



## Mid-term approval rate for NOTL council is extremely low, survey finds

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

If a new online poll is any barometer, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents aren't happy with the way town council is performing. Not at all.

The Lake Report quietly launched an online survey last week, asking people how they felt about council's performance halfway through the 2022-26 term.

There was only a QR code underneath a letter which had suggested we do a poll on how residents feel about a hotel planned for the former Parliament Oak property on King Street.

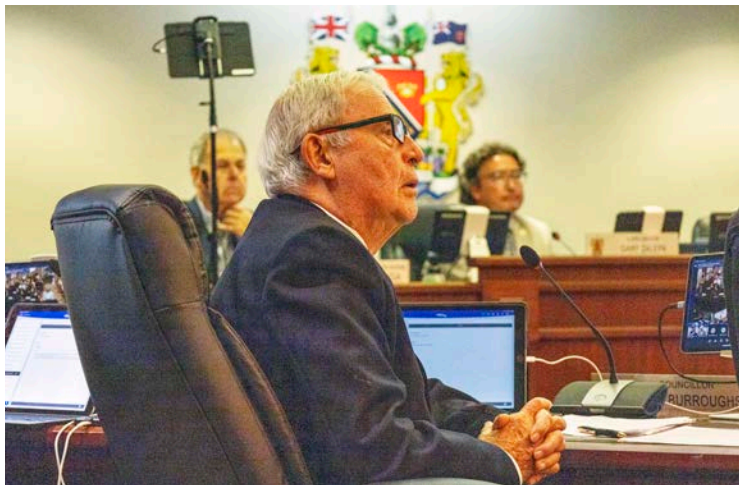
We also posted the story online Thursday and despite little promotion, hundreds of residents participated.

The survey, hosted by SurveyMonkey, only allows one response per device, based on IP address, in an effort to prevent people from submitting multiple responses.

The survey will remain open until July 4 for people to answer the questions and

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## Parliament Oak hotel approved



Top left: Coun. Gary Burroughs listens closely to delegations during Tuesday night's meeting. Top Right: Marilyn Bartlett understands tourism is important to NOTL, but thinks the King St. hotel goes too far. Bottom: It was a full house for the meeting. JULIA SACCO

Julia Sacco | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

The Parliament Oak Hotel is still a go, despite hope from some residents that the outcome would change following a loud public backlash.

A formal vote during Tuesday night's council meeting approved plans for the 129-room

hotel on King Street.

The zoning amendment, which allows developer Benny Marotta to build the hotel, was passed in a 5-4 vote, the same margin of approval as it received at planning committee on June 12.

Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary

Burroughs, Sandra O'Connor and Nick Ruller voted against it on both occasions.

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

After the votes were cast, the residents who had packed the public gallery left town hall, angered.

One resident shouted at Mavridis, alleging a conflict of interest.

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## Make children's mental health a priority, NOTL doctor says

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

St. Davids physician Robin Williams, honoured by the Canadian Paediatric Society for her long career as a child health advocate, says much more needs to be done to protect children.

Kids' mental health is a big part of that, Williams told The Lake Report, pointing to high rates of anxiety, isolation, depression and eating disorders — "like we have never seen."

Williams received the

Alan Ross Award, the pediatric society's most prestigious honour, in a ceremony at the organization's annual conference in Vancouver earlier this month.

But amid all the accolades, she has some deep concerns about the future both for children and society.

On the issue of mental health, she noted "the undeniable link to smartphone use and social media. Much policy work needs to be done to get guardrails in place to protect our kids."

"Parents and governments have put lots in place regarding safety and physical protections while we have totally ignored the virtual world with respect to kids' health and well-being," Williams said.

"One could write a thesis on the connection between children's mental health and the use of smartphones and social media," she said.

It goes well beyond cyber bullying. "Its use has an impact on sleep, displaces other activities of childhood such as outdoor play and

social connection, increases ADD and is addictive."

Williams noted Jonathan Haidt's bestselling book, "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," is an important resource.

