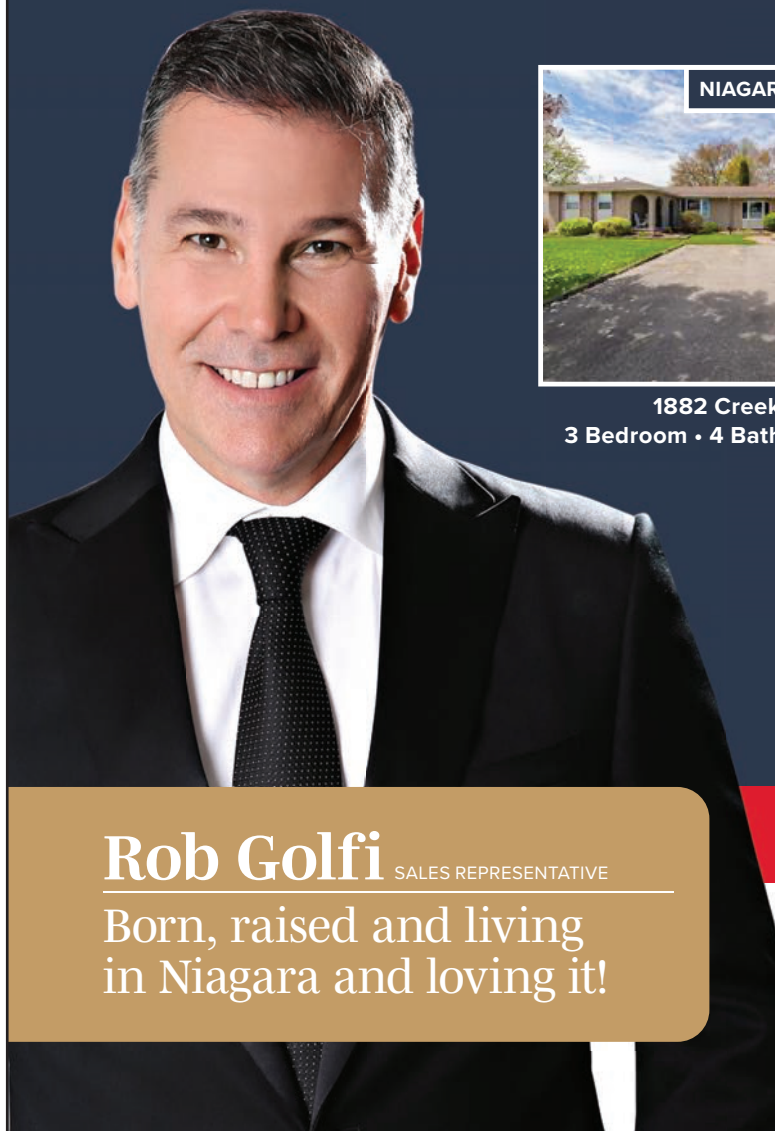
When their scores on holes 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 18 were counted, Margot Richardson had the best nine-hole total with 35.

Three women were tied for second at 36: Gayle Tanner, Brenda Bell and Chris Earl.

Cathy Murray had the fewest putts, needing just 27 over 18 holes. Tied for second were May Chang, Marie Ellison and Richardson, each with 32 putts.

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You can't win them all. The Niagara Clippers suffered a rare loss Sunday in their annual cricket match. RICHARD WRIGHT

# Vineland Lions **tame** Niagara Clippers in annual migrant workers cricket game

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

For only the third time in the last 20 years, the Vineland Lions defeated the Niagara Clippers in the annual migrant workers' cricket game on June 9 in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The end result was a 158-114 decision for the Lions, but despite the surprising loss for the home side, the main goal was still achieved, say local participants, organizers and civic leaders — which was community bonding.

Even rain delays didn't put a damper on the fun.

"This is a game that brings the community together," said NOTL coach Elisha Prophet Steele. "It is really nice when all the people come out to watch the game. We get a lot of support, sometimes over 500 spectators."

