



Butterflies help heal | Page 5

Mixed emotions as 'killer' Lakeshore tree is **taken down**

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The notorious Lakeshore Road tree at the site of two deadly car crashes has been taken down.

Safe Tree Ltd., a tree removal service, arrived at the location across from the Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery around 8 a.m. Wednesday, and by noon, the mature maple tree was gone.

On June 5, a young man died when his car hit the tree, almost one year after a 49-year-old woman died when her small SUV also struck the tree head-on.

Memorials were removed from the tree before it was

taken down.

Ivan Fredette, president of Safe Tree, said Niagara Region officials took all of the memorial items for safekeeping and will contact family members to return them.

The region's spokesperson, Janet Rose, confirmed this in an email, saying that the memorial items will be returned if requested.

"The memorial items removed for the work today

were collected and safely stored according to this practice," she said.

"We have been contacted, by rightful owners, about memorial items removed

Continued on Page 2



THE TURNER REPORT

What now? Where does NOTL housing market go from here?

This marks the debut of columnist Garth Turner as a regular contributor to The Lake Report. He's a longtime journalist, commentator and former federal cabinet minister. We look forward to his insightful contributions.

Garth Turner
Columnist

Thanks for coming to my new Lake Report piece. Today, let's talk about your house.

First, a few words about me. I'm a NOTL Old Town guy. My place was built more than 200 years ago and among other things was once a thriving brothel.

It's the second time we've lived here, having previously resided on King Street beside what now seems destined to be a honking big hotel. There's a lot of that going on lately.

Continued on Page 11

Who's got a **golden ticket?**



Sean O'Donnell shows off one of the hand-crafted "Willow Wonka" chocolate bars. There are 20 golden tickets to be found among the 1,000 bars made by Willow Cakes and Pastries chocolate master Catherine O'Donnell, with prizes from local businesses. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Wright | The Lake Report

Willy Wonka would approve of the sweet deal going on at Willow Cakes and Pastries in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Following the storyline made famous by the eccentric choco-

late maker of Hollywood lore, the bakery is celebrating 20 years in NOTL with the creation of its very own magical character to herald two decades of business.

Enter Willow Wonka, who,

you never know, may be the long lost daughter or niece of Willy himself.

The guessing game is all part of the fun.

The big-eyed and bubbly character is easily NOTL's newest

celebrity, capturing the imaginations of local residents who have become enchanted by the idea of playing out one of the big screen's most beloved children's stories.

Continued on Page 9

Mayor and councillor **push back** against hotel criticism

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

A critique circulated by Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Bob Bader last week sparked some quick and assertive pushback from Lord

Mayor Gary Zalepa and Coun. Maria Mavridis.

Bader was highly critical of council's planning committee approval of rezoning to allow a contentious hotel project to be built by developer Benny Marotta on the

old Parliament Oak school property in a residential area of Old Town.

The Lake Report has compiled the exchanges and an edited version of them appears below. It began with this email to council-

lors and others from Bader:

Exclusive vs inclusive: That is the real question facing NOTL and its lord mayor and council.

Mr. Marotta is proposing to build a five-star hotel on Parliament Oak, presum-

ably a Ritz Carlton, Relais & Chateau or the like to attract, as one councillor put it, a different class of tourist: the upper class, extremely rich who will boost

Continued on Page 4



**Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.**

13 Henegan Road
Virgil Business Park

(905)-468-2135
www.peninsulaflooring.ca



Serving Niagara Since 1977

SIMPSON'S

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Shop from the comfort of home www.simpsonsparmacy.ca
In-store | Curbside pick-up or | FREE local delivery | * Orders over \$25

FREE Regional Delivery*



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

Curbside Pick-up Available



Families of crash victims gather to watch tree cutting

Continued from Front Page

today and are coordinating their return.”

Fredette added that Safe Tree is also working with the region to ensure that a memorial is put up nearby.

The mood from onlookers was solemn while the tree was being removed, as many watched in silence.

Family members of the two victims were present during the removal, though they did not want to talk with a reporter.

Shirley Madsen, who lives a short distance away on Lakeshore Road, watched as the tree was removed, branch by branch.

Madsen, whose own property has been damaged by errant vehicles, said removing the tree is the wrong move.

“The tree has been there for 50 years. The tree didn’t cause the accident. Drivers and cars did,” she told The Lake Report.

Many others feel the same way, she added, and would rather see lower speed limits or the addition of stop signs on Lakeshore Road rather than cut down a mature tree.



Workers from Safe Tree Ltd. took down the Lakeshore Road mature tree on Wednesday morning, starting with individual branches before removing the base of the tree. A crowd gathered to watch the cutting. **JULIA SACCO**

A post Madsen made in the Facebook group NOTL 4 All on Wednesday morning regarding the trees’ removal received

more than 50 comments, many of which agreed with Madsen.

Debbie Mageean, a resident of Old Town and

active member in the Facebook group, agrees that the tree is not the problem.

Mageean has around 20 years of experience

as an ambulance medic, a firefighter and an RCMP auxiliary constable and says she

has seen countless similar

accidents, all of which were at the driver’s fault.

“I’ve seen it dozens of times, people wrapped around trees and power poles and everything,” she said.

As an alternative, Mageean thinks that more enforcement may possibly be the answer.

Scott Fraser, the associate director of transportation for the region, said the tree, located just a few feet from the pavement, needed to be removed before any further safety precautions are installed at the site.

“The region has been assessing road safety conditions in this area for some time and is completing a full review of all trees in the area, including possible removal or protection through the addition of guiderails,” he said in an email to The Lake Report.

“The maple tree would prevent (the) installation of (a) guiderail, so it needs to be removed for any of the potential safety improvement options.”

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Niagara on-the-Lake Realty

CELEBRATING **50 YEARS** 1974 • 2024

1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>9 HENRY STREET \$799,000 MLS 40606531 - Viviane Elltoft & Jane Elltoft</p>	<p>NEW PRICE</p>  <p>41 RICARDO STREET \$1,359,000 MLS 40574449 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk</p>	 <p>202 - 10 DALHOUSIE AVENUE \$2,299,000 MLS 40575095 - Weston Miller</p>	 <p>157 LORETTA DRIVE \$1,095,000 MLS 40591818 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk</p>
 <p>1891 LAKESHORE ROAD \$1,259,000 MLS 40591827 - Christopher Bowron & Nicole Vanderperk</p>	 <p>6 TULIP TREE ROAD \$1,549,900 MLS 40577915 - Randall Armstrong</p>	 <p>6160 STEVENS STREET \$849,000 MLS 40590633 - Patricia Atherton & Caroline Polgrabia</p>	 <p>22 WEATHERSTONE COURT \$1,150,000 MLS 40503026 - Patricia Atherton & Caroline Polgrabia</p>
 <p>558 LANSDOWNE AVENUE \$3,195,000 MLS 40589140 - Thomas Elltoft & Weston Miller</p>	 <p>12 CENTRE STREET \$2,398,000 MLS 40593294 - Thomas Elltoft & Viviane Elltoft</p>	 <p>14650 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY \$1,895,000 MLS 40570109 - Thomas Elltoft & Jane Elltoft</p>	 <p>640 KING STREET \$1,598,000 MLS 40574672 - Thomas Elltoft & Kim Elltoft</p>

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

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585
Viviane Elltoft* 905-988-7494
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft** 905-988-8776

Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240
Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Ricky Watson* 905-246-3387

Caroline Polgrabia* 289-257-6063
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983

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

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Investigation examines concerns about farmworkers program

The Lake Report and its news website niagaranow.com have teamed up the investigative news site ThePointer.com to bring readers long-form, detailed, investigative journalism on issues important to Niagara. The Pointer's latest exclusive investigation looks at concerns related to Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers Program, including United Nations and Senate reports on the issue. Read the full story online now at NiagaraNow.com.

Shaw garden tour highlights expertise

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The Shaw Guild's annual Garden Tour is a way for guests to take in some of the gardens in town— and gain some new knowledge on horticulture.

Thanks to certified trained gardeners — known as master gardeners among horticulturists — at every stop on the self-guided tour, guests could learn about each species on display and receive answers for general gardening inquiries.

Becoming a master gardener takes a bit more than just knowing about gardening, though.

Marie-Claire Groulx, the master gardener at 158 Prideaux St., said that to get her certification, she had to complete a program at the University of Guelph.

At Guelph, certification requires completing three courses along with a required number of volunteer hours.

During the garden tour, Groulx's role included identifying the 20 plants of interest at the property and



Amanda Clark and Matt Gillard made the trek from Grafton to see the florals at 343 Regent St. JULIA SACCO

answering any questions guests had.

"What I really enjoy about this property is the natural architectural display of mother nature in the structures of the plants," Groulx told The Lake Report.

Groulx's expertise inspired Debbie Charlton, a hobby gardener visiting from Keswick.

When Charlton heard

about the master gardener certification process, she and Groulx chatted about how she could get involved.

"My first encounter with gardening was growing up in Toronto, we had Italian neighbours and their garden was just spectacular," Charlton said during an interview.

Nowadays, her focus is more on native plants and finding out more about native wildlife— the animals

and insects that she can cultivate, which is where certification will come in handy.

At 380 Johnson St., homeowner Ian Reece worked closely alongside master gardener Linda Wade to identify the best of the plants in his garden.

"(The master gardeners) did it all, really," Reece said. "They came in a couple of months ago."

"I keep all of my plants on an Excel spreadsheet so I gave them that version of all the stuff here and they had that to work with."

He added that he keeps all of his plants logged by their Latin names, so that made things slightly more difficult.

People stopped the master gardeners multiple times during The Lake Report's visit, asking about the upkeep of certain plants and taking a big interest in some of the more eye-catching features of the garden.

"We had to choose only 20 things to put a little sign next to. It was a hard choice," Reece said.

Find more photos at niagaranow.com. juliasacco@niagaranow.com



Open For Lunch Daily
Reservations strongly suggested
Online booking available! Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814



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

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY



WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR
Open 7 days a week
Wine tastings offered daily
Walk-ins Welcome for Wine Tasting! Reservations available for group bookings
1010 Line 2, NOTL, 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com



airway CPAP inc

CPAP AND SLEEP APNEA SUPPLIES
111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202
For appointment call 289-868-9212.

Proud to support local news!



WAYNE GATES
MPP Niagara Falls proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-357-0681



St. David's VETERINARY CLINIC stdavidsvetclinic.com

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY BBQ!
June 22, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | 329 Four Mile Creek Rd.



St. Davids-Queenston United Church

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

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

Bikes for Farmworkers in need of donations

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

With a big increase in bike sales over this time last year, and a steady stream of needy customers still coming through the doors weekly, Bikes for Farmworkers in Virgil is asking the public to come forward with unwanted and repairable rides.

"It kind of crept up on us," said sales and repair coordinator Ken Eden in describing the scarcity of road-ready bicycles at Bikes for Farmworkers.

"We thought we had a reasonable supply, but when



The bicycle garage is mostly empty.

we looked at them closely, some of them weren't really good candidates for rebuild so we had to scrap a bunch."

Currently, the organization only has three bikes that are fit for sale, with about 30 more on or ready

for the repair stand.

As a result, it will hold a bike drop-off at the old Virgil public school building at 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd. on Saturday, June 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We are looking for repairable adult bikes," said Eden, "and we don't need or have parts for smaller children's bikes."

Eden admitted that this is a strange year for the organization when it comes to sales.

Peak sales times are normally in early spring when workers begin arriving from their home countries, not in mid-June as is hap-

pening now.

The 277 bikes sold since opening day in March is only 100 less than all of last year, creating a definite need for more inventory.

The organization has a one-bike-per-worker policy. "We have a computer program that we log in names of who we sell a bike to," said Eden.

"It puts the date we sell, the buyer and the farm. We've got it set up so that if you come back it alerts us."

For more information and to contact Bikes for Farmworkers, visit gatewaynotl.com/bikes.

wright@niagaranow.com

STRONGHOUSE CONTRACTING 905-394-1526
Read our 5-star reviews
Masonry restoration specialists | Licensed - Insured - Experienced | www.stronghousecontracting.com

CANADA DAY AT SPIRIT IN NIAGARA

Live band during the day, Jazz pianist Paul Toby on the Baby Grand at 7 pm
Smoked cocktail demonstrations | Canadian food specialties



WHERE:
SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL

JULY 1ST

DOORS OPEN AT 11AM - PARTY ENDS AT 10:30

MONDAY JAZZ & BLUES - WILBER JAMES BAND OR THOMAS NELSON BAND
TUESDAY - TAPAS 3 FOR \$49 5 FOR \$69
THURSDAY - DATE NIGHT WITH ED PIZZO \$65.00 PER PERSON, CHOOSE ANY 3 MENU ITEMS + A BOTTLE OF WINE 1/2 PRICE
FRIDAY - DRAGON ON THE SAXES

SUN - SAT 11 - 9
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL
905 934 1300 | spiritinniagara.com

HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA



TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE
4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9
Tel.: 905-353-9590

FORT ERIE OFFICE
48 Jarvis Street
Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4
Tel.: 905-871-9991

TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA
TONYBALDINELLI.M.P.CA

Hans' Mobile Auto/Boat/RV Wash

- Immaculate interior detailing & shampooing
- Exterior washing, waxing & ceramic coatings
- Engine shampooing • Undercarriage, wheels & lights

905-246-1843 | 905-651-1700

HANDYMAN

- House and driveway power washing
- Eavestroughs
- Household repairs, cleaning, organizing, sorting
- Junk/vehicle removal

905-246-1843 | 905-651-1700

Canada Day Bash!

Live Music with Pub Daddy
BBQ, Specials,
Draws and Giveaways
JULY 1ST, 12-8PM



410 King St., NOTL | 905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

Have an opinion you want heard?

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

Mayor and Mavridis counter criticism

Continued from Front Page

our economy.

So we should allow this very exclusive hotel to be built on one of the last community-zoned blocks in Old Town in direct opposition to the inclusive nature of our community?

Sure, Mr. Marotta's team assures us the historical aspects of the site will be memorialized in a lovely exclusive walled-off landscape behind the hotel and accessible only through the hotel. How many of the visitors to and residents of NOTL will ever get to see these testimonials to our past?

If Mr. Marotta wants to build a Mar-a-Lago to entertain his rich and powerful friends, let him do it on his Niagara Parkway compound overlooking the river.

We have one very rich and powerful developer in our midst that has been trying for years to mould NOTL in his warped vision, thankfully opposed by others rich in talent and commitment.

He seems to have mesmerized our lord mayor and part of council into thinking that attracting the moneyed sort to an exclusive hotel (which they themselves wouldn't even be able to afford) will be better for Old Town than preserving one of our last publicly zoned sites.

And it is a slap in the face of those hoteliers who have helped make NOTL what it is today by building sensitively to reflect the historic nature of town and who still serve its residents and visitors with exceptional first-class aplomb.

Please reconsider your decision on Parliament Oak.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa fired back, defending council's decision and his own reputation:

Bob, your characterization of my decision-making is unfortunate.