It can help people understand how children have been affected, especially those under 13, "and look at options to put guardrails in place through policy and

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Dr. Robin Williams speaks to the Canadian Paediatric Society's annual conference in Vancouver. She received a lifetime achievement honour for her work in the children's health field. KIM STALLKNECHT



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# Song remains the same as King Street hotel gets green light

Continued from Front Page

Before casting her vote, Cheropita said choosing to support the amendment was “one of the toughest decisions” she has had to make in her six years as a councillor.

She added that since the Parliament Oak issue was last discussed two weeks ago, she has faced harassment from people in the community.

“In the last two weeks, I have been yelled at at a crowded restaurant. My words have been twisted out of context and people have come back on me questioning things I’ve said,” she said.

Cheropita added that while she empathizes with concerns from residents, cases like the Randwood Estate have given her a precedent when deciding to move forward with Parliament Oak.

There is no defensible evidence as to why the de-

velopment should not move forward, she added.

“I will not mislead residents into thinking an application can be defended if it can’t,” Cheropita said.

Mavridis echoed those feelings, saying she does not like how she has been treated over the last week or so.

“But I guess it’s part of the job,” she said.

She added that she will be sticking to themes she campaigned on during the 2022 municipal election.

“I campaigned that I would protect heritage by preserving it and we are

protecting what is heritage on the property,” Mavridis said, referencing the preservation of the Parliament Oak plaque.

Wiens also voiced his support for the development, saying that a new hotel will allow for the expansion of the heritage district, which includes the former Parliament Oak school land.

**“I will not mislead residents into thinking an application can be defended if it can’t.”**

WENDY CHEROPITA  
TOWN COUNCILLOR



Resident Barbara Tranter accuses Coun. Maria Mavridis of having a conflict of interest during Tuesday’s meeting to vote on the Parliament Oak hotel. JULIA SACCO

“If we want to expand it, we’re going to have to start using institutional and commercial taxes to help us fund that. It will have to be a public-private partnership,” he said.

“I support this, not because it was my first choice, but because of the policies that are in front of us,” Wiens continued.

Four residents made presentations before the final vote, restating their concerns to councillors.

Marilyn Bartlett said during her presentation that she understands NOTL is a tourist destination, but hopes some sort of balance will be considered between the desires of the tourism sector and needs of residents.

“Tourism supports are significant cultural and heritage resources,” she said.

“But it’s also a tourist destination because tourists are attracted to its character, charm and beauty,” she continued. “It’s quiet residential streetscapes. One- and two-storey homes of varying architectural styles.”

She concluded saying that the town’s official plan states commercial uses cannot intrude into residential areas and urged councillors to respect that.

Resident John Foreman lives less than a block away from the development.

During his presentation, he said he is opposed to the hotel plan — at least, in its current state.

“I would like to suggest changes to the proposal so that should it go forward, the harm that it causes to the neighbourhood is minimized and the value that it adds to the town is maximized,” Foreman said.

He suggested the building be reduced from four to three storeys and that the developer donate five to 10 per cent of the 325 King St. property to form public parks on the Regent Street side of the property.

He also urged the developer to make a “sizable donation” to a heritage project in town.

“Council is harming the quality of life in the neighbourhood and strangely, seeking nothing in return,” Foreman said.

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## Popular NOTL magazine is bigger than ever

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Lake Report's national award-winning summer tourism guide is out on shelves across town.

Albeit, it's hard to keep them in stock because everybody seems to want one.

At 88 pages, the high-quality glossy magazine, "NOTL: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers," is the biggest the paper has ever published, jam-packed with features, advertisements and information about Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Your can read about two St. Davids restaurants doing fantastic things — Ravine Vineyard's winery restaurant and the Grist Craft Kitchen & Brewery.