The crowd numbers didn't reach 500 this time, likely due to the weather, but it still was a big draw, with a bus load of fans arriving just before the first pitch.

A number of sponsors' event tents lined the perimeter of the field and there was food, refreshments and lots of Caribbean music all throughout.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa was among the members of the crowd, offering opening words and taking in the game from the sidelines.

"This is something that is really celebrating our diversity and our temporary workers who come here and enjoy this country and work really hard for us," he said.

"It is a good chance for them to relax a little bit from a really tough job.



Niagara Clippers coach Elisha Prophet Steele, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and MPP Wayne Gates at the annual migrant workers' cricket match. RICHARD WRIGHT

And it is a good time for Niagara-on-the-Lakers to get a sense of other cultures and maybe learn something about another sport."

One man who doesn't need a lesson on the sport is Aziz Anjum.

The St. Catharines businessman, who owns Pop-eyes Louisiana Chicken and Baskin Robbins franchises in the Garden City, has been an avid supporter of this cricket tournament over the years.

He provides almost everything the players on both sides need, from the food, ice cream, uniforms and equipment to an actual jute (the mound-like surface that pitchers and batsmen stand on).

"It is a love of cricket," said the Pakistani national. "I do this from the heart. I love cricket. I heard about this program and I have been doing it for the past 10 years now."

He has other motives for his support as well.

"These guys, they are our guests," he said, referring to the migrant workers. "So we have to take care of them."

Others obviously agree.

Phil's Your Independent Grocer and Bikes for Farmworkers in Virgil, along with Gateway Community Church and Bethany Mennonite Church, all stepped forward to be major sponsors.

Nancy Howse-King is a former board member of the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program — the non-profit that helps organize the game annually — and has an opposing view to the lord mayor and Steele on how the game should be received by the community.

It isn't so much a time to concentrate on diversity or even bringing people together, she said.

Rather, she added, it should simply be all about the players and bringing enjoyment to them.

"I think it is more for their pleasure and fun. I don't

think it is solving a problem. I think it is what (the players) love the most and they want to have a friendly competition and Vineland offers that for them."

The match, she added, should be treated like any normal Canadian sporting event.

"You know, you go to the event, you look for your fans and you put on your best show."

Indeed it was well-received by everyone who took part or came to watch.

"This brings the love in the community," said Steele. "We love what's going on around here."

As for his team's inability to maintain its dominance over Vineland, Steele offered a well-meaning jab in response.

"For winning for so many years, I will say that I am no way offended by them for winning that game," he said.

"If we win every year, they will not come back." [wright@niagaranow.com](mailto:wright@niagaranow.com)



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## Free lettuce draws big crowds

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

Sometimes you gotta give a little to get a little.

Front Step Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake took that adage to heart last Friday, while testing its business acumen at the same time, by offering free food to residents in exchange for a pitch on the farm's products and practices.

"FREE LETTUCE ALERT!" exclaimed a morning Facebook post.

"Come visit Front Step Farms today, Friday, June 7, from noon to 4 p.m. Learn more about what we do on our farm and take home some fresh delicious lettuce."

An intermittent downpour did put a damper on the door-crasher offer, but farm owner Mike Watson said there still were many who risked the rain.

"Lots of people came in," he said, noting that the same deal was offered a few weeks ago for a selection of



Front Step Farms' Emily Taylor shows off some of the fresh produce the farm has been giving away to NOTL residents. RICHARD WRIGHT

the farm's strawberries.

"It was great because they were people we had never seen before and didn't know who we were."

And that was Watson and crew's basic intention for offering the deal.

"Traffic on this road (Line 1 in Virgil) is not all that huge and having more people know us is the goal," he said, wrapping up his reasoning with a terrific piece of advice for any business person.

"There are two most important things on Earth: time and attention," he said.

"If you don't get someone's attention you're not necessarily going to get their time. And if you get their time and you waste it, you're not getting their attention."

Front Step Farms grows fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices and even offers expertise on preserving and canning goods.