Mesmerized? I confidently have shaped my independent thoughts for the town and the same toward this application. I cannot say I have even had any significant conversations regarding this development with Mr. Marotta.

Your opinion on the application fails to mention the details of the expertly detailed planning report that is shaped by current and past council-approved policies, contained in town's official plan, heritage policies, region official plan, provincial planning policies etc. Rationalization along this



Coun. Maria Mavridis.

line of planning applications in the past has led this town down a costly legal spiral, where the town loses the legal decision and the residents pay the bill, residents having been misled by leadership that there was a case in the first place.

And Coun. Maria Mavridis also weighed in with a detailed response:

Bob, your email is very offensive.

For every naysayer opposing the hotel, I have received the same with the support of the hotel.

There are 19,000 residents in NOTL. Local businesses and tourism contribute million dollars every year in taxes to this municipality.

These businesses employ local families, donate to all the community events and fundraisers, sponsor kids' teams sports and cringe through the winter months with low visitation, but they survive.

This assists in keeping residents' taxes reasonable. We came into budget this year with a 6 per cent increase due to the Ontario Land Tribunal suits before we even had a chance to approve anything for the community. Why send everything to the tribunal and "let them figure it out"?

I understand and hear what residents are saying regarding the property. I really do.

Don't like the height? Then the building footprint will have to go from 25 per cent land coverage to 40 per cent in order to accommodate the space on that top floor coming to ground level.

Would that be OK? Happy to motion that, understanding, though, there is a reason that buildings go "up" instead of "out," as my 12-year-old says.

I understand that some don't want the zoning changed on this property as

it is institutional and they would "prefer" a retirement or seniors building but when I break down the "why" I find:

* A similar number of delivery and garbage trucks if it's a hotel or a retirement home.

* The noise. I live a few blocks from Pleasant Manor and the firetruck and ambulance sirens are daily. They don't bother me, though because, well there are more important things going on in my day.

* Underground parking. Any institutional building on the same property requires underground parking if we want to keep the green space.

* The developer should donate the land to the community for a park or build a community centre etc.

Why is this property owner obligated to do this?

* Some have said they prefer residential. That was presented and was met with the same outcry from residents. Ship sailed.

* People in support of the application, who live directly across the street and nearby, have privately emailed or messaged council as they "fear" a backlash. Why? How is this inclusive? Being so loud that we silence voices?

* You want the grounds to be accessible for residents? We can propose a gate on one of the walls be installed so it is open for residents and others to explore the grounds during business hours. Again, I'm happy to put forward a motion on this.

Come to me with some solutions, not just problems.

There has also been name-calling from residents. Claiming "liars" and "envelopes" is unfair as well. I wanted to make you aware so you have a better understanding where my frustration with all this is coming from.

Someone commented I am "always looking out for my commercial interests" was made and another said I should "personally have claimed conflict."

So, I was OK and didn't have a conflict when I was the deciding vote on the Randwood property in voting the way people wanted, but now I am not?

Just because you voted for someone does not mean they will only vote on items the way you request.

If they do, then worry, as it means they have not looked at the big picture nor listened to all residents.

Some vote yes, some vote no and I can assure you we don't always vote the same way as we have our own opinions and minds.

Please show me a project, development or renovation that has come before any planning meeting or council that did not require a bylaw or zoning amendment request. I've searched and haven't come across one yet.

To be honest, I was actually leaning toward voting against the proposal and then throughout the evening, some council members brought up more points of information that made me think. Some residents and business owners also were weighing in.

Unfortunately, I will have to claim a conflict at the next council meeting as someone with a "good heart" that is looking out for all residents has reported me to the integrity commissioner (again).

When I voted on Randwood, I didn't have conflict according to this person, because it was the outcome they wanted. Now I have a conflict?

I guess my problem is that I'm not a politician and still look at things with a community and resident lens.

Many of us live in homes that had rezoning, trees removed, underground parking (Kings Point on the water) and used to be peach farms.

Many called Si Wai Lai the devil when she came into town in the 1990s and renovated the Vintage Hotel properties, but now the same people sit on boards that were established thanks to Ms. Lai's community contributions.

We need to look at the future of this community while preserving the past (what my campaign was). There is no heritage on the Parliament Oak site built in 1948 and yet we have supported preserving part of it.

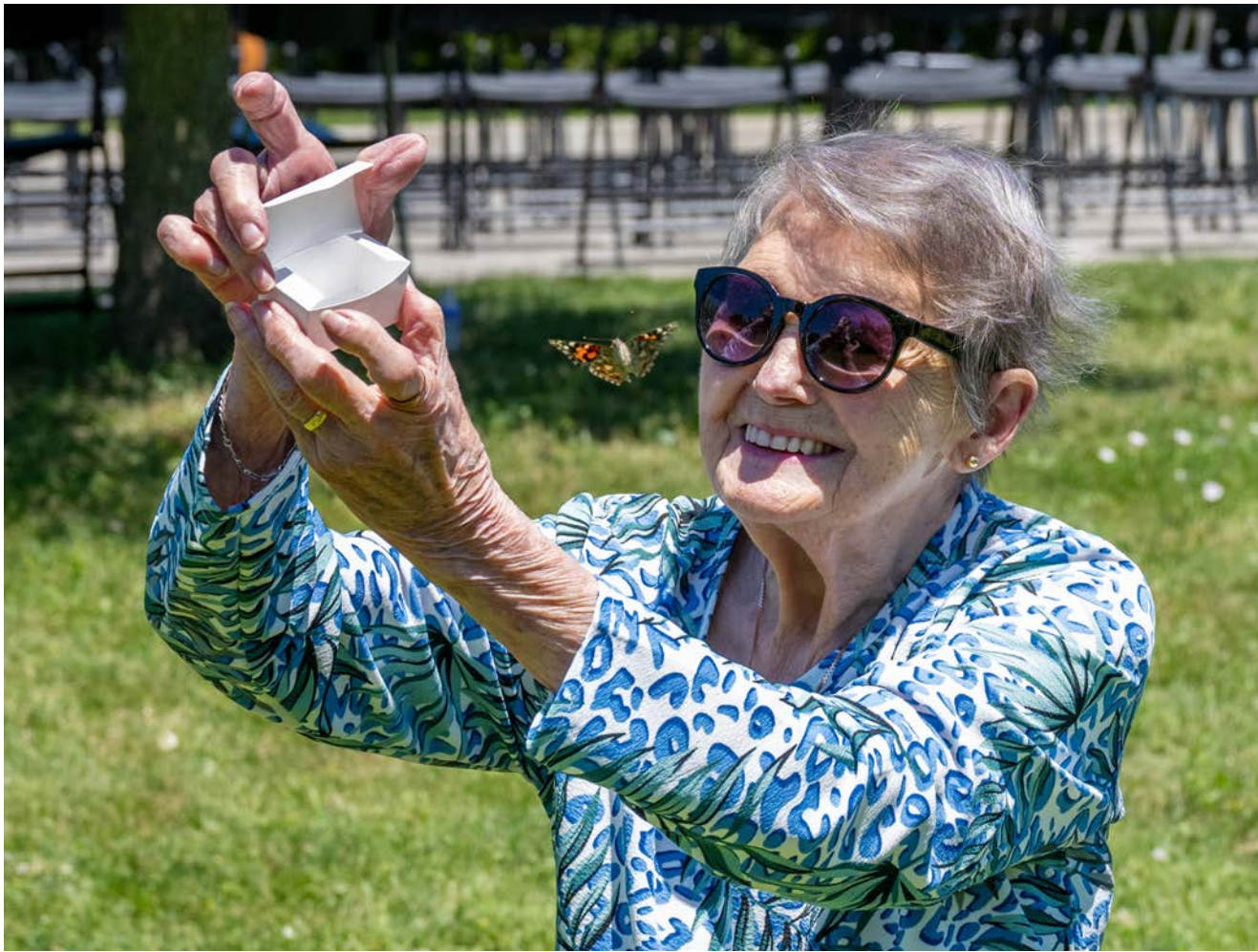
The fact that you and many others have suggested that you would support this hotel be built on the old Mori property in Virgil is crazy to me.

Agricultural land is more important to this community than institutional, in my opinion.

The municipality owns the old hospital site, which is institutional. Let's focus efforts on what we do own while being realistic.

As I have relayed to others, if you feel this passionate about our town, I invite you to put your name on the ballot at the next election.

editor@niagaranow.com



Myra Goodman released a butterfly on her daughter's behalf for her late son-in-law. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Butterfly release helps healing

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

From open palms dozens of Painted Lady butterflies flew outside the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre on Saturday, symbolizing both the grief and love of those who sent them out into the world.

NOTL Palliative Care's third annual "Celebration of Life Butterfly Release" gave the more than 160 people who participated the opportunity to honour a loved one who is no longer with them.

Following words from executive director Bonnie

Bagnulo and a reading of names from Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, butterflies were released in memory of those who have died.

For Roger and Myra Goodman the butterfly was in honour of their late son-in-law, whom they lost just six weeks ago.

"My daughter, who lives in B.C., was here on holiday and we went to Scotland on holiday. While we were there, her husband died," Myra said in an interview.

Their release of a butterfly was on their daughter's behalf, she added, and she plans to mail her the ceremony's program with her

husband's name on it.

Goodman did not expect the huge crowd who came out, she said.

Among those on hand were members of the Taylor family.

Rhonda, along with her brother Ryan and mom Raisa released butterflies to remember her late father, Ron Taylor.

Ron and Raisa were married for 60 years when he died last year from complications due to ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Before his death, he and his family connected with the ALS Society of Canada.

"Between that society

and palliative care, they made a really heartbreaking exit much more beautiful," Rhonda said.

Ryan added that his father was always ready to have a laugh.

"He would've been making jokes and having a fun time with his sense of humour at inappropriate moments," he said.

Rhonda said her father would have loved the butterfly release.

"He was a very mindful person with where he was. He was engaging. I think he would have been right there in the moment watching this," she said.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Strawberry Social celebrates community



Dr. Brenda Castleyoung of NOTL enjoys a bowl of strawberry shortcake at the annual Strawberry Social.

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

The town-sponsored Strawberry Social at the NOTL Community Centre is an annual celebration of the senior population.

Held on Wednesday, this year's edition came all the fanfare: music, a light lunch, local trivia, fun giveaways, great company,

and, of course, a strawberry shortcake dessert.

Municipal staff and volunteers from the community, including Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates, played the roles of servers and hosts.

"The whole idea is to bring people together to have some fun and to celebrate what the town is all about," said Lord Mayor

Gary Zalepa.

Seniors who were unable to attend for health or other reasons were still on the guest list.

"We also bring over 100 meals to our residents in long-term care and seniors homes," said the lord mayor.

"It is all about community," he added.

wright@niagaranow.com

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE...
SOLD



AMBER DOOR
ESTATE SALES INC.

Online auction services available for Estates, collectibles, vehicles, RV's, downsizing, liquidations & more. We sell everything!

We also buy gold, jewelry, coins and artwork

For more information, call Yvonne for a FREE consultation

905-517-5552

'Antiques Barn' - 758 Niagara Stone Road

www.amberdoorestatesales.com

terroir
RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

Now Open at Strewn Winery
Thursday to Sunday
for lunch and dinner

Discover our inspired seasonal cuisine and commitment to local producers.

Menus at www.TerroirNiagara.com



Terroir Restaurant & Wine Bar
1339 Lakeshore Rd at Four Mile Creek Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-367-0343
reservations@TerroirNiagara.com

Have an opinion you want heard?

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



AWARD-WINNING BUILDER

"Our home looks straight out of a magazine!
Fred and Shawna made the entire process enjoyable and stress-free."



KARISMA
BUILD GROUP INC.

905.892.0123

KarismaHomes.com

NEW HOMES. RENOVATIONS. INTERIOR DESIGN. LOCALLY OWNED.

RENOVATING? WANT TO BUILD? WE CAN HELP.

SIPPING IN SICILY 

JULY 27TH, 6:30PM

CELEBRITY CHEF
CHRISTIAN PRITCHARD
X
NORCINI CO

GREAT WINES
SICILIAN MENU
LIVE ITALIAN MUSIC

\$130 PER PERSON
WINE CLUB MEMBERS:
\$120 PER PERSON

SCAN TO BOOK!


REIFWINERY.COM/EVENTS



Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niagaranow.com



Music Niagara opens season


Sunday marked the kick-off of Music Niagara's summer festival. The Oakville Choir for Children & Youth took to the stage at Ironwood Cider House from 4 p.m. with a free performance. The group features seven ensembles for people aged four to 20 and has earned national acclaim. Their opening performance was the first-ever in Ironwood's new Music Niagara tent. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Time for Renovations?



Olde Towne Building Company can do it all

- ✓ Bathroom Remodeling
- ✓ Basement Finishing
- ✓ Kitchen Makeovers
- ✓ Windows and doors
- ✓ Covered patios and decks
- ✓ Restoration
- ✓ Commercial renovations
- ✓ And much more!



We strive to provide quality, innovative, and superior workmanship to every project, and put our client's needs above all else.

Brandon Noel
905-325-2766
Jeff MacIntosh
905-651-4803



Olde Towne Building Company

www.oldetownebuildingcompany.com

FREE ADMISSION  **JUNE 24 7:30 PM**

IRISH TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

Hosted By
Paddyman & Friends

Live Music with Audience Participation

Experience the warmth of true Irish hospitality at our traditional music session, led by the talented Paddyman & Friends. They'll be equipped with plenty of extra instruments for you to join in on the fun.

With a maximum of 10 participants playing together, this event promises to be an intimate and lively evening, filled with the spirit of community. Don't miss this chance to immerse yourself in authentic Irish tunes, collective improvisation, and perhaps even join in the session!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM
(905) 468-4443 • RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
No Pressure or Judgement • Easy to Play • Regular Menu • Limited Space Available

Why the power **went out** in NOTL last week



The power went out in much of Niagara-on-the-Lake last Thursday, June 13. We asked NOTL Hydro CEO Tim Curtis what happened and he provided this detailed explanation.

Tim Curtis
Special to The Lake Report

Most outages are easy to identify and fix.

When an outage occurs, NOTL Hydro cannot tell immediately what the cause is or where it occurred. However, we can tell who is out of power and this gives us a good indication.

In some cases, all the customers are fed from one transformer so that makes it obvious where the problem is. In other instances, a whole feeder may be down. We then have our lineman patrol

the line and they will usually identify the problem.

It may be a downed tree, a lightning strike, an animal contact, an equipment failure or an auto accident. Customer calls are helpful in this regard as they sometimes report a loud bang or a flash and this gives us a location.

Once the problem is identified, NOTL Hydro staff switch their focus to fixing the problem. Depending on the severity of the problem, they may also reroute power to reduce those customers affected to just those in the immediate vicinity.

It was not easy to pinpoint the cause of the June 13 outage. Our monitoring system told us the York Station feeder was out but we did not know where or why. Patrolling the line did not identify any issues.

We narrowed down the issue to a fault on an underground section of the feeder line. Once we knew this, we were able to come up with a strategy to restore power. In total the outage lasted 1.5 hours, from 1:03 to 2:32 p.m.