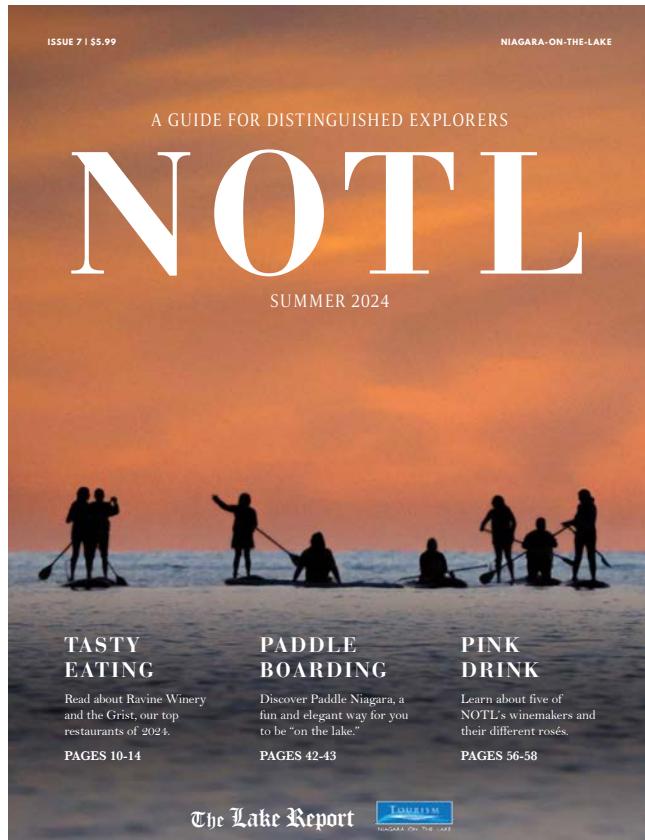
The pictures are sure to make your mouth water.

Then read about Maureen MacSween and Quiet Acres, one of NOTL's iconic fruit and vegetable operations.

Want to actually be on the lake? Check out a feature on Paddle Niagara and owner Tim Balasiuk.

Learn about the recent renovations at Fort Mississauga and all about the history of Fort George.

Explore arts in NOTL by checking out our feature on the Niagara



Limited copies of the magazine are available in town.

Pumphouse Arts Centre or our list of summer music in NOTL.

And, of course, read a bit about wine. Check out Jill Troyer's major feature on five NOTL winemakers and what they're doing with rosé.

Plus a whole lot much more.

Editor-in-Chief Richard Harley said it's the highest-

quality magazine yet, thanks to a new printer.

"These magazines, while a fantastic tool for visitors, newcomers and longtime residents, are also just a whole lot of fun for us to put together."

"It's not often we get to dive into the history of our town in our paper. Most people know the basics, but this gives a chance to show-

case our town to the masses and help out local businesses while we're at it."

The magazine features the best-of-the-best of NOTL and aims to encapsulate a little bit of everything.

"We try not to leave anyone out."

Harley said the magazine would be impossible to produce without the support of local businesses.

"On each page you'll find full page, or two-page ads for local businesses. Without their participation we wouldn't be able to produce something so comprehensive."

For the second time, the magazine was published in partnership with Tourism NOTL and features a letter from board chair Andrew Niven as well as an eight-page spread produced by the organization that features even more info about NOTL.

But be warned, there are limited copies available as the paper aims to distribute many of them beyond the walls of our wee enclave.

You can find copies at hotels, restaurants, shops and tourism-related businesses around town. An online version of the entire magazine is available at our print archive, [lakereport.ca](http://lakereport.ca).

## 'Misinformation epidemic' could lead to child deaths

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parental controls."

"We are seeing school boards in Ontario and elsewhere through legal and policy efforts attempting to deal with it," she added.

What she calls the "misinformation epidemic" and its politicization is another worry.

It has led to a "lack of trust in scientifically proven treatments, especially aimed at vaccines."

There is bound to be a costly price paid as a result, she said.

"As rates of vaccination fall, we will see a resurgence of measles, meningitis, whooping cough."

That will lead to serious illnesses and deaths, she said, adding it is a "huge concern."

Diseases that she saw early in her career and had

been eradicated could make a resurgence and "cause irreparable damage to people's health."

A shortage of pediatricians, nurses, social workers and other professionals, is also a problem.

The health system has an "exhausted workforce. We are at a tipping point where the solutions are no longer having everyone just do more."

The country needs "new models of care," Williams said.

Williams, who was Niagara's chief medical officer of health for 16 years starting in 1995, also served as the province's associate chief medical officer. She was honoured with the Order of Canada in 2014.