## Four upscale NOTL hotels on Tripadvisor's Top 25 list

Staff  
The Lake Report

Four hotels in Niagara-on-the-Lake, more than almost any other community in the country, earned spots on Tripadvisor's list of the Top 25 Best Hotels in Canada.

Vancouver led the way with five hotels in the top 25 and Vancouver Island also had four on the list. Only three Toronto hotels made the list, including the Shangri-La at #20.

White Oaks Resort was ranked 12th overall and three properties operated by Vintage Hotels — the Harbour House (#21), Queen's Landing (#23) and the Pillar and Post (#25) — made the prestigious list.

The rankings, part of the 2024 Traveller's Choice Awards, recognize hotel properties' for exceptional service, luxurious accommodations and commitment to guest satisfaction.



The Pillar and Post's Monet-inspired garden was lauded.

White Oaks moved up from #20 in last year's rankings, when it was the only NOTL hotel on the list.

Lais Hotel Properties Limited, which operates the Vintage brand, noted in a statement that the Harbour House is "lauded for its intimate and welcoming ambiance, coupled with exceptional personalized service" and Queen's Landing is famous for its Georgian architecture, "renowned art collection and scenic waterfront setting."

And the Pillar and Post "consistently captivates

guests with its historic charm, expansive Monet-inspired Gardens, year-round heated pool and highly regarded spa facilities."

Lais CEO Bob Jackson said he was proud of the achievement.

"We are incredibly honoured to have three of our properties recognized among the best hotels in Canada," he said, calling it a "testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, who consistently strive to provide our guests with unforgettable experiences."

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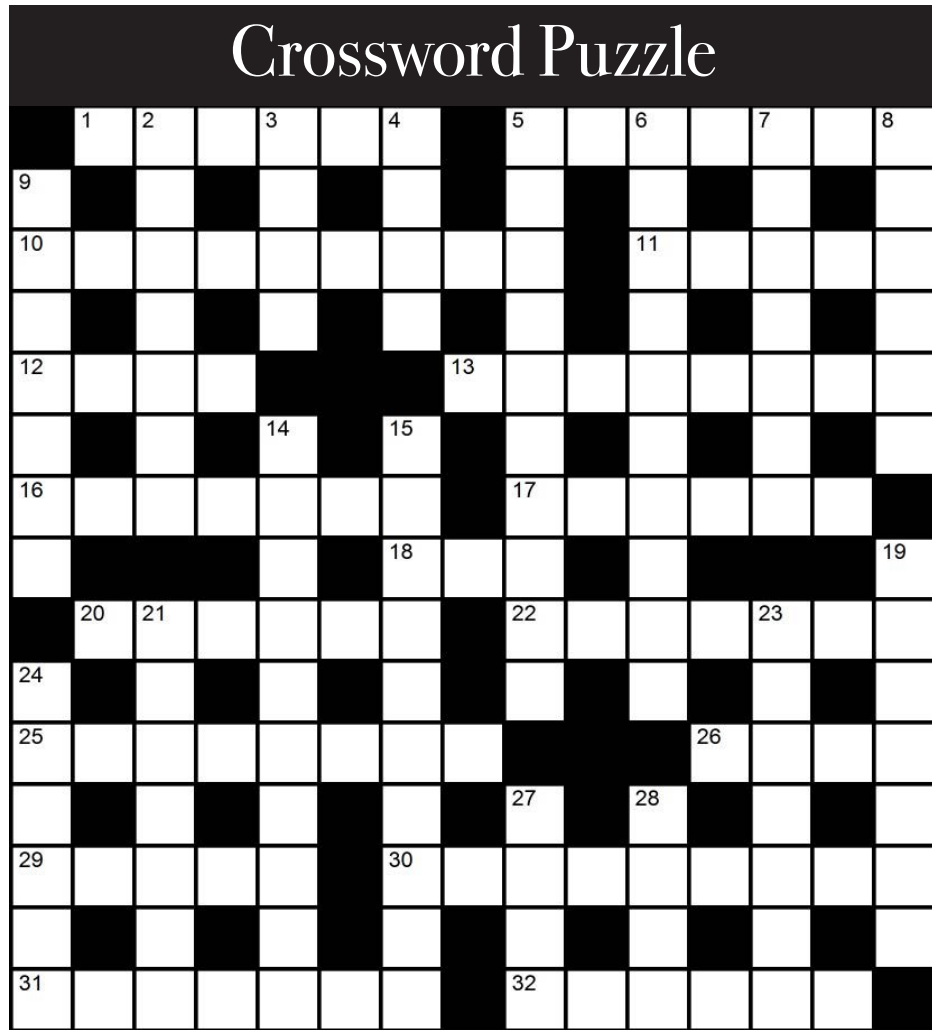