But there was another fac-



After power went out across Old Town, people flooded the streets to get some time in outdoors. JULIA SACCO

tor, an unnecessary one, in our opinion, that delayed the restoration of power a little bit. More importantly, it meant more customers were affected by the outage.

The town is served by two separate transmission stations, owned by NOTL Hydro. Each station is capable of serving the entire town.

In late May, Hydro One contacted us to say that they had identified an issue with

some of their equipment on the 115 kV line that serves the NOTL Station. They needed an outage to correct this issue. This was entirely appropriate and we worked with them to schedule the outage.

We are billed for transmission based on the peak demand at any point in the month at each of our stations. This billing rule was set by our regulator, the Ontario Energy Board.

This is fine in a normal month as the combined peak of each station is roughly the same as the full town peak. However, if you shift load or remove a full station from service for a period of time then the combined peaks are significantly higher than the actual peak of the town, the monthly charge is that much higher.

To avoid this, NOTL Hydro takes the station out of service for the full month to avoid this “double peak billing.”

These charges are not incurred by NOTL Hydro but are passed directly to all our customers. In 2021, we had a full station “double peak billing” event and the cost was \$90,000.

We took the NOTL Station out of service for June so Hydro One could do its repairs and to avoid another big “double peak billing.”

When the feeder that went down on June 13, we had around 2,500 customers on it instead of the usual 200 or so. Also, the flexibility of having two stations was lost so this made the restoration of power a bit more compli-

cated, increasing the length of the outage.

NOTL Hydro has complained about “double peak billing” issue for years as have a number of other Ontario electric utilities. The energy board is now holding a hearing on the issue and NOTL Hydro is actively participating in it with other utilities.

Hopefully, a common-sense solution will result so that NOTL Hydro and Hydro One can conduct repairs and maintenance without stations having to be shut down for a full month.

NOTL Hydro tries to balance efficient services leading to low rates and maintaining good reliability.

Our reliability, as measured by the average length of outages, is better than the industry average. A recent review of rates showed our residential rates are the seventh lowest in the province (out of 70) and our business rates are the ninth lowest.

We apologize for any inconvenience from the latest outage as we work to continuously improve our service.




YOKA
BY CARLA
POP-UP SHOP



SUNDAY JUNE 23
11AM-5PM

SUMMER STYLES • REFRESHMENTS



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
14 ANDERSON LANE
(JUST OFF HIGHWAY 55)

BILLYBUSH // YARD RESCUE
Local Area Certified Gardener / Greens Keeper



FREE ESTIMATES
Call or text
289.969.1527

- Spring Yard Clean Ups
- Superior Trimming and Pruning
- Small Tree and Shrub Removal

Ladies Auxiliary
Treasures in the Trunk Sale



Come and find your treasure!

Rain Date: June 29th

Saturday, June 22
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

410 King Street
NOTL
905-468-2353



DANIFIT
Personal & Group Training



Personal training specializing in pain-free movement so you can build strength, confidence, and improve energy.

Move Better. Feel Better. Live Better.

hello@danielleppfitness.com
www.danielleppfitness.com
@danielleppfitness

 **CATENA DENTURE & HEARING**

Let us handle all of your denture and hearing needs!

Cassandra Catena DD, HIS
4-224 Glenridge Ave, St. Catharines
905-641-1377 | info@catenaclinic.ca
Serving the Niagara Region

We make house calls!

LOCALLY GROWN ASPARAGUS
fresh daily

OPEN
Monday - Saturday
10am - 5pm
Sunday 11am - 3pm

Thwaites Farms
1984 Townline Rd./Firelane 11,
Niagara-on-the-Lake




 **Scott Davidson, M.E.**
RR3 750 East-West Line
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0

Cell: 905-933-3974
allspark.scott@gmail.com

Residential, Commercial
and Industrial Automation

 License No.
7010341

Have an opinion you want heard?

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

Reading by Indigenous playwright confronts ‘pretend Indian’ issue

Staff
The Lake Report

Revelations about the true identities of prominent Indigenous individuals in the Canadian cultural landscape — such as singer Buffy Sainte-Marie, author Joseph Boyden, filmmaker Michelle Latimer and former judge Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond — have been the subject of anger and disappointment in Indigenous communities over the past few years.

They’ve ignited discussions about the issue of “pretendianism,” a term used when people falsely claim to be Indigenous, who are sometimes called “pretend-ians.”

In that vein, playwright January Rogers’ latest work, “Blood Sport,” is a satirical unpacking of this phenomenon and an examination of Indigenous identity.

Rogers’ short play will be presented at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum on Thursday, June 27: the author will be there for the presentation of the play and will participate in a panel discussion afterward.

“Blood Sport” by Rogers, a Mohawk/Tuscarora writer from Six Nations of the



Photo by Ian R. Maracle via @janetmarierogers Twitter

Grand River, uses humour and a game-show scenario to confront this phenomenon.

“‘Blood Sport’ seemed to be the perfect story to tell,” said Rogers in a media release, “because with the fictitious game show scenario and the use of lots of satire, I have been able to address exactly what is at stake for (real) Native people when fake Native people are exposed as interlopers within our education and art sectors, specifically.”

It sees “culturally confused” contestants compete for the right to claim Indigenous identities through a series of bizarre games and tasks, guided by a charac-

ter called “the Ref,” while learning the right ways to claim their Indigenous identities.

Following the play, Rogers will participate in a panel discussion on the work and the subject of Indigenous identity, joined by Jolene Rickard, Tuscarora, associate professor of Indigenous art at Cornell University, Karl Dockstader, Oneida, Indigenous cultural advisor for Niagara College, and Tim Johnson, Mohawk, senior advisor for museums, heritage and legacy with Lord Cultural Resources and Plenty Canada and a museum board member.

Ahead of the presentation at the museum, a few of these panelists shared their perspectives on what they say is at stake when pretendianism is able to flourish.

Rickard connects this issue back to the centuries-old concept of “playing Indian,” which some historians, such as Philip J. Deloria, say dates as far back as the Boston Tea Party days.

“The act of appropriating Indigenous identities has crossed the line and isn’t just play, but an ongoing form of colonial erasure,” Rickard said in a media

release.

Dockstader said the “door of opportunity has never been cracked open” for Indigenous peoples wider than it is today, but that “those chances are being blocked by opportunistic imitation Indigenous oppressors seizing these advances for their own personal gain.”

While “Blood Sport” was completed in 2022, it saw a surge in attention last November when it was presented at an Indigenous performing arts festival in Toronto last November, against the backdrop of revelations about Buffy Sainte-Marie following a CBC investigation from October.

“Knowing the complex elements that I wove into ‘Blood Sport,’ and the affirmations of Indigenous identity experienced by its protagonists, audiences will enjoy an entertaining and educational theatre offering which is sure to spur more discussion and understanding,” Rogers said.

This event will begin at 7 p.m. Call 905-468-3912 to reserve your seat. Admission is by donation.

For more information, visit notlmuseum.ca

Celebrate the summer solstice at Ryerson Park

Staff
The Lake Report

The genesis of another summer is almost upon us.

For the past several years, the first day of summer has June 21, but this year, the summer solstice — the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere — will take place on Thursday, June 20, with the sun reaching the highest point in the sky at 4:50 p.m.

Over at Ryerson Park, those ready to greet the start of a new season will be gathering to celebrate this day in a drumming circle and yoga at sunset.



Summer solstice is June 20 and you can celebrate by drumming down the sun at Ryerson Park. FILE

Members of the public are invited to join Niagara Nature Tours in the park at 7 p.m. and to bring a drum,

a pot, or anything to shake and rattle, as well as a yoga mat for the celebration.

This is the ninth annual

Drumming Down the Sun & Yoga in the Park event in Niagara-on-the-Lake — local volunteer Loretta Pietrobond has been running this event since 2014.

Those interested are also advised to bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on, and are also asked to bring a donation, as donations help cover city park permit fees to rent the area and for operational costs.

No experience is necessary to join in this family community celebration of the longest day of the year.

For more information, visit niaganaturetours.ca/niagara-summer-solstice.asp.

Niagara Motors third-annual car show is June 29

Staff
The Lake Report

Car lovers are called to make their way to Niagara Motors on June 29 for the third annual car show.

The lot at 1537 Niagara Stone Rd. in Virgil will be filled with classic cars for

people to come to enjoy with no entry fee.

The show promises fun for the whole family, including bouncy castles, face painting, barbecue and a raffle, with all proceeds from those purchases going to Red Roof Retreat, a local organization that provides recreational services

to children and young adults with special needs.

“They’re a great charity and we’ve been working with them for a while,” Matt Habinski, the car show’s lead organizer, told The Lake Report.

He added that Niagara Motors will match all funds

raised during the show with its own donation.

So far, more than 30 NOTL businesses have donated prizes for the raffle and more are always welcome, organizers say.

Those interested can contact Habinski at matt@niagamotors.com.

Twenty golden tickets to be found at Willow

Continued from Front Page

Since early June, customers who spend \$20 or more at the bakery are allowed to pick through a collection of chocolate bars made in-store.

The lure? Golden tickets hidden in select bars will give the holder the right to claim a gift basket full of prizes on July 1.

The brains behind the idea are the mother-and-son duo of Catherine and Sean O'Donnell, co-owners of the bakery.

"I said to my son, 'No one does anything fun any more,' " said Catherine, who is a renowned chocolatier.

She attended Belgium's Callebaut Chocolate Institute as a young woman and is now a judge at the annual World Chocolate Masters competition.

"Then he created the character Willow Wonka."

It was an easy choice, said Sean.

"We are a pastry shop, our chocolate work is based on the Belgian chocolate method. It just seemed like a no-brainer."

He spent hours creating



posters of the character that now adorn the store's walls and front windows. They portray Willow staring at customers with her distinctive huge blue eyes and flowing blond hair under a very Wonka-like top hat.

"We made around 1,000 chocolate bars and there are about 20 to 25 prizes," said Sean

"We've had some of our (business) friends donate \$50 and \$60 and \$80 and we put those together to make gift baskets worth around \$200."

Prizes, he said, include things such as winery tours, bike rentals and, of course, sweet treats and even a massive garden fountain "that's worth around \$400."

"It is kind of a thank you to the community, locals and customers from all around," he added.

And from all around they

have eagerly come to take part in the fun.

"We have people coming in and they just spend the \$20 so they can get a chocolate bar," said Catherine.

"It has been so fun to watch people get so excited," she added, making sure to give props to the NOTL business community that donated prizes and came to support the idea so eagerly.

"It was so easy to get everyone to buy into. I just sent out emails with a little paragraph of what we wanted to do and there was nobody who said no."

About 50 chocolate bars will be put out each day.

On Canada Day, holders of a golden ticket can go to the nation's birthday celebration at Simcoe Park and collect their prize.

It won't be hard to find the O'Donnells and their team at the festivities.



Tanya Linska of Virgil was happy to get her Willow Wonka bar after picking up a cake at Willow Cakes and Pastries on Tuesday. Maybe she found a golden ticket? RICHARD HARLEY

They will be the crew serving slices of the massive Canadian flag cake.

The patriotic pastry fresh from the bakery has become something of a tradition in NOTL every July 1, featuring over 3,000 slices of cake for

patriotic revellers.

The cake is so big it has to be transported to the park on a flatbed trailer from the bakery at the corner of Mary and Mississauga streets.

Holders of a golden ticket who are unable to attend

the Canada Day celebration will still be able to pick up their prize.

"They just need to contact us," said Sean.

"And obviously they will need to have proof of their ticket when they come in to pick up their prize."



IS THIS YOUR YEAR TO HEAR BETTER?

Celebrate our one year anniversary of better hearing and save!



Get \$1,900 off a pair of premium hearing aids with our one-year anniversary offer!*

(Plus, you may qualify for up to \$1,000 in provincial funding.)

It's time to Turn Up Life!



Book your FREE hearing assessment now.†

Call us toll-free today or scan the QR code.

1-833-966-1951

Mention code: NF-NP-24

HearCANADA.com

* Special pricing available for new purchases of select binaural hearing aids of premium technology (Widex 440 and Signia level 7) while supplies last. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions and is not redeemable for cash. Offer expires August 31, 2024.

† Not applicable on third party claims.



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

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



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



Contributed by Patty Garriock

“You’re off to great places, today is your day.
 Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.”
 - Dr. Seuss

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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

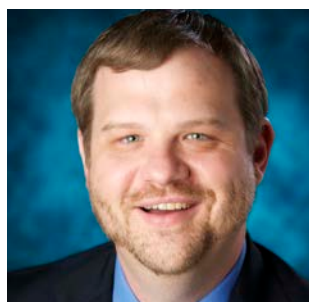
Ride for Dad comes to town



More than 200 bikers revved their engines at Legion Branch 124 on Saturday morning to support Ride for Dad. The organization funds prostate cancer research and education for all. MPP Wayne Gates and Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa watched as bikers left for their ride along the Parkway to Niagara Falls. JULIA SACCO

Guest Editorial

Rules needed to protect Online News Act funding



Gordon Cameron
 Special to The Lake Report

When Canada’s Parliament finally passed Bill C-18, a.k.a. the Online News Act, there was great rejoicing in the country’s news media industry.

For too long, multinational online behemoths like Facebook and Google had been profiting from our journalistic efforts and paying nothing in return.

Rather than pay its share to compensate news producers, Facebook’s parent company Meta, which also

owns Instagram, decided to start blocking news on its social networks.

That’s why The Lake Report and NiagaraNow.com can no longer post direct links on those platforms.

However, Google and its parent company, Alphabet, decided to take a more productive approach and negotiated with the news media to arrive at deal that would fairly pay for news while ensuring that the company’s liability wasn’t unlimited.

As part of that agreement, which still needs to be approved by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Google has selected a consortium of media businesses to manage the \$100-million annual fund and to ensure that it’s properly distributed to news creators based on the Online News Act’s rules and regulations.

To ensure that as much of that money as possible goes to publications that are eligible under the act, the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, along with media organizations across the country, is asking the commission to make certain rules, including:

Defining what constitutes a full-time equivalent employee.

Capping the administration fees for managing the fund.

Requiring that any interest go to the eligible news businesses rather than the administrative organization.

Ensuring transparency by requiring all money be held in trust, all administrative expenses be made public and that everyone involved with the management of the fund declare all conflicts of interest.

Instituting fines for news businesses or individuals that try to cheat the system.

I know that this may seem like a whole lot of inside baseball stuff, but if you love your local community newspaper it matters.

Every dollar spent on running this program is one fewer dollar that’s spent on actual journalism.

Every non-eligible business that receives funding is taking money out of the pockets of those it was meant to help.

The Online News Act was passed to help stabilize Canadian journalism. It’s important that it is administered in a way that will do just that.

Gordon Cameron is the executive director of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association. He can be reached at g.cameron@ocna.org.

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

2 FOR 1 PIZZA PASTA PARMS

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



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Tree could live on as works of art

Dear editor:
Regarding your June 6 editorial about the numerous accidents with that big maple tree on Lakeshore Road (“No more fatalities — cut down the tree”), how about another solution?
The wood from the tree could be made available to artisans in the area, perhaps as many as 50. They could take all parts of the tree and

make art pieces out of the wood such as furniture, wall hangings, statues, instruments etc.
All of these artworks could be put on display, perhaps at several of the local wineries, for people to purchase.
Visitors doing wine tastings could also enjoy visiting the participating wineries to view the amazing creativity as well.

We own a beautiful piece made from maple branches that hangs on our wall in Victoria. The branches were cut and sliced, then bent to look like waves and we just love it. It is about 7 feet long.
There is an exhibit every two years called the “One tree Exhibit,” made from a tree that has to be cut down.
“Our” tree came from a farm owned by a sea captain

who sailed the world in the 1800s, with his wife disguised as his first mate.
I believe 80 artisans that displayed their work at the exhibit that we purchased from. It is incredible what people can make out of wood.
That tree could live on forever inside people’s homes.
Jim Reid
Victoria, B.C.

Don’t blame the tree for fatal Lakeshore crash

Dear editor:
It is tragic that a life again was lost when a vehicle hit a tree on Lakeshore Road.
Not knowing the reason the vehicle left the road, how is it the tree’s fault?
Speed, inattention, al-

cohol, drugs, driver error, something wrong with the vehicle, all have nothing to do with the tree.
How many cars pass by that tree every day and there have been two fatalities in two years, yet the blame is put on the tree.

If that was valid, we would have to cut down a lot of trees.
The tree is not at fault, it is only being where it has been for decades.
Also, having driven that stretch of road for many, many years, if drivers

obey the speed limit they are unlikely to ever hit the tree.
People need to pay more attention to the rules of the road and their driving.
Ken Clayton
NOTL

Housing market slow, but rates going down

Continued from Front Page

Prior to this effort to support our great local paper, I’ve been a daily newspaper guy, a financial guy, TV talking head, serial businessman, author (17 books), blogger, wealth manager, member of Parliament (twice, slow learner), and I even admit to having been the minister running the CRA, our nation’s tax agency (don’t judge).

But let’s talk about your house.

Real estate is a cult in Canada. Everybody wants some, especially in upscale, gorgeous, Leave-it-to-Beaver places like Niagara-on-the-Lake. That’s why the average price here last month was \$1.123 million and the rest of the region clocked in at just over \$700,000.

But since COVID, and the housing mania it engendered in 2021, the market’s been weird.

Sales are down — well below the 10-year average — while listings have swollen and mortgage rates are more than double pandemic levels. Despite that, plus some punitive government measures, prices haven’t collapsed. Sellers have not surrendered. No fire sales.

In fact, a house around the corner just changed hands for well over \$3 million. The folks across the road are hanging in with a listing that (with the land transfer



Garth Turner says mortgage rates should be down to 3.5 per cent by next summer.

tax) will hit four mill. This is serious money. NOTL is not your typical little bump in the GTA hinterland.
So, why is this the case? And what’s coming?
“The current market in NOTL is slow,” admits Sotheby’s broker Kimberley McKee. She lays blame on the feds’ capricious ban on foreign buyers (now extended) and the ongoing uncertainty about what the Bank of Canada has in store after one weensy quarter-point chop.
“Personally, the day after the reduction, I did notice a marked increase in booked property showings,” she says. “These viewings have not yet translated into firm offers, which only reinforces the observation that buyers are definitely more cautious.”
Bosley sales representative Doug Rempel points

out that March, April and May sales sank — down 16 per cent, 12 per cent and 21 per cent from year-ago levels.
“It reflects a wait-and-see attitude,” he says. “People are waiting to see what the Bank of Canada does with interest rates. For better or worse, the psychological impact that has on buyer confidence has been a major factor in the nervous market we’ve seen here in Niagara.”
NOTL may have a lot of properties on the block right now (about 255), but the region has seen supply mushroom. At near 3,000, inventory is at all-time highs.
Niagara sales last month fell below 2023 levels. In NOTL they were a third higher. Cachet, tree-lined streets and exclusivity sell.
So what now?
Most economists fig-

ure two more cuts for the central bank by Christmas. Maybe even three. The prime at the banks will fall to just over 6 per cent. Five-year mortgages may slip below 5 per cent.
By next summer the Bank of Canada will have dumped its policy marker to 3.5 per cent. At that point home loans will have a 4-handle.
We’ve always had an inverse relationship between rates and house prices. Cheap money brought crazy valuations. But 10 rate hikes didn’t put a chink in the armour of the NOTL market. Sales may have stalled. The dollars didn’t. And now we’re on a path to monetary easing in Canada and globally.
In a normal world, it’d be up from here. But we’re not normal. Next week, I’ll tell you why.

Summertime at the Spa

Get ready for summer—head to toe—with these decant treatments.

- Endless Summer Scrub
- Endless Summer Body Wrap
- Endless Summer Deluxe Pedicure

Available until June 30, 2024

You’ll love the tropical twist in these luxurious treatments.

- Kiwi Krush Scrub
- Kiwi Krush Body Wrap
- Kiwi Krush Deluxe Pedicure

Available July 1 – August 31, 2024

SECRET GARDEN SPA at Prince of Wales 905.468.3246

100 FOUNTAIN SPA at Pillar and Post 905.468.2123

See website for full details.

vintage-hotels.com | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Don’t let visual difficulties hinder your **child’s potential.**

Struggling with reading can indicate visual skill deficits in children, not just learning disorders. Vision therapy targets the development of crucial visual skills, such as eye tracking and focusing, that are essential for effective learning and reading. Don’t let visual difficulties hinder your child’s potential.

DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY
— Sight for Life —

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

QUIET ACRES
MACSWEEN FARMS LTD

Open Daily: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
672 Lakeshore Rd., NOTL, 905-651-4232

This week featuring: strawberries, rhubarb, lettuce, garlic, scapes, peonies and asparagus!

Have an opinion you want heard?

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

Lord mayor has **broken** platform promises



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

Well, since being elected in November 2022 — 19 short months ago — our current council and lord mayor have managed to create more angst across the resident population of Niagara-on-the-Lake than any other council in recent decades.

Now, it is true that this council has had to deal with the wild-assed, high-handed and self-serving provincial legislation of Premier Doug Ford's government — with an agenda clearly set on sacrificing any notion of heritage preservation, maintenance of community character or protection of agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands on the altar of corporate real estate development interests.

Furthermore, going before the Ontario Land Tribunal — a government appointed body of adjudicators who have a 90 per cent plus track record of finding in favour of developers — to argue a municipality's case is expensive from a budgetary perspective and may create legacy debt, which must be amortized over future years.

There is no question that this provincial direction (and legislation) has created hurdles for all municipal levels of government across Ontario.

However, the traditional over-riding consideration of municipal councils has been, and should remain: "What direction are our constituents providing us vis-à-vis the decisions that come before council?"

That said, and returning to voter "angst" engendered by decisions rendered under the current council, allow me to selectively point out a few community concerns:

In Glendale, the proposed White Oaks development, with a high point of 25 storeys and secondary buildings at 21, 18, and 17 storeys (the height of all buildings exceeding the provisions of both the existing Official Plan and the new, yet-to-be approved, 2019 Official Plan) was defeated.

However, a member of the community, in his post-decision remarks stated, "This is not the end of the story..." since council did not deny the overture but rather referred it back to staff.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the QEW, another mixed-use development will rise well above its low-density residential neighbours.

In Virgil, this council endorsed a motion by Coun. Erwin Wiens on familial lands for a ministerial zoning order that will rezone the piece of land while overriding local municipal development constrictions (town's Official Plan and associated bylaws) to allow the construction of a six-storey residential building and multiple housing units.

In another Virgil development, several acres of woodland have been threatened by an overture to clear-cut the trees.

In St. Davids, the Opulence development, with a density 37 per cent higher than the Official Plan's allowance (8.24 units per acre vs. six units per acre) — something town staff referred to as a "modest increase" — together with both drainage and traffic issues, was given the green light.

And, the region's plans for a roundabout in the heart of the village appears to be proceeding without any notable opposition by town council.

In Old Town, two new hotels — one at Queen and Mississauga streets principally surrounded on three sides by single-family residential, the other on the Parliament Oak lands, which are completely surrounded by residential streetscapes — have been granted the rezoning requested by the applicants.

This despite the fact that each will irrevocably



Brian Marshall says Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, in voting to allow two major hotels in Old Town, has broken his campaign promises to protect the character of the community.

alter and, almost certainly, negatively impact their respective streetscapes and neighbourhoods for decades to come (for different, but similar, reasons).

“Interesting that the lord mayor's voting on the selection of issues cited are not consistent with these statements from his platform in 2022.”

Then, at the top of King Street, the Bice development appears to be sailing forward with no legal review of the Ontario Land Tribunal decision vis-à-vis errors in law.

Adding to this angst is this council's decision to limit the time allowed for presentations by individuals, citizen groups and their third-party representatives during council meetings.

This action taken by council appears to be an attempt to deliberately deny Niagara-on-the-Lake voters the right to fully express the community's position and inform their elected repre-

sentatives of salient facts as perceived by town residents, in the recorded minutes of a council meeting.

From all appearances and the recorded votes relative to these specific decisions — the majority of councillors, including the lord mayor — it seems that our officials are working with an agenda that does not include the general will of these communities as expressed to The Lake Report in letters to the editor and by this columnist, personally.

So, I thought it might be insightful to go back into the past and take a look at some of the platforms and promises that led to their election.

Let's begin with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

In a September 2022 interview with this columnist, then-candidate Zalepa made the following statements:

"People were always attracted to the quality of life (of Niagara-on-the-Lake) and I think that's a mix of the neighborhoods and settings that people can find here and across our different villages in the town."

"And that includes the built forms, the unique property structures and

the amount of green space that they find compared to where they're coming from."

He continued regarding public sentiment vis-à-vis development: "Mostly what I hear is concern. I hear concern about the risk of perhaps losing what I started off trying to explain as important. I think people feel that and I think that's real and I don't think that's a real concern."

"Because let's face it," he continued, "people have chosen Niagara-on-the-Lake for the same reasons my family did at one time as well. And if we don't address that, if we damage that, we threaten to break the very reason why we're all here in the first place."

"I think it's really important that council then must go out into the different villages in the community and discuss what type of development is needed and what would be acceptable in each of the different communities and really get feedback for people to say look, this kind of form this structure is acceptable here or it's not acceptable there."

Finishing these particular comments with, "We'd love

people in the community, to impart, you know, add (their) comments... and then I think we, as a council, bring that all back in, we distill it all and then identify what we can move forward on."

From the Niagara Foundation's candidate survey speaking to the issue of contextual appropriate development and community involvement in the planning process:

"Council can best be equipped by creating a clear set of guidelines and prescriptions in the town's planning documents which guide clarity in development."

"In the absence of clear planning direction the public engagement side tends to involve frustration and stress," it stated.

"Council needs to establish clarifying policies so that proponents have a better understanding of what the community is expecting in development and at that point the community involvement would inform the process more intelligently."

I interpret these statements, taken as a whole, to suggest a platform that promises to protect the existing cultural heritage landscapes in all its parts.

In addition, the platform promises engagement in the form of in organized outreach and subsequent discussion with voters to define what is acceptable and unacceptable development to thereafter be guided by that direction and to codify that direction into a "clear set of guidelines and prescriptions" that proponents and citizens alike would use to follow with respect to "acceptable development."

Interesting that the lord mayor's voting on the selection of issues cited are not consistent with these statements from his platform in 2022.

We have run out of race track for this week, but stay tuned, for next week we continue to compare how the councillors' platforms compare to their voting.

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



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

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere

HIRING KITCHEN STAFF!



Letter writer Gunter Haibach says he's never had a problem at the new crossover on Mississauga Street.

Never had problems at **new** NOTL crosswalk

Dear editor:
The June 6 story, "New crossover lights are a safety hazard, residents say," is an interesting article, however I think more reporting and research is needed.
I live nearby and use this

crosswalk quite often. I have never felt unsafe.
At the same time, it's a good idea to review the procedure on how to use it, in case there are others who are not familiar with doing so.

I remember the main point made on the introduction of the crosswalk is to push the button and wait until all cars have come to a complete stop, on both sides, in all lanes. Then walk.

It has worked for me.
However, I agree that flashing lights directly over the road would be another improvement for drivers.

Gunter Haibach
NOTL

At its heart, 'My Fair Lady' is a **love story**

Dear editor:
The Lake Report review of "My Fair Lady," laudatory as it was, missed the larger idea that it's a love story ("My Fair Lady" makes triumphant return to Shaw stage," June 13).
Ovid wrote it that way.

Shaw transformed it through his lens of politics and the battle of the sexes to being ultimately transactional.
In Gabriel Pascal's 1938 film, the ending was ambiguous.
Lerner and Loewe re-

turned it to Ovid's original myth.
The musical stands on its own. "I Could have Danced all Night" and "I've Grown Accustomed to her Face" say it all.
Why must the writer in the festival program and

your reviewer distort this work of genius by insinuating a 19th century women's plight?
Can't they let us have some romance and fantasy.
It's a play.
Dr. Sirgay Sanger
NOTL

We already have **plenty of quality hotels** in NOTL

Dear editor:
Councillors who voted for the Marotta hotel referred to an unapproved draft tourism report stating we need more high-quality hotels in Old Town.
Yet Tripadvisor just named the 25 best hotels in all of Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake has four of them. More than Toronto. And we need more? Obviously a flawed report.
This report also says we need more general commercial zoning, yet there are thousands of square feet available at the Village, commercial zoning at the intersection of Mary and Mississauga streets can be extended in almost every direction as it's an area in transition to commercial.