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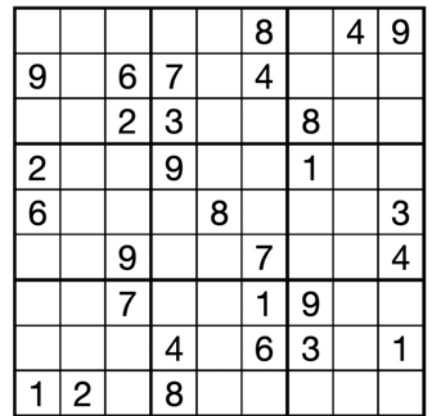
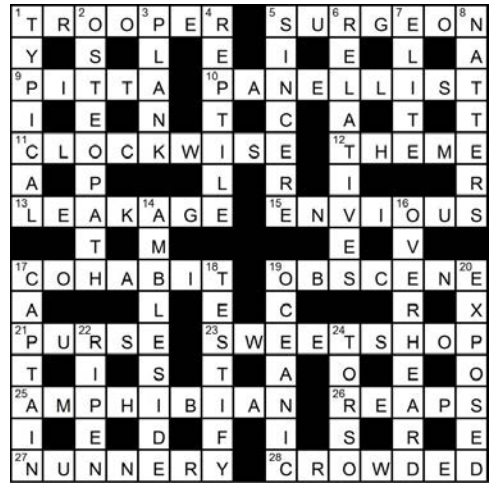
- 1. Hang loosely (6)
- 5. Church songbook (7)
- 10. Under an assumed name (9)
- 11. Strictly accurate (5)
- 12. Ogle (4)
- 13. Not merely local (8)
- 16. Efflux (7)
- 17. Stevedore (6)
- 18. Period of history (3)
- 20. Bother (6)
- 22. Not this one and not that one (7)
- 25. Supporter of a monarch (8)
- 26. Fijian capital (4)
- 29. Between (5)
- 30. Take turns (9)
- 31. Phantom (7)
- 32. Pedlar (6)

**Down**

- 2. Aged (7)
- 3. Jokes (4)
- 4. Send forth (4)
- 5. Fuel (10)
- 6. Constituent of vinegar (6,4)
- 7. Learner (7)
- 8. Child's toy (6)
- 9. Crest (7)
- 14. Torch (10)
- 15. Lottery (10)
- 19. Unrealistic person (7)
- 21. From now on (3,4)
- 23. Transport charge (7)
- 24. Keyboard instruments (6)
- 27. Where many land speed records have been attempted (4)
- 28. Fill out (4)



Last issue's answers



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# Black holes can be destroyers as well as creators



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Columnist

In 1916, Einstein's great masterpiece — general relativity, which described the relationship between mass and space-time — was published and soon after read by Schwarzschild, a brilliant mathematician and physicist, then serving as an artillery officer on Germany's eastern front in the First World War.

Simplified to its bare essentials and without math, general relativity states that mass curves space-time, and the curvature of space-time tells mass where to go.

Schwarzschild realized that if such a mass was dense enough, it could collapse space-time into a tiny, what was called a singularity, where all the mass was concentrated in an infinitely tiny spot.

Later work would strongly suggest that our universe began with just such a singularity containing all the energy and mass that would become our universe.

Later in the 20th century, scientists such as Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose speculated that large masses could create black holes — places where the gravitational force associated with a very dense mass could be so high that even light could not escape the gravitational grip of the black hole.