Plus there are already several sites in town available for hotels such as at the Village and Peller Winery, Pillar and Post, Charles Inn, Rainer Hummel's approved site, the vacant hotel property on Ricardo beside Queen's Landing and the land beside the Shaw Club Hotel on Picton.
The hospital site is also ideal for a hotel as it's beside two hotels and the Shaw Festival Theatre. It's obvious that the worst site to develop and rezone is the school site.
The character and charm of the town is a result of previous developers following the rules, which limited all building heights to three storeys.
This hotel will be at least

19 metres high or equivalent to a seven-storey building with 2.7-metre floor to floor heights. It shouldn't be allowed anywhere but Glendale and the QEW, and certainly not beside two-storey heritage homes in Old Town.
In 2017, council and staff had the rare opportunity to study and recommend the best way the school site should be used and zoned for the benefit of the community.
This recommendation would be explained to the owner of the land so they wouldn't waste time on incompatible uses, heights or zoning.
It appears, however, that the developers have prepared designs for the most inappropriate buildings

possible for a residential property.
The building is wrong in style (European Beaux Arts), in scale (twice the height of the existing major hotels), and in zoning (this land in the official plan is to be used for housing).
The community should demand an explanation from staff and council as to how they were influenced to make such egregious decisions.
If councillors think they were given more power through Bill 185, they should understand that it is a bill "cutting red tape to build more houses." This hotel reduces the number of housing units in NOTL.
Wayne Murray
NOTL

Hotel designs **don't fit** NOTL's heritage district

Dear editor:
The June 13 edition of The Lake Report is rife with rage from various NOTL residents about the plans of Niagara developers to simply ignore local concerns before erecting huge structures that do not fit with the ambience of the town.
Neither developer Rainer Hummel nor Benny Marotta have shown any interest in designs that fit within the heritage conservation districts of Niagara-on-the-Lake.
Even outsiders, such as me, are astonished at continually reading about one after another inappropriate development. What are the town planners thinking?
As one letter to the editor

notes, it appears that padding their personal pocket-books is the only thing that matters to developers.
Another asks who is rubber-stamping these development plans.
The letter that stands out is from the gentleman who has a PhD in hydrogeology and expresses concern that the shallow water table on Queen Street and the planned deep underground parking are incompatible.
I hope the council will show more respect to the citizens of the town who are not against development, but simply ask for well thought-out, well-designed appropriate development.
Gail Benjafield
St. Catharines



The proposed highrise development at White Oaks.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
GARDEN TOUR
Celebrating Over 30 Years Exploring Gardens
SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024 | 10AM-5PM



Join us for the **Gardener's Garden Tour**
Engage with homeowners to gain insights about their innovative ideas, triumphs, and lessons learned along the way.
notHORTSOCIETY.com





The Agency Arrives in *Niagara*

MORE OF THE SAME IS NEVER AN OPTION.

DISCOVER LUXURY REAL ESTATE AT THE AGENCY NIAGARA

1627 NIAGARA STONE ROAD UNIT C, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON L0S 1J0 | 905.468.9014
STAY CONNECTED @THEAGENCYNIAGARA | THEAGENCYRE.COM

AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED FRANCHISEE OF THE AGENCY REAL ESTATE FRANCHISING, LLC. NOT INTENDED TO SOLICIT PROPERTIES UNDER CONTRACT.

WE ARE NOT YOUR PARENTS' AGENCY



~~LET ME SELL
YOUR HOME!~~

~~JOHN DOE 310 333 5866~~





Abattoir should be easily approved

Dear editor:
I want to demolish my house and build an abattoir on my lot.

I am sure that there is a study somewhere showing there is not enough fresh meat being processed in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I will need a few minor variances for setbacks, lot coverage and building height but they seem star-

ting easy to obtain these days.

A zoning change will be necessary, but our zoning bylaws have proven to be very elastic when stretched by political will.

My neighbours will have to live with the smells and the noise and with the many cattle and hog trucks coming and going at all hours, but they will surely

understand that a five-star slaughterhouse is a plus for the local economy.

Their peace and enjoyment, as well as their property values, will have to be sacrificed for such a good cause.

Just think of the employment opportunities. There must be countless locals who are looking for a career in minimum-wage meat

packing.

The message we are getting from five members of council is loud and clear: Niagara-on-the-Lake is for sale to the highest bidder and everything is possible.

Given the precedent that has already been set, I look forward to a rapid approval of my plans.

Jim Reynolds
NOTL

Parking, noise remain concerns near hotel

Dear editor:

The basis for councillors approving the zoning change for the former Parliament Oak school site is that the town is desperately in need of a five-star hotel.

According to developer Benny Marotta's staff, residents of the low-density, quiet neighbourhood surrounding it won't even notice that the hotel is there as it will be positioned in the middle of the property.

This is despite the fact that, at over 60 feet high, it is almost three times the height of some of the local houses.

They also needn't worry about noisy delivery and garbage trucks trundling along their quiet streets as the side entrances will rarely be used.

Parking for the 100 staff and 700 attendees at the (apparently also much-needed) wedding venue will not be an issue. Noise from the hotel patios and the hotel generally — no problem.

The residents will also be able to enjoy the lovely landscaped gardens and



historical markers from Parliament Oak school at the rear of the hotel using their X-ray vision to look through the stone wall that will be enclosing it all.

The fact a majority of councillors approved this proposal confirms that hotel owners and developers are of more concern to some councillors than the needs and well-being of town residents.

Something to think about when the next election rolls around.

Barbara Waller
NOTL

Are we turning NOTL into the Hamptons?

Dear editor:

So, Rainer Hummel says Benny Marotta's proposed five-star hotel is needed, ("This is not Disneyland: Residents angered after two hotels approved," The Lake Report, June 13).

Really? What else would you expect one developer to say about another developer's proposal to build a 129-room hotel on the old Parliament Oak property?

That's like asking the old MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., which clear-cut thousands of acres of B.C. forests, how it feels about the pulp and

paper industry.

Hummel says we need this kind of elite hotel to attract tourists who don't come here because of the current quality of hotels. So, who are these people? It's not just 129 of them, but more like 300 guests on a rolling basis.

I remember when we didn't have enough workers for this town and now we will need even more.

What about parking for the service workers? Most of them have to travel from out of town since no one on minimum wage can afford

to live here.

It feels like Niagara-on-the-Lake is becoming something like the Hamptons — a place where we cater to the very rich.

And while I have nothing against wealthy people (I've known many extraordinary philanthropists), being rich doesn't make you a better person.

Anyone who works in the service industry in town will tell you that the more money people spend here, the more demanding they are.

And surprise, a lot of

them don't tip. Not even on Christmas Day.

Those entitled guests at top-end hotels will want only the best restaurants, too. No falafel takeout for them. Goodbye mom-and-pop restaurants.

We'll need five-star establishments with only the best wines and the finest service. Remember when there were whispers about a casino at one time?

When is enough enough? Hopefully not after it's too late.

Leslie Wade
NOTL

Is NOTL reaching a tipping point on development?

Dear editor:

I was one of those who spoke at the June 11 council committee of the whole meeting when the staff recommendation to approve the rezoning of the Parliament Oak property was debated.

While hoping for a different outcome (or at least a better discussion), I wasn't surprised by the 5-4 split in favour given the earlier decision about the Hummel property on Queen Street and what appeared to be a common insight about who would be yea and who nay.

I asked at the time, "What's happening and really at play here? Why are we spinning our wheels debating issues that appear so obvious?"

Since then, I've spent some time attempting to peel back this onion, thinking, in particular, of certain statements made during the meeting that, for me at least, missed the mark.

Here are five of them, with my responses.

1. "A housing option was tried and was rejected by the residents."

Yes, that's true but surely what was proposed represented overly intensive development that would have had negative neighbourhood effects. As I recall, the proposal was tweaked once but little attempt was made to negotiate a common solution. Then, of course, a willing buyer appeared, so why even bother?

2. "A retirement housing option is unnecessary as it's being accommodated by the 164 beds being built at Radiant Care in Virgil."

I doubt whether that welcome development will even come close to meeting future demands for graduated housing given our large, aging demographic.

The good news is that we'll know more soon as

results become available from the well-conceived, citizen-led survey about the housing concerns and plans of those residents over 55.

3. "While some are clearly opposed and balance is important, I've spoken with many of our 19,000 residents and believe we are ready to accept the project."

Therein lies the nub of a major governance problem. Our community is complicated, basically a "community of communities" and the ways in which we differentiate issues and consult about them is insufficient.

As a resident of Old Town, I have opinions about the roundabout at St. Davids, for example, but will not be materially affected by it. My vote counts but should be outweighed by those cast by immediate residents, businesspeople and parents with school-

aged children who will live with the change.

Frankly, while we are experimenting with open houses and online alternatives, we are still lousy at collecting and weighing the most relevant opinions. The ones that count most are those who will live with the outcome day-to-day.

And bets about the future for Parliament Oak, they are decidedly against the hotel. We should diligently check that out and add extra weight where it belongs.

4. "We need a five-star hotel and that's what the developer will build."

Says who? And what's the likely result? Tourism consultants will argue for that as I recall the developer did years ago when he spoke favourably about high-end visitors who arrive by air or limousine, attend a wedding, maybe take in a show and a private wine tasting then exit the

way they arrived.

That's the tendency — look locally (Elora, Cambridge), elsewhere in North America and around the world.

We might understand what Shaw, as our major public draw, really needs to fill incremental seats in relatively small theatres given the number of new hotel rooms already in the works.

Or whether the wineries are suffering because of a lack of rooms? Or the Trip Advisor story last week, which noted our favourable hotel quality.

Another thought: Have we ever considered allowing smaller hotels and inns to be established at certain wineries? Agritourism is an attractive strategy in many other regions.

5. "The developer owns the property and might operate a club with a similar payoff or drag the town into another expensive legal

entanglement."

Conceivably that might happen as that's the behaviour already experienced here and in other communities. In that event, if enough is deemed to be at stake, the cause will be well worth taking up. Odds are, assuming good preparation, the community would win.

I also suggested we may now be reaching a tipping point — where our official plan becomes just a debatable template and present-day choices will either serve to stabilize and improve our community or move it further toward decline.

Even where civil unrest could conceivably arise.

Look around. Gather the facts. Check opinions carefully. Debate the options. Be objective and then assured.

We now need to wait for June 25 to see whether the 5-4 split will change.

Mr. Terry Mactaggart
NOTL



The Prettiest Town Beyond the Bricks and Mortar

Explore some of NOTL's heritage homes | May 17-Dec. 18, 2024
905-468-3912 | notlmuseum.ca | Open daily from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.





Council must at least **revisit** hotel site plan

Dear editor:

The 5-4 verdict by council on major hotel development proposals is a great wrong. It feels like a crime. A political crime.

Therefore, this is my victim impact statement.

My husband and I moved to NOTL in 2017.

Yes, we were from the GTA, like many in this community.

Yes, we enjoyed the quaint, hometown way of life we experienced as a visitor.

Yes, we thought this might be a lovely place to retire.

But: We respect the history of this great country.

We respect the role of the Indigenous people

allowing us to form a country here.

We respect the need to safeguard the history that can guide us in our future.

We purchased a 200-year-old home and believe we are stewards of our special property.

I believe we are not the only ones that care.

NOTL has councillors to help form a community in this little part of our great country.

Councillors we elected. Councillors who have not listened to those they represent. Us.

I feel betrayed.

I attended all the meetings about the redevelopment of 325 King St. — the institutional property

that held the first Parliament of our young nation.

I researched the zoning, the meaning of a zoning change now and in the future of our town. Have the councillors?

There has been discussion about the height of the proposed building, not the appropriateness of the size, but the shadows?

There has been discussion that two-thirds of the property will be covered by flora, but not about the continuous wall surrounding it.

Consider this: At present, the space is open, but when the project is complete, there will be a brick wall on three sides with no public access from the neighbourhood.

The architect left the impression, in his remarks, that our neighbourhood should be feeling luck to have a five-star hotel in what he called “a utilitarian residential neighbourhood.”

I am not only insulted by these words but suspicious that this is in fact his belief.

How can NOTL allow a builder, a building, a wall, to keep out the non five-star riffraff who live with joy and respect in our Regent, Gage, Centre, King Street community?

Please reconsider your decision on June 25. If you must approve the zoning, revisit the site plan.

Margo Foreman
NOTL

Is mayor right about majority supporting more hotels?

Dear editor:

There are two development proposals for major hotels in Niagara-on-the-Lake that have council approvals. Both require amendments to the town's official plan and zoning bylaw and are located in predominantly residential areas.

Rainer Hummel's property at 228 Queen St. has potential issues with plans for a three-storey underground parking garage on a high water table and the 81-room, four-storey hotel is close to adjacent residences.

Benny Marotta's land at 325 King St. (Parliament Oak school) requires a zoning bylaw change from institutional to commercial to permit development of a 129-room hotel.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita stated, “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.”

Editor's note: That's a great idea, Robert. Here's a link to a survey on resident satisfaction with this town council. Look next week for another about whether you are ready to accept the Parliament Oak hotel.

In the June 13 issue of The Lake Report, a headline notes “Four upscale NOTL hotels on Tripadvisor's Top 25 list” — White Oaks Resort, the Harbour House, Queen's Landing and the Pillar and Post.

This is quite an accomplishment for NOTL with a population under 20,000. Only three Toronto hotels made that list.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said, “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 feel that this is a project that the community is ready to accept, if it is done right.”

This may be an important opportunity for The Lake Report to conduct a survey about this perceived level of acceptance by the community.

Robert Buchkowsky
NOTL



So much history and **so many hotels** already

Dear editor:

I have been following the two hotel applications for our historic town.

We have so much history in such a small area: the first capital of Upper Canada, the first sitting of Parliament, Fort George not only won the War of 1812 but also preserved our independence, the Underground Railroad ended here, we have first purpose-built museum, the first recorded library in 1800, Ontario's first newspaper, etc.

Millions of tourists are attracted to our beautiful historical town, thanks to the

Shaw, wineries and more.

Parking has become challenging. Our crowded main street and stores keep locals away for months. Friends who moved away upon their return say NOTL is losing its charm.

We already have the following hotels in NOTL: Best Western Colonel Butler, Hilton Garden NOTL, Holiday Inn Express, Queen's Landing, Prince of Wales, Niagara College Residence & Conference Centre, White Oaks, 124 on Queen, Riverbend, Pillar and Post, Staybridge Suites, Harbour House, Shaw Club

& Hotel, Oban Inn, Moffat Inn, Charles Inn, Suites on King, South Landing Inn ... not counting small inns and B&Bs.

On June 25, our council will vote on Benny Marotta's 129-room hotel on the Parliament Oak site, having already approved Rainer Hummel's 81-room modern hotel on Queen Street.

It was surprising to read in The Lake Report that Lord Mayor Zalepa feels the community is ready to accept Mr. Marotta's hotel in a single-family residential area.

Added traffic, truck deliv-

eries, escalated noise from the hotel are all acceptable, according to Zalepa.

If you vote to allow over 200 more hotel rooms in Old Town, are you as our councillor, willing to live in the immediate proximity? If the honest answer is no then put yourself in the shoes of those you will be affected and vote no.

You were elected to represent the interests of those who live here and voted for you, not the tourists who visit for a few hours, one or a few days. It's your choice.

Luba Fraser
NOTL

Parliament Oak plan **undermines** our town's strategic goals

Dear editor:

The Niagara Foundation presented to council last Tuesday about a proposed land use change for 325 King St., the former location of Parliament Oak school.

We would like to repeat and confirm our position.

The Niagara Foundation objects to this proposed change of use because it will drastically and permanently reduce the amount of land where residents (current and future) access community services, and where residents learn, experience traditions and build culture in their community.

This property is identified for community use in the official plan and it should remain so.

We object to the proposed change in land use and zoning for the following reasons:

There are many hotels,

bed and breakfasts and vacation rentals in Old Town that support our local tourism industry — with more already approved for construction.

Several areas of Niagara-on-the-Lake offer commercial land where more lodging facilities could be built, without requiring the loss of community use land.

The land at 325 King St. is the second-last large piece of community use property in the Old Town area.

If it is converted to general commercial, the former hospital site on Wellington Street will be the only remaining land parcel in Old Town set aside for community use. A decision should not be made about land use at 325 King St. until the future of the former hospital site has been determined.