Thus we have the black hole (surrounded by a corona of high-energy particles) and the outer bright ring surrounding the black hole.

The first black hole was not photographed until 2019. It's gargantuan, billions of times the mass of the sun and much larger than the giant black hole found at the centre of our Milky Way, for which studies a Nobel prize was awarded and shared with evidence that general relativity provided a "robust explanation" for the shape of black holes.

Some of the largest black holes, surrounded by



enormously bright coronas, formed within several hundred million years following the Big Bang and to this day provide bright beacons useful for navigation in space.

Those quasars formed before all but the simplest of elements were formed in stars and are unusually bright because there was little star dust to scatter their light in the early universe.

The first collision between two very modest-sized black holes was detected by two land-based highly sensitive gravitational wave detectors in 2015 and led to the awarding of a Nobel prize for the efforts of an

American team of physicists and engineers working over three decades.

The detection of those waves — ripples in space-time — was yet more compelling evidence that Einstein's general relativity hypothesis was correct but that supersensitive wave detectors might be capable of detecting similar waves generated by the Big Bang itself.

Now, to the matter of destructive versus creative properties of black holes.

There's no doubt the intense gravitational fields of giant black holes are capable of shredding planets and star-sized bodies.

What's perhaps not so

obvious is that same gravitational field around a black hole, also helps to coalesce matter into what will become nascent and eventually mature stars and planet systems. That's the creation side of black holes.

Those gravitational fields also change the trajectory of stars from what otherwise might be expected: changes which were the all-important clue to the presence of a giant black hole at the centre of our universe well before the black hole was actually seen.

Some physicists, such as Penrose, suggest that black holes are nature's recycling tools for universes by gobbling up the remains of stars and star systems, and merging with other black holes to become even larger.

Then, at some time far in the future, a truly giant black hole might form, by gathering all the matter and energy of the universe in one place with sufficient mass to collapse into a singularity again and trigger the explosive development of yet another universe. And that's not the end of the story.

There might be many, some would argue a near-infinite number of universes, perhaps working by different natural laws though it's hard to believe that nature would come up with different fundamental particles.

There's another note worth making here: the energy associated with those intense coronas surrounding the earliest black holes (quasars) is almost as old as the universe itself.

What we see is old light, whose original source is long gone, refashioned perhaps into several generations of stars.

To see far out in space is indeed to look back in time because of the fixed speed of light and the vast distances in an ever-expanding universe.

As an electrical engineer friend of mine keeps telling me, it is mind-blowing and, in this matter, he is surely correct.

*Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the InfoHealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*



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## Fire Insurance Plaque, 1836

In Upper Canada during the early 19th century, metal plaques were provided by fire insurance companies to homeowners who had purchased insurance coverage. The plaque in the museum's collection is oval in shape and depicts two hands shaking at the top centre above the date 1836, followed by the words "Niagara District Mutual Fire Insurance Co."

Open fires were an essential part of living in those days, used for heating in winter and cooking throughout the year. But with many fires often unprotected and unguarded, and many houses made almost entirely of wood, serious fires were quite common and often devastating. The intention was that the homeowner displayed the plaque on the outside of his house so that fire fighters, arriving to extinguish the fire, would see the plaque and know that they would be paid by the insurance company upon successful completion of their job. It is said that fire brigades would sometimes refuse to put out a fire if there was no immediate evidence of fire insurance on the property. Indeed, fire was so ever-present and potentially catastrophic at that time that it became common for many insurance companies to own and operate their own fire brigades until that responsibility was passed over to local government in 1866.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, there is one known fire insurance plaque on a house dating from those times. It is at the Whale Inn, adjacent to the Niagara River at the junction of King and Delater streets.

# Success means **freshly picked produce** at Quiet Acres

Richard Hutton  
The Lake Report

The MacSween name, and by extension the Quiet Acres fruit stand the family owns, are synonymous with fresh fruits and vegetables in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond.

Founded in 1982, MacSween Farms sits on land that was once owned by the Romanek family, but the MacSweens rented and farmed that land. That all changed seven years ago.