The town has not yet

completed a parks and recreation master plan. It is impossible to say that 325 King St. is not needed for parks and recreation (or for other community uses) without having a master plan in place.

NOTL is growing and includes a wide range of community and cultural organizations that need more space to exist.

Council included the word “community” in two pillars of the town's strategic plan. The proposal to change 325 King St. to general commercial use is unnecessary, premature and undermines council's own strategic goals.

We hope for a more positive outcome at the June 25 council meeting, when this application will be on the agenda.

Lyle Hall
Chair
The Niagara Foundation

Water table a **deep concern** for Hummel hotel garage

Dear editor:

I think that Chris Jennings has a good and valid reason to be very concerned about the underground parking garage proposed by Mr. Hummel for his Queen Street hotel, (letter, June 13, “Serious concerns about planned hotel's underground parking”).

Without the benefit of a proper geotechnical site investigation and analysis, it is not known whether the groundwater level he refers to is perched, or at the nearby lake level, although it is probably at the latter. Moreover it is not known how pervious to groundwater inflow the underlying subsoils are.

Site dewatering will probably be required, as Mr. Jennings has pointed out, with the inherent risk of damage to adjacent properties.



The proposed Hummel hotel.

There may also be a need for a steel sheet pile cofferdam with some vibration risk to adjacent properties during installation or even a concrete slurry wall.

This would be an expensive undertaking, making an above-grade solution an attractive cost alternative to the developer. A geotechnical investigation (if one does not already exist) would likely provide answers to many of the unknowns.

The only indication at this point is the potential

for it being a serious and expensive issue and as such should be examined carefully by town staff and council alike so they are fully aware of any resulting consequences.

This, of course, is in addition to the historical and heritage aspects of NOTL that are of great interest and concern to residents in public debate, but are ignored by this developer and others.

Derek Collins
NOTL

TEAMS OF THE WEEK



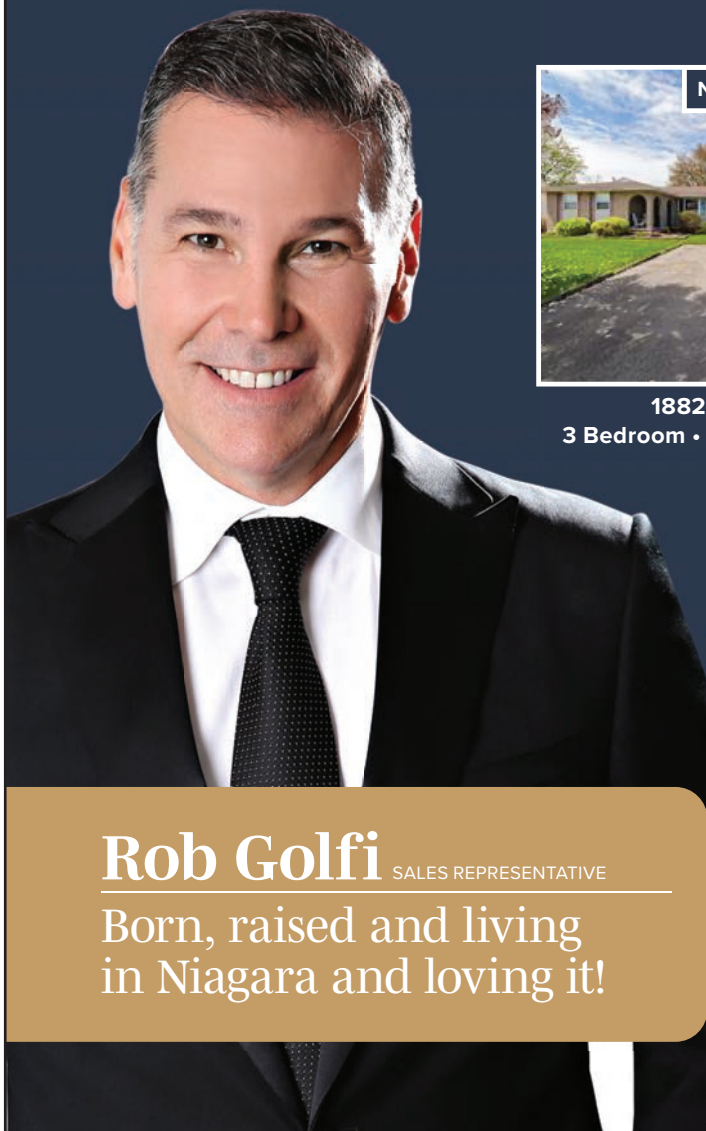
Timbits Yellow Team and Caroline Cellars U11-12

We not only have the Copa America and Euro Cup playing out over the next month, but soccer is back on the pitch in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This week marks The Lake Report's inaugural celebration of our Teams of the Week, starting with the Timbits Yellow Team: Pictured sitting, from left, are: Aaren Singh, Adriana Friesen, Cole Fowler and Jade Fowler. Back row: Coach Julia Friesen, Michaela Zappitelli, Benji Zambrano Castillo, Camilo Fandino Pelaez, coach Corey Fowler, Lucas Fandino Pelaez, Kamryn Friesen, Tenley Sartor and coach Matt Friesen.

Here are the members of The Lake Report's second Team of the Week, the Caroline Cellars U11-12 squad. Pictured front row, from left, are: Ryker Nikkel, Mathew Weberbuer, Michaela Neufeld, Claudia Bator, Jordan Dulas and coach Kurt Hamm. Back row: Nicholas Guretski, Hannah Gossen, Matt Korevaar, Josiah Schriefer and Wyatt Neufeld. Missing are: Alexandra (Kiki) Fandino Pelaez, Harrison Haslam, Helena Kane, Elise Kroeker, Avery London-Verticchio, Ramiro (Max) Pacheco and Carissa Rooney. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Call the brand that gets your home

NOTICED!



Rob Golfi SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Born, raised and living in Niagara and loving it!



1882 Creek Road
3 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,399,000



10 David Lowrey Court
4 Bedroom • 4 Bath • \$1,999,900



1090 Niagara Stone Road
2+2 Bedroom • 1 Bath • \$1,059,900

#1 Real Estate Team**

#1 on Google Trends***

#1 in Client Service***

#1 in Web Traffic***

#1 RE/MAX Team Canada†

#2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†

#2 on Toronto Real Estate Board**

Million-dollar marketing system!

FREE HOME EVALUATION!



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

GOLFI
TEAM

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



Jim McMacken shot even-par 36 in men's league last week.

McMacken's 36 tops the field

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Smooth-swinging senior Jim McMacken schooled the field and shot an even-par 36 to win low gross honours in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's men's league play last Thursday.

He also was closest to the hole on #9 and birdied it to win a gross skin.

Ross Smith was the Stableford scoring winner, with 21 points.

Other winners were: Dave Anthony (closest to the 150 marker on #1), Jack Hanna (longest putt #2), Zach Luis (longest drive #3) and Josh D'Agostino

(closest to the hole #4).

Other gross skins went Devon Neudorf and Michael Sanders for birdies on #1 and #5 respectively.

Net skins of \$80 each were won by John Schmidt (#3) and Sanders (#5).

Tuesday's torrential rains washed out the weekly women's leagues as the course was closed for part of the day.

The men's WOOFs league was able to tee off later and Jim Rye scored the low gross honours with a 3-over 39. Charlie Rate was low net with 33.

Peter Falconer's birdie on #6 won the hidden hole and Ted Wiens was closest to the hole on #4.



Davis Cup mixes tennis and bean bags

For those members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club who couldn't make it to the real thing, Saturday's mock Davis Cup tournament was a great alternative. John Ramsbottom organized the tournament which consisted of 32 players, each representing a different country, competing in round-robin games of tennis and cornhole. In the end, Team Canada took home the victory after winning a heroic final game of cornhole against Team USA 15-14. Tennis co-ordinator Adam Wodz said it was all a "very tight race" with Canada edging out its opponent. JULIA SACCO

Food at Ferox



TRY OUR NEW TAPAS FOR 2



Welcome to our new Chef Tasting and Wine Pairing experience with our ever changing seasonal and local menu at The Patio. Created, made and crafted by renowned European Chef Adriano Cappuzello and his wife Nicole, we present the newest and most delicious local farm to table cuisine. Now open

Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Ferox Estate Winery, 1829 Concession 4 Road, Niagara-On-The-Lake.

For further information, call (905)468-2271 or email info@ferox.ca. See you soon. Cheers!



FEROX
FABIAN REIS

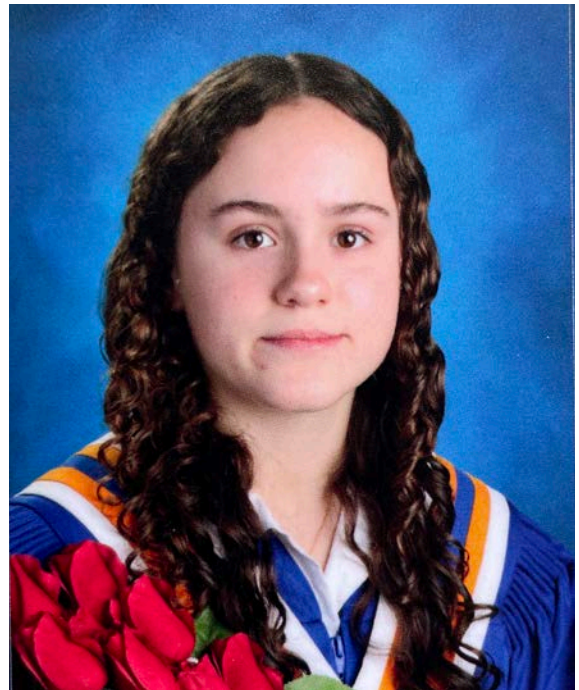
HAPPY GRADUATION



Audrey Rapone, Grade 8,
St. Davids Public School



Boyd Hopkins, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School



Elizabeth Hopkins, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School



Claire Vanderlee, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School



Matthew Amodeo, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School



Daphne Cadeau, Grade 8,
Dalewood French Immersion



Brianna Kerr, International Development Studies,
McGill University



Sienna Rey and Brooke McElhanney, Grade 8,
Royal Oak School

CONGRATULATIONS 2024 GRADS!

Pages sponsored by Sandtrap Pub & Grill



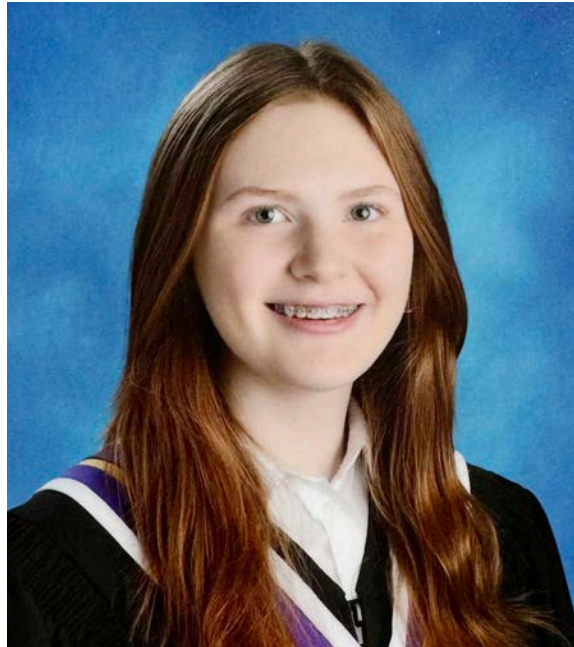
Keeping it local.

Open daily from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

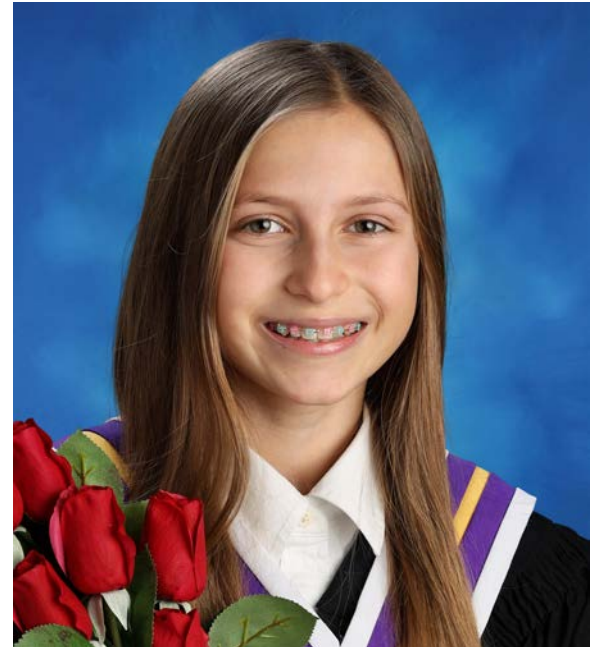
NOTL'S 2024 GRADS



Emily Miarecki, Grade 8,
Crossroads Public School



Emma Harber, Grade 8,
St. Davids Public School



Sophia Szewczyk, Grade 8,
St. Davids Public School



Charlie Lidstone, Grade 8,
St. Davids Public School



Cherrie Davis, Senior Kindergarten,
St. Davids Public School



Owen Tregunno, Senior Kindergarten,
St. Davids Public School.