"We rented the farm for 25 years from the Romaneks and we bought it in 2017," Maureen MacSween says. "They did start it but we kept it going."

Ruby Romanek still lives in NOTL and the MacSweens also farm her property on Romanek's behalf, Maureen says.

Since the MacSweens purchased the Romanek farm in 2017, they have been joined in the family business by their son Kevin.

And in that time, the MacSweens have continued to raise the profile of the produce they grow on their more than 200 acres of land.



Maureen MacSween starts out the summer with the first crops of the year: strawberries, asparagus, garlic scapes, lettuce and rhubarb. Throughout the season, she'll bring in everything from corn and tomatoes to peaches and apples. RICHARD HARLEY

Everything has its season.

"We start off with strawberries, garlic scapes and rhubarb," MacSween says.

That is, of course, if Mother Nature co-operates. Only then will the MacSweens be able to deliver the goods.

"We only sell what we grow," she says.

The couple are a rare

breed in Niagara where anyone travelling throughout Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond will see plenty of grape vineyards, the lifeblood of Niagara's wine sector.

"There are so many grape growers in the area but there's not a lot of tender fruit growers left."

And the list of the pro-

duce they offer is as lengthy as a long, hot summer in Niagara.

Beyond strawberries, garlic scapes and rhubarb, there are fresh fruits including tomatoes, peaches, nectarines, raspberries and apples to go with veggies like lettuce, kale, radishes, onions, green beans and sweet corn.

Peaches are a big deal for the MacSweens.

"Our peaches are available from about July 18 to the middle of September because we have all different varieties," Maureen says.

Their expression, "We only sell what we grow" is not just some motto cooked up by an ad agency to lure customers to their products. To the MacSweens it means they are all about freshness in the products.

And others have caught on.

The MacSweens' dedication to their craft has drawn the attention of Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurants owned by the likes of Vintage Inns and Inniskillin, along with chef-owners of restaurants such as Treadwell Cuisine.

Chef Stephen Treadwell, who founded the restaurant in St. Catharines in 2006 before moving operations to NOTL's 124 Queen Hotel and Spa, insists on using the fruits — and the vegetables — of the MacSweens in his farm-to-table dining establishment. He and others are familiar faces to the MacSweens.

"The chefs actually come to the farm," MacSween says. "They buy from us daily."

That's far different than most restaurants, who source their produce through the Ontario Food Terminal in west-end Toronto.

"They are really promoting farm-to-table," MacSween says of the local restaurants.

The farm operation is also a member of the Vineland Growers Co-operative, which provides the means for produce grown on the farm to be sold through grocery stores across Canada.

The Quiet Acres fruit stand is located at 672 Lakeshore Rd. at East & West Line in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a 10-minute drive from Old Town.

The stand is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., holidays included, until October.

For more information, Maureen MacSween can be reached by email at [maureenmacsween@bell.net](mailto:maureenmacsween@bell.net). Learn more about the farm and the produce grown at [macsweenfarms.com](http://macsweenfarms.com).

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# Tickets on sale for museum's fall garden party at McArthur Estate

Staff  
The Lake Report

Tickets are now on sale for this fall's Heritage Garden Party, where guests will be able to enjoy fine food and refreshments at the historic McArthur Estate — not unlike the social get-togethers many in Niagara-on-the-Lake enjoyed at this estate a century ago.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's party will return Friday, Sept. 13, hosted by Brenda and Blair McArthur, on the grounds of one of Niagara's prized historic homes, located at 210 John St.

The museum hosted this party for the first time last September. It is an opportunity for the museum both to raise money to fund its capital project campaign and to spark interest in a beloved part of Niagara's history as a summer getaway.

Originally built in the 1830s from a land grant given to the successor of John Graves Simcoe in the

late 1790s, the home was known initially as Brunswick Place, and later as Pinehurst.

It became a hub of the town's social scene in the 1930s, well-known for legendary and lavish parties, and today the McArthur family oversees its preservation, working to ensure its history and beauty are shared with the community.

"Many of Niagara's colourful characters have graced the grounds of the McArthur Estate, with a few appearing this year at the garden party," said the museum in a media release.

"Watch for the savvy entrepreneur and co-founder of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company, Capt. Robert Melville."

The event is a return to the romance and nostalgia that characterized the McArthur Estate during the early 20th century, complete with croquet, sparkling wines courtesy of Konzelmann Winery and elegant savouries and sweets, courtesy of Niagara's Finest Hotels.

The Heritage Garden Party is a rain or shine event, happening on Sept. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 per person and include a \$70 tax receipt. Those interested are encouraged book early as there is limited availability.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit notlmuseum.ca and select the Heritage Garden Party page under "What's On."

Another museum event happening this fall is the Niagara Polo charity match on Sept. 14.

The museum is still seeking volunteers to help with directing parking traffic in and around the Commons, at the ticket gates, setting up the divot stomp and serving bubbly during it, supervision by recycling and garbage and help with tear down after the event.

If you are able to volunteer, send your name, email, contact phone number and position you would like to volunteer for, to janet.marecki@gmail.com, or call/text 647-309-4026.



These boots are made for the NOTL Step Challenge. And that's just what you should do. FILE

# Walk with Lord Mayor Zalepa and get your steps in

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Step Challenge kicked off on June 2 and the town's lord mayor, Gary Zalepa, wants to help residents reach their step goals.

In aims of surpassing last year's collective goal of 60 million community steps, Zalepa is hosting five village walks across NOTL:

Glendale on June 13, Old Town on June 17, Virgil on June 20, St. Davids on June 24, followed by a walk in Queenston the same day afterward.

All the walks start at 9 a.m., except for Queenston's, which begins at 10.

Each walk will be 30 minutes long. In case of rain, the walk of the day will be relocated to the community centre.

"I look forward to walking with Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and wish all registered Step Challenge participants the best of luck," Zalepa said in a media release.

For more information on the community walks, visit the event page at notl.com/recreation-events/community-news and locate the media release from June 6.



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# FEATURED



Joanne Young says roses should be watered deeply once a week and monitored for signs of mildew.

## Summer roses deserve the best care



### GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young  
Columnist

Can you believe that it is already the middle of June?

All the spring beauties have finished showing off and it is time for the summer blooming plants to display their beautiful flowers.

Mid-June is the time for the roses to strut their stuff. It is hard for anyone to see a rose bush in full bloom and not stop to take in their beauty and perfume.

Many people shy away from growing roses because of the work that is required to keep them blooming and free from insect and disease problems.

William Shakespeare may have coined the phrase, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," but the gardener's version of that quote would read, "A rose by any other name ... still requires some maintenance to keep it blooming and looking good."

Once you understand what a rose requires, though, they really are not as difficult as you think.

Let's start by looking at what to do when your rose has finished blooming.

Deadheading your spent flowers will help to keep your rose blooming on and off for the remainder of

the summer and into the fall.

Deadheading is, basically, removing the flowers that have finished blooming and are fading or dead.

Even though we plant roses in our gardens solely for the purpose of enjoying its flowers, the purpose of flowering, for the plant, is to produce seed to reproduce itself.

If the spent flower remains on the plant (producing its seed from the centre of the remaining part of the flower), it signals to the plant that it has accomplished its goal and doesn't need to keep blooming.

By removing the spent flower immediately after the petals start browning and dropping, you have robbed the plant of its seed. Therefore, the plant will have to produce more flowers to produce seed — hence, repeat blooms.

Knowing this bit of information helps us to know what the best way to remove the finished bloom.

If you just pull the browning petals off and leave the centre of the flower (seed head) on the end of the stem, it will still go to seed and not produce more flowers.

When you are cutting off the old flower, follow the flower stem down to the first set of five leaflets and prune just above that leaf.

You will usually find that the first leaf or two down from the flower only have three leaflets.

From the axil of that leaf and stem, will emerge new growth and from that new growth, new flower buds will be produced.

Many of the newer rose varieties out on the market today are more disease resistant — note that I said disease-resistant and not disease-free.