Peyton Ferguson, Grade 8,
St. Michael Catholic Elementary School



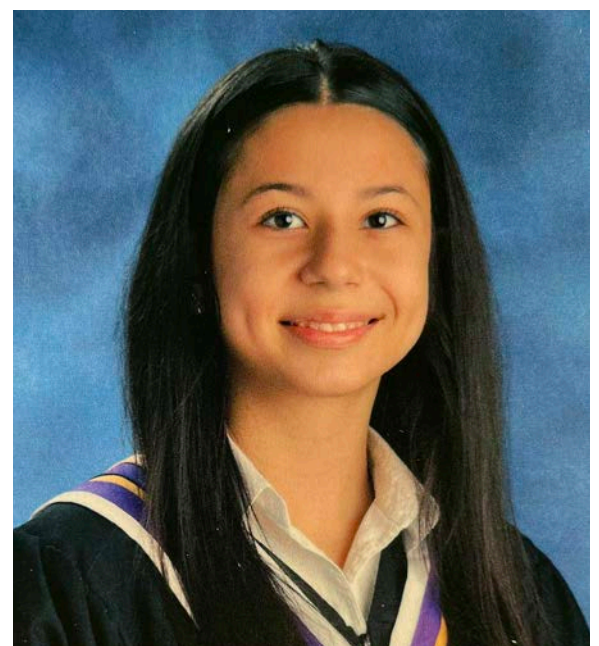
Elliot Tolsma and Conor McCarthy, Senior Kindergarten,
Crossroads Public School



John Vanderlee, Grade 12,
Holy Cross Secondary



Roman Prospero, Grade 12,
Holy Cross Secondary



Faith Papadopoulos, Grade 8,
St. Davids Public School

Have some fun

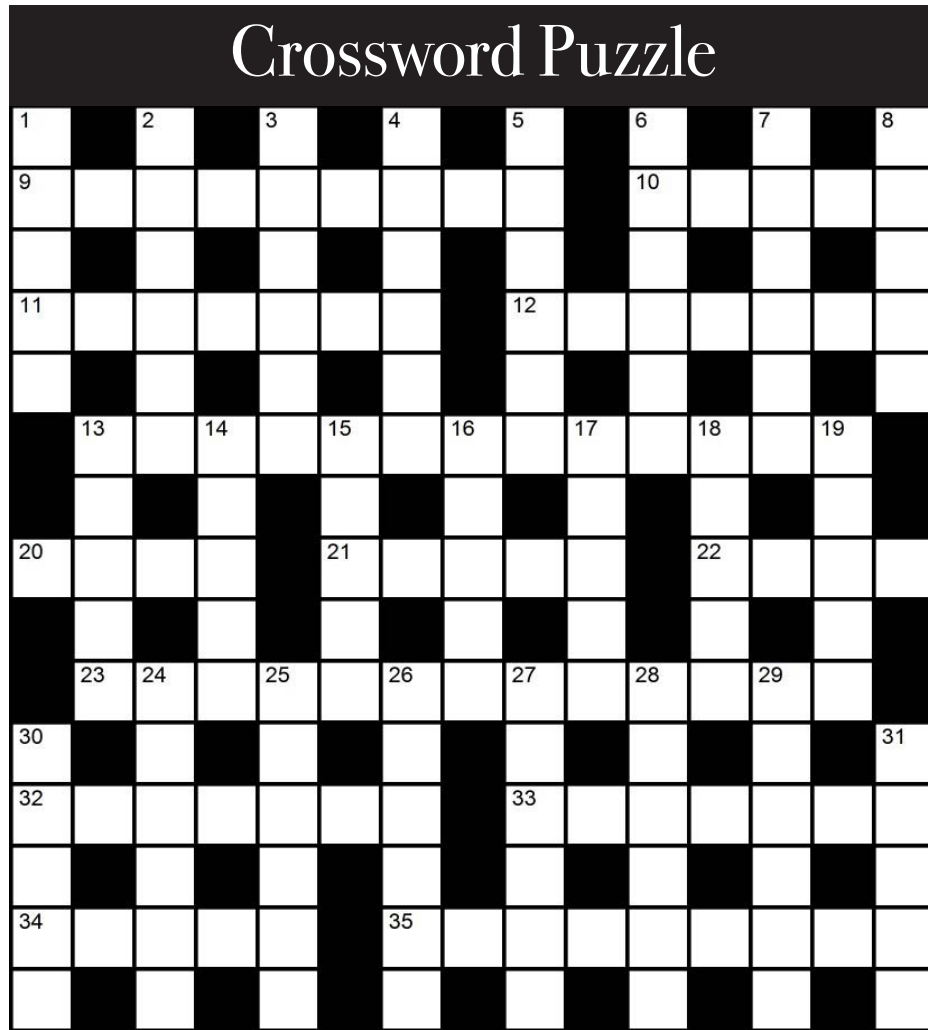


Across

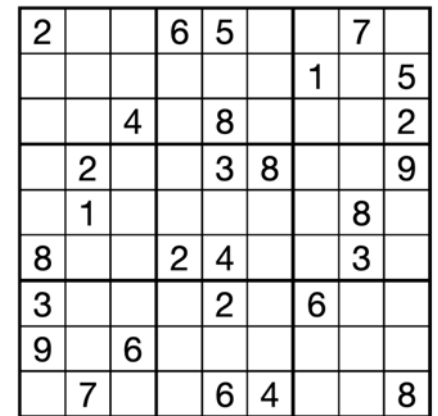
- 9. Wiggler (9)
- 10. Eight singers (5)
- 11. Curtain calls (7)
- 12. Trap (7)
- 13. Debatable (13)
- 20. Equipment for the reproduction of very good sound (2-2)
- 21. Set apart (5)
- 22. Irish county (4)
- 23. Unpredictable (13)
- 32. Tolerate (7)
- 33. Sustain (7)
- 34. Awaken (5)
- 35. Appraising (9)

Down

- 1. Gem (5)
- 2. Dealer in foodstuffs (6)
- 3. Winged child (6)
- 4. Sweet dessert (6)
- 5. Simple life form (6)
- 6. Dwarfed tree (6)
- 7. Capital of Canada (6)
- 8. Speak (5)
- 13. Publish (5)
- 14. Intense hatred (5)
- 15. Hire (5)
- 16. Island awarded the George Cross (5)
- 17. A tenth part (5)
- 18. Celestial body (5)
- 19. Faithful (5)
- 24. General escape (6)
- 25. Maxed (6)
- 26. Make over (6)
- 27. Wretchedness (6)
- 28. Son of one's brother or sister (6)
- 29. Very handsome young man (6)
- 30. E.g. the Romanovs (5)
- 31. Male deer (5)



Last issue's answers



NO ONE sells more homes in NOTL than GREG...

*#1 Ranked Niagara Association of Realtors 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 in transactions & volume.



...call to find out why.
GREG SYKES
905.329.3484



Culture, and how we're **always learning** from each other



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

As a species, humans consider themselves set apart from all other species because we possess gifts denied other creatures: our considerable powers of imagination, symbolic thinking and language, a compulsion to create and tell stories and, not least, our culture.

Human behaviour in utero and during the early months of life is largely driven by genes, which underpin the acquisition of innate behaviors such as sucking, smiling, crying, raising the head, rolling over, crawling, sitting, standing, walking and mimicking sounds.

Soon however, humans begin to learn language and increasingly absorb the habits, expressions, likes and dislikes of those around them.

These are the beginnings of cultural identity, which bind families and communities of like background and language together, while at the same time begin to distinguish them from

other groups with differing cultural roots, preferences, beliefs and cultures.

Culture and many associated behaviours are thus learned from those around us and through experience, and given opportunity, culture also evolves.

Evidence that culture can evolve is evident in changing social norms, hair styles, dress, play, music styles — all markers that often distinguish generations and contribute to shifts in cultural identity and change.

Many humans still assume that animals are incapable of culture and believe most animal behavior is instinctual or in other words, genetically driven.

Some evidence suggests otherwise. There are many examples of animals who develop novel behaviors.

One example of this was Imo, a juvenile female macaque in Japan who, in 1953, took to cleaning her sweet potatoes in fresh water before eating — a habit that quickly spread throughout the troop of macaques and evolved over the following decade to a preference among these primates for salt water, possibly because of the flavour sea salt imparted to the potatoes.

There are other examples of learned behaviours among chimpanzees, some of which were adopted by members of other chimp bands when they met.

The hunting habits of killer whales also differ from one pod to another and in different regions of the world's oceans.

But how much brain do species need to come up with novel behaviors that are copied by others in the group and perhaps evolve within a generation or more?

Apparently, not much. Bumblebees possess 1/100,000th of the number of neurons in the humans brain, yet were recently shown to easily learn a novel two-step complex test by watching trained bumblebees carry out the task, the reward for which was food.

Learning the same task was impossible for most naive bumblebees, but once trained, bumblebees were adept at figuring out even more complex tests.

This is a perfect example of socially learned behavior, even if less complex than many cultural behaviors in humans.

Research has established that culture exists in the animal world but in one respect, humans differ.

Human behavior and culture are far more complex, perhaps because their groups are significantly larger than other primates.

Larger groups put a premium on social intelligence: keeping track of who's who, who's friend,

who's not, who's helpful, who needs help and the social pecking order.

Unlike most species, humans possess group intelligence in abundance and each human depends on the fruits of other human discoveries — past and present.

For example, which one of us could make an iPhone, a computer, a knife, a watch or any of the taken-for-granted tools and conveniences of modern life?

Each generation and group contributes to that common reservoir of information and skills. But no one human can hope to understand or create the tiniest fraction of human knowhow.

That trend increases as the population of humans increases and individual humans increasingly specialize in smaller slices of what has become an exponentially growing body of collective human knowledge and skills.

In this sense, humans operate as a giant collective. No other species has power on that scale.

These days, cultural changes expand at internet speed because of social media, which spreads novel life-style changes, rumours and often made-up stories, all in an instant, much of which is frivolous and silly, but sometimes nasty.

For example, I learned recently that defriending someone on Facebook takes only three easy steps, again at light speed to the delight or dismay of those sharing the Facebook site.

Imagine: three clicks and someone is "defriended."

There are brakes on human social change and fashion.

For evidence of that we need only look at authoritarian governments in Iran, Afghanistan and North Korea to see that clamps on social change can be rigid, tough and unforgiving.

Other examples of soci-

etal brakes on novelty and human behavior exist in workplaces, science, religious groups, governments even in democracies, the police, military, financial institutions and legal systems, which, at their best, provide needed checks on social and technical experimentation, but which sometimes stifle novelty and innovation.

Checks and balances are common in nature, too.

Stars are a balance between the compressive effects of gravity working on the mass of a star and the expansile force of nuclear fusion generated heat.

Or in the biological world, during early development, an overabundance of neurons and connections are created, many of which are pruned in response to learning.

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.

Canada Day returns to fort

Staff
The Lake Report

The Friends of Fort George are inviting everyone to celebrate Canada Day on the grounds of its national historic site — with free admission for the whole day and a fireworks show to cap the day off.

Fort George is open on July 1 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with Canada Day activities planned including day-long entertainment, food at Simcoe Park and the fort, cannon firing and fire and drum corps and fireworks in the evening.

Beside Canada Day events, visitors can tour the buildings, visit with costumed interpreters, try period treats prepared in the officers' kitchen, enjoy a musket demonstration and more.

Festivities in Simcoe Park start at 11 a.m. with a Canada Day barbecue in Simcoe Park, hosted by the

Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There will be live music and children's activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., following which the annual cake parade will be led by the 41st Regiment fife and drum corps and will head down Queen Street into Simcoe Park, where slices of the cake will be distributed to the public, free of charge, made by chef Catherine O'Donnell at Willow Cakes and Pastries.

At Fort George, there will be cold drinks and treats available from 2 to 4 p.m. inside Fort George. The evening BBQ starts at 4 p.m., with Sweets and Swirls Café on site with both sweet and savoury treats.

Evening entertainment starts at 6:30 pm with the kiddie militia and drill, followed by a presentation by the Fort George Infantry, Artillery and Fife and Drum Corps.

Funds raised by the sale

of food by the Friends of Fort George will help to support student summer employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock's Monument.

On stage will be "The Howling Horns," an eight-piece horn band featuring music from blues to dance to classic rock.

Closing off the evening at 10 p.m. will be a spectacular fireworks display by Garden City Fireworks.

The day's events are all free for the public with generous donations and support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, Parks Canada, local businesses and individual supporters.

For more information on the Canada Day Festivities in Niagara-on-the-Lake, visit the Friends of Fort George Canada Day event page: friendsoffortgeorge.ca/canada-day/index.html



MISKOW GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC LTD.
THE GENERATOR SPECIALISTS

Sales • Service • Installation

905 • 994 • 1715

www.miskowgenerators.com

- **Customer Support 24 • 7 • 365**
- **Essential Preventative Maintenance Packages**
- **All work completed by Qualified Electricians, Gas Technicians and Certified Generac Generator Mechanics**
- **EASY Financing (oac)**
- **FREE In-Home Quotations**





It's not just a generator
It's a power move.

GENERAC | **POWER PRO PREMIER**



EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



The Oban House

The original Oban House was built by Capt. Duncan Milloy, a sailor and owner of the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company. He enlarged a small house built in 1822 by Mary Secord and the family boarded visitors for many years in their home.

However, when Duncan died at the Oban House in 1871, leaving his wife and four children behind, the family continued to live here until his son, Capt. William "Bill" Milloy, opened the residence as the Oban Inn in 1895.

The Second Empire-style building, with a mansard roof (drops along the side of the building) and dormers, was later expanded with another storey. The Milloy family's misfortunes grew and the property changed hands several times until the 1960s, when Edna Burroughs purchased the inn and continued to operate it with her son, Gary.

A devastating fire on Christmas Day in 1992 destroyed the inn, leaving only the foundation. Honouring both the heritage of the business and the built heritage landscape of our community, an exact replica of the former structure was rebuilt on the site.

It reopened in November 1993. In 2006, the inn underwent a significant transformation, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the long tradition of hospitality. Today, the inn celebrates 200 years of hospitality.

NOTL Rotary honours three with Paul Harris Award

Bill French
Special to The Lake Report

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake has honoured three people with the club's highest honour, the prestigious Paul Harris Award.

The NOTL club singled out Rose Campbell, Laurie Harley and Ken Schander for their work and presented the awards at a gala ceremony on June 11 at the NOTL Community Centre.

"It was a great celebration of our success this year and it was wonderful to recognize the outstanding contributions of Rose, Laurie and Ken," said gala chair Greg Fedoryn.

"They inspire us to continue doing good work around the world as people of action."

Campbell was recognized for her contributions to organizations such as Autism Ontario, the United Way, World Wildlife Federation and Brock University's Coalition Against Antisemitism.

Campbell is also one of the founding members of the Rotary Holiday House



Ken Schander, Laurie Harley and Rose Campbell were given the prestigious Paul Harris award by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake



Tour committee, having served in multiple roles over the event's 25-year history.

Harley, named NOTL's Citizen of the Year in February, has a long track record of serving Niagara-on-the-Lake.

She has been a volunteer with the NOTL Museum, president of the NOTL Hospital auxiliary and held a number of volunteer positions with the Shaw Guild

(greeter, docent, events chair, vice-president and president).

More recently, she led the development and introduction of the town's Ambassador program.

Schander was recognized for his many contributions to the NOTL club, having been secretary, president and past-president.

He also has served on the International Service Com-

mittee, Rotary Foundation Committee and the Holiday House Tour.

He also volunteers for the museum and works tirelessly helping the unhoused in the Niagara region. Schander has led delegations to Andhra Pradesh, India, and Western Tanzania, East Africa (twice) where they did structural improvements to local hospitals.

The award is named for

lawyer Paul Harris, who started Rotary in Chicago in 1905 so professionals from diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service involving members from all walks of life.

Harris said, "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to

the world it will be known by the results it achieves."

The organization is a global network of 1.4 million neighbours, friends and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs.

Rotarians volunteer about 47 million hours each year and award \$333 million to global service programs and projects.



LANDSCAPE FLORIDA

Creating The Ultimate Outdoor Living Spaces

• Patios • Outdoor Kitchens • Driveways • Landscape Lighting
• Pools and Spas • Firepits • Planting • Decks • Fences

905-641-5250 | www.landscapeflorida.ca



Silversmith brewery, Centennial earn top Niagara business awards

Staff
The Lake Report

Two Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses were among those honoured last week at the 20th annual Niagara Business Achievement Awards.

Silversmith Brewing Co. in Virgil was named Business of the Year, the top award.

And Centennial Construction & Contracting Niagara Inc. won the Excellence in Business Award for companies with more than 25 employees.

As well, Janice Thomson received the Community Leadership award.

The NOTL native is CEO of Niagara Falls Tourism and has been a director of Niagara Health and the Niagara Parks Commission.