The two main diseases that you will see on roses are powdery mildew and black spot.

Both fungal diseases are brought on by a combination of poor air

circulation around and through the plants, irregular and improper watering practices and humidity.

To address the issue of air circulation, make sure when you are pruning back the roses in spring that you prune out any canes crossing through the centre of the plant.

Make sure that you are not planting the roses too close together and keep other plants around the roses trimmed back. If planting new roses, make sure they are not placed in a tight corner.

When watering roses, make sure you are watering at the base of the plants. Watering the leaves really doesn't do the plant much good.

Water in the mornings: if the leaves go through the night hours wet, it increases the chance of fungal problems.

Do not let your rose bushes go dry for too long — it is after a drought period that you will see more mildew. Best to water them deeply once a week.

Monitor your plants regularly for signs of disease. The quickest way to nip a problem in the bud is to pinch off any leaves that have a powdery white coating or black spots on the leaves.

If the disease is further advanced, you may want to consider an organic fungicide to treat it with.

After the first flush of flowers has finished, it is a great time to feed your roses.

Choose an organic fertilizer that is high in phosphorus (the middle number) such as bonemeal.

Organic fertilizers are slower release and feed for a longer period of time. This should keep your roses happy all season long.

Don't forget to take time to smell the roses!

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

## Obituary

### George Howard Barclay



BARCLAY, George Howard - George Howard Barclay passed away at home on Friday, May 24 2024, in his 84th year. Howard is survived by his three sons, Todd Barclay (Audrey), Stuart Barclay, and Nate Barclay (Jeff) as well as his sister Janice Medland. Predeceased by his wife Ruth (nee Chichakian), parents George and Maude Barclay, and his brother Peter Barclay.

Howard was the definition of a car guy. Graduating from trade school he started out working as a mechanic for a few years before he was hired on at General Motors. He spent most of his years there in the trades as a machine repairman. Outside of work Howard was always either racing his own cars or restoring them or working on other peoples' cars. Early Corvette fuel injection was his specialty and even though he had trouble doing the work on them himself in the last couple of years, he was always there to help and advise others. He will be greatly missed by the family and the car community. The family will receive guests outside at the St. Davids Lions Club to remember Howard at 1462 York Road in St. Davids Ontario on Wednesday, June 19 from 1 -4 p.m. Bring your classic cars, have a hot dog with cheese, and chat and reminisce about your memories of Howard and how he touched your life. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to Considerate Cremation & Burial Services St. Catharines.

### Gerhard Klassen



KLASSEN, Gerhard - Gerhard Klassen, aged 85, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, May 29. Born on October 11, 1938, in Chaco, Paraguay, to Heinrich and Aganeta Klassen, Gerhard grew up in a Mennonite family on a ranch in Paraguay.

He met his wife Renate in a youth group as a teenager. They dated while he worked on oil rigs located remotely in Paraguay's northern bush. Once married, they moved to Gartental, Uruguay, to start a family on their new farm.

In 1976, the Klassen family immigrated to Canada, settling in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Gerhard continued his passion for farming, providing produce for those in need and selling to local restaurants. He looked forward to the weekly Niagara and St. Catharines markets, where he formed a family bond with fellow farmers. Despite his age, he farmed until the end.

Gerhard was known for his love for the Lord Jesus, his hard work ethic, and always seen with his matte drink. Sundays for him were sacred, a day of rest for church, family, and his cherished siesta.

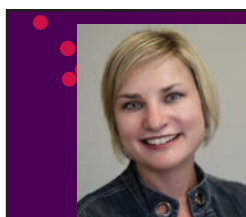
Gerhard is survived by his wife, Renate Klassen, daughter Luise, sons Paul and Herb, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is reunited with his daughter Lori and son Siegfried.

Gerhard's legacy of hard work and generosity will be cherished by all who knew him.

On Saturday, June 15, the interment will be at 9:30 a.m. at Lakeshore Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will follow at 11 a.m. at Northend Church (455 Geneva Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 2H2). A light lunch will be provided afterwards.

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

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