Mark Sherk was named Entrepreneur of the Year. Sherk is president of Verge Insurance Group, which operates Reimer Verge Insurance Brokers in Virgil.

The winners were among several businesses and individuals with NOTL connections who were nominated for the awards by people in the community.



Silversmith Brewing Co. CEO Josh Graham accepts the Business of the Year award at the 20th annual Niagara Business Achievement Awards. GIANT SHOE CREATIVE AGENCY

The other NOTL finalists included: Rugged Books Inc., on Townline Road, (Excellence in Business), Budapest Bakeshop, Silversmith and Two Sisters Vineyards (Tourism and Hospitality), and Vineland Research and Innovation, chaired by May Chang of NOTL (Business of the Year).

Silversmith CEO Josh Graham was elated with being honoured.

"This award means a great deal to us," he said.

"It's provided us with some renewed confidence we are on the right path and others have taken notice."

"Virgil is home" and Etobicoke is the company's production location, but the company is expanding distribution across the country.

Silversmith is widely known for its award-winning Black Lager, it's top seller.

"In 2023, we shipped beer into Newfoundland and Labrador," Graham told The Lake Report.

"Last week, June 2024, to be specific we shipped beer into Saskatchewan. We will see product move into Alberta and Manitoba as well."

"We love the Black Lager," which makes up almost 40 per cent of the company's beer sales, he added.

"Singlehandedly, it is the biggest part of our history.

A close second would be our brewery being in a unique historic church" in Virgil.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: TRIPLE "A"-RATED FOOD

It's squid! Buon appetito!

Last issue:

Category: 4-LETTER WORLD CITIES

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

Answer: What is Rome?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Claudia Grimwood, Margie Enns, Susan Hamilton, Lynda Collet, Becky Creager, Sue Rautenberg, Bob Wheatley, Jeff Lake, Jesse Agnew, Pam Dowling, Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Kathy Humphries, Howard Jones, Jim Baird, Katie Reimer, Sylvia Wiens, Esther VanGorder, Margaret Garaughty, Tuija Johansson, Edna Groff, Hedy Wiebe, Lynn Brownlow, Marla Percy, Daniel Smith, Catherine Clarke, Sheila Meloche, Elaine Landray

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

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

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

Details at www.theirishharppub.com

NIAGARA RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS
GENERAL CONTRACTOR, RENOVATIONS, CUSTOM DECKS/FENCES, FLOORING, PERGOLAS, PROJECT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
289-690-0202 FOLLOW US LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
NIAGARARCE@YAHOO.COM

Warren
RENOVATIONS
905.468.2127
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

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

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

BY THE LAKE, ON THE LAKE: TARA KORKMAZ
JUNE 26-JULY 26, 2024
JOYNER GALLERY
OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
247 Ricardo Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
NIAGARAPUMPHOUSE.CA/EXHIBITIONS

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

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

D-Handyman Services
Painting, wall and ceiling repair and much more!
289-929-hanD (4263)
d.handyman.denis@gmail.com
PO Box 1088
Virgil, Ontario
Denis Curtis Proprietor
<http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman>

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



Love story hosta, left, pink diamond bleeding heart, top right, and primo pistachio ambrosia heuchera are shade plants.

These new plants are **made for shade**



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

There is one thing that I can say with certainty about plants is that there will always be new varieties being released each year.

Just when you think that you know all the latest plants, they come up with new and improved varieties.

I don't know how they can keep developing new cultivars, but somehow, they can create plants that are more disease resistant, heavier blooming, more compact and with more colourful foliage.

Here are some newer released plants for a part shade to full shade location:

I love plants that provide more than one point of interest. So, when they had taken an old fashion plant like astilbe and improved upon it with dark burgundy leaves and flowers it was bound to be a winner.

The "Dark Side of the Moon" astilbe is just that.

This variety grows about two feet high and wide.

Its deep pink/purple flowers emerge mid to late June and remain in bloom for about three weeks.

It prefers a moist soil, without drying out for any length of time.

It makes a stunning combination with golden Hakonechloa grass and blue hostas.

"Dark Side of the Moon" astilbe will also tolerate full sun, especially when the soil is kept moist.

Another old-fashioned perennial of shade gardens is the bleeding heart (Dicentra).

It is known for its pink and white coloured heart-shaped flowers early spring.

Over the years, there have been several new introductions in this family: white flowering, yellow leaves and dwarf varieties.

The latest introduction is one called "Pink Diamonds" bleeding heart.

This dwarf bleeding heart does best in a light shade. It grows only 12 to 16 inches in height with an 18-inch spread.

Its two-tone pink, heart-shaped flowers are produced above fern-like blue-green foliage all season long.

Unlike the original species that just blooms early spring, "Pink Diamonds" continues to bloom all season long.

Its blue-green fine textured foliage is the perfect combination with blue hostas.

If you are a keen gardener, you have probably grown heuchera (a.k.a. coralbells). There is a lesser-known native, shade perennial called tiarella (foamflower).

They have bred these two varieties together and call them heucherella.

They still have the colourful foliage of the heuchera, but also the light pink fuzzy flower spike of the tiarella.

Heucherellas also are more shade-tolerant and more cold-hardy.

Fun and Games' "Capture the Flag" heucherella (quite a long name) is an exciting new variety that sports bright lime-yellow leaves with a bright red centre and veining.

Not only is it grown for the leaf, but also for its short spikes of tiny, pink flowers on and off throughout the summer. Does best in part to full shade.

"Peppermint Patty" bergenia is another new variety for a shady place.

Bergenia is known for its large, dark green, leathery leaves. The leaves are evergreen and remain there throughout the winter.

Going into the fall, the leaves will begin to turn a mahogany-wine in colour and remain that colour throughout the winter, then greening up again in spring. "Peppermint Patty" is the newest cultivar.

Tall spikes of white flowers have a pink throat with colour radiating down each petal. The petals are edged with a matching thin pink picotee margin.

It blooms early spring and makes a great groundcover in a part shade to shade garden.

"Peppermint Patty" grows 20 inches high (including flower stalk) and 18 inches across. The plant tolerates

salt and is also deer and rabbit-resistant.

Bergenia also attracts bees and butterflies. A great addition to any spring garden.

Just when you think that they couldn't possibly come up with another hosta different from all other hostas, along comes "Love Story" hosta.

"Love Story" has long, heart-shaped leaves with green margins and chartreuse markings jetting out that bleed into creamy white centres.

The leaves also have a gentle picrust wave edges each leaf.

It grows to be about 16 inches high by 36 inches wide. The tall scapes of white, bell-like flowers stand above the leaves.

Hostas grow best in part to full shade.

"Primo Pistachio Ambrosia" heuchera (I think they must be running out of names) will brighten any shady location with its bright lime-yellow, rounded leaves.

Does best with morning sun and afternoon shade. This variety has tall, wiry stems of small pink flowers that bloom over an extended period.

If you have that shady location where you just don't know what to plant, you may want to consider looking at some of the new introductions above!

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

Obituaries

Colin David Shepherd

SHEPHERD, Colin David —

Colin Shepherd passed away 12 June 2024 at Mount Sinai Hospital in his hometown of Toronto. Colin is the older son of Marilyn and Paul Shepherd, residents of Old Town in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Colin's grandparents were Marguerite and John Gwynne who lived here from 1973. Their home was the centre for many happy family celebrations and visits. Colin leaves behind his beloved wife Tracy McGhee and their much loved dogs, and his brother Tim and his wife Cora, and his baby nephew Jacob, who was a dearly loved and calming presence during the months of his failing health. He is much missed by his Kennedy and Dundass cousins, and the McGhee families. Cremation has occurred. A commemoration will be held in Toronto at a future date.

Ernest Friesen



Celebrating the life of Ernest Gerhard Friesen, born in NOTL, October 9, 1937, who entered his eternal rest on Father's Day, June 16, 2024. Ernie was predeceased by his parents and three older siblings. He is survived by his beloved wife, Erika, three younger siblings, four children,

twelve grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, as well as in-laws, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Ernie was a math teacher at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School for over 30 years, and for four years in Kenya. He earned his B.Sc. at McMaster U and B.Ed. from U of Waterloo. He is also remembered for his treasury work with the MB Conference and local church. Celebration of Life to be held June 29 at 11 a.m., Cornerstone Church, Hunter Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Multiply.net.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

Mara Malins

Mara Malins passed away on June 6, 2024 at the age of 65 of complications due to MS. Mara had been residing in long term care Niagara-on-the-Lake for 11 years, most of which she spent at Upper Canada Lodge. She received the most tender and attentive care from the dedicated staff there, who cherished her positive and generous spirit and reciprocated in kind. She recently moved to Niagara Long Term Care, where she was welcomed with warmth and kindness.

Mara spent her pre-illness life working for a non-profit company in Toronto. She was well-traveled and enjoyed her voyages to Kathmandu and the Middle East, in particular, with her mother, Mirdza Malins, with whom she shared a room at Upper Canada and who predeceased her last January.

Mara was an open, kind and inquisitive person who was interested in a wide variety of music, the arts, food and culture. She was dedicated to remaining 'positive' in all circumstances and was always complimentary to those who cared for her.

Her brother, Imant, and her sister-in-law, Suzin, had the honour of championing Mara's care by bringing her to Niagara-on-the-Lake and supporting her care. Imant held his sister in his heart with devotion and humour, bringing her to audible guffaws that lit up the spaces she occupied with her infectious laughter.

Mara, we are comforted that your sparkling spirit is finally unbound from the confines of your body and are free to soar with the angels.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

A global leader in hearing healthcare.



The Fine Estates Team

CALL US TODAY!
905.380.1158
thefineesteam.com

REVEL
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

**Toronto Regional
Real Estate Board**

MEMBERS OF:

NIAGARA
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

COMING SOON
CALL FOR DETAILS

NOTL
1.6 ACRES

\$1,999,900
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

9 ANGELS DRIVE
ST. DAVIDS

\$2,499,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

527 MISSISSAGUA ST
OLD TOWN NOTL

\$959,900
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &
CLAUDIA YIU-LEE

32 PINOT TRAIL
VIRGIL

\$1,279,900
LISTED BY: CRYSTAL SIMONS &
ANDREW PERRIE

3676 REBSTOCK RD
CRYSTAL BEACH

\$999,900
LISTED BY: CRYSTAL SIMONS &
ANDREW PERRIE

42 HOMESTEAD DR
VIRGIL

SOLD IN 2 DAYS
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

13 CANNERY DR
ST. DAVID'S

\$1,799,999
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &
CLAUDIA YIU-LEE

4096 HIGHLAND PARK DR
BEAMSVILLE

\$825,000
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &
CRYSTAL SIMONS

1169 KENNEDY DR
FORT ERIE

SOLD FIRM
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &
CLAUDIA YIU-LEE

6 FRONTIER DRIVE
VIRGIL

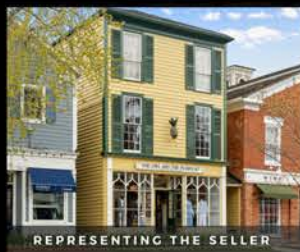
COMING SOON
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE &
CRYSTAL SIMONS

14656 NIAGARA PARKWAY
NOTL

\$1,724,900
LISTED BY: ANDREW PERRIE

1905 LAKESHORE RD
OLD TOWN NOTL

As **local REALTORS**®, your satisfaction is our top priority.
Thank you to all of our NOTL families who trusted us with their real estate needs!



Top 0.1%*
of all Niagara REALTORS®

*(Ranked #2) According to stats provided by the Niagara Association of Realtors in total sales volume for Niagara Realtors from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, reported under Team Lead Andrew Perrie.

LOCAL EXPERTISE • GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

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

BUNGALOW TOWNHOME WITH NO MAINTENANCE FEES | 3 BEDROOMS
FORMAL MODEL HOME WITH OVER \$50K IN UPGRADES | \$799,000



NEW LISTING

Features of the Home

- ✓ New Front Door with Custom Glass Inlay
- ✓ New Island, New Quartz Countertops
- ✓ Updated White Cupboards
- ✓ Under-mount Sink
- ✓ Stainless Steel Appliances
- ✓ Engineered Hardwood
- ✓ New Flooring in Den and Bedroom
- ✓ New LED Potlights
- ✓ Professionally Finished Pavers in Entryway & Gardens in Front & Back
- ✓ Floor to Ceiling Gas Fireplace
- ✓ Enlarged Back Deck
- ✓ Newer Shed
- ✓ Cedars and Trees Added for Privacy

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 22ND & 23RD 2-4

HOT PROPERTY!

35 PIERPOINT DR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

BUNGALOW ON SOUGHT-AFTER STREET | DOUBLE CAR GARAGE
MAIN FLOOR LAUNDRY | LARGE UPDATED DECK | \$1,159,000



611 VICTORIA ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

SOLD



16 SETTLERS CRT, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

VIEWS OF GOLF COURSE & LAKE ONTARIO
| MAIN HOUSE PLUS COACH HOUSE

STUNNINGLY RENOVATED BUNGALOW |
HIGHLY DESIRABLE DEAD-END STREET



SPECTACULAR VIEWS!

368 QUEEN ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

5 PINE ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

SOLD

SOLD



RECORD HIGH SELLING PRICE!
IN THE COMPLEX

123 WILLIAM ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

556 KING ST #16,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

MAIN FLOOR PRIMARY BEDROOM | 2633 SF
CUSTOM BUILT HOME | \$1,997,995

PRE-INSPECTED | ALMOST 1 ACRE | 4586
SQFT OF LIVING SPACE | \$899,000



MULTIPLE USES - USE AS A FAMILY HOME OR B+B

507 MISSISSAUGA ST,
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

130 RIVERVIEW BLVD,
ST CATHARINES

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY,
JUNE 23RD 2-4 PM

SOLD

LEASED IN ONLY 1 WEEK!



BROUGHT THE BUYERS!

33 PINOT TR, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE



Angelika & ASSOCIATES
LUXURY REAL ESTATE
289-214-4394



#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA
FOR 10 YEARS*
LARGE INDEPENDENT
BROKERAGE IN CANADA
*TRREB Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2022, combined units sold.

- ✓ **FREE PACKING OF YOUR HOUSE / ESTATE CLEANING / DECLUTTERING**
- ✓ **HELP ELDERLY RELOCATE <EXPERIENCED>**
- ✓ **WORLD CLASS PHOTO/VIDEOGRAPHY & DRONE FOOTAGE, HIGH QUALITY PRINT BROCHURES**
- ✓ **PASSIONATE TO BE OF SERVICE**
- ✓ **LOCAL EXPERT KNOWLEDGE**
- ✓ **DATABASE OF BUYERS**
- ✓ **MULTIPLE TESTIMONIALS**
- ✓ **LONG TERM PRESENCE IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE. LOCAL RIGHT AT HOME REALTY TEAM OFFICE IN NOTL (OVER 6,000 REALTORS®. LARGE INDEPENDENT BROKERAGE IN GTA)**
- ✓ **LIST OF TORONTO BUYERS BUYING IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**