In its citation for Williams' award, the Canadian Paediatric Society said "her lifelong

interest in child development led to work with Dr. Fraser Mustard on a series of reports that contributed to establishing parental leave and Early Years Centres in Ontario."

During the SARS epidemic in the early 2000s, she participated in the scientific panel whose report and recommendations eventually led to establishing Public Health Ontario.

And "as a founding member of Ontario's provincial pediatric coroners review committee, she was involved in reviewing unusual child deaths and developing recommendations to improve systems and safety for children for more than 20 years."

She also was involved in advising the health ministry during the COVID pandemic.

Williams sees the society's lifetime achievement award as kind of "an

exclamation mark at the end of your career."

"The opportunity to be celebrated with my family and pediatric friends in Vancouver was very special," she said.

"It also gave me one final opportunity to speak publicly about the challenges of pediatric care in Canada today."

While she has plenty of worries for the future, when she looks back on her long career, she said she feels "blessed and lucky" to have been able to work for the betterment of children's lives.

"Kids crawl onto your lap and into our hearts and there is no more important or rewarding career," Williams said.

"Kids are full of joy and fun and amazing potential," she said.

"They really are our future."  
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# Zalepa's approval rate is 15%, Wiens sits at 16%

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add their comments.

As of Wednesday evening, 689 people had taken time to fill out the survey — and the results aren't positive for town council, and especially not for Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens.

Responding to a question about the overall satisfaction levels with council, 285 residents said they were extremely dissatisfied, another 180 said they were dissatisfied, five said they didn't care, 57 said they were satisfied and 22 said they were extremely satisfied. Another 140 people skipped the question.

That means out of the 549 people who answered the question, 85 per cent are in some way dissatisfied with Niagara-on-the-Lake's current leadership.

We also asked people to rate each councillor's performance individually from 1 to 10, with 1 being extremely dissatisfied and

10 being extremely satisfied. The results showed people aren't happy with Zalepa and Wiens in particular. The next highest disapproval ratings were Couns. Adriana Vizzari, Maria Mavridis and Wendy Cheropita.

Couns. Sandra O'Connor and Gary Burroughs had the highest approval ratings.

### BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS

**Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa:** 544 people answered the question about satisfaction and 315 gave him the lowest possible score, with 27 people rating him the highest possible score. In total, 85 per cent of respondents (462) rated him a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 15 per cent.

**Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens:** 543 people answered the question and 309 rated him the lowest possible score, with 28 people giving him the highest possible score. In total, 84 per cent of people (454) rated him a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 16 per cent.



A lot of residents are unhappy with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa's performance. FILE

**Coun. Tim Balasiuk:** 501 people answered the question and 64 rated him the lowest possible score, with 39 people giving him the highest possible score. In total, 55 per cent of people (278) rated him a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 45 per cent.

**Coun. Gary Burroughs:** 530 people answered the question and 62 rated him the lowest possible score, with 91 people giving him the highest possible score.

In total, 38 per cent of people (203) rated him a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 62 per cent.

**Coun. Wendy Cheropita:** 532 people answered the question and 201 gave her the lowest possible score, with 14 people rating her the highest possible score.

In total, 80 per cent of people (425) rated her a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 20 per cent.

**Coun. Maria Mavridis:** 526 people answered the

question and 213 rated her the lowest possible score, with 17 people giving her the highest possible score.

In total, 81 per cent of people (426) rated her a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 19 per cent.

**Coun. Sandra O'Connor:** 525 people answered the question and 56 gave her the lowest possible score, with 137 people rating her the highest possible score. In total, 36 per cent of respondents (190) rated her

a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 64 per cent.

**Coun. Nick Ruller:** 499 people answered the question and 58 rated him the lowest possible score, with 26 people giving him the highest possible score. In total, 56 per cent of people (277) rated him a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 44 per cent.

**Coun. Adriana Vizzari:** 499 people answered the question and 152 gave her the lowest possible score, with 10 people rating her the highest possible score.

In total, 81 per cent of people (405) rated her a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 19 per cent.

We also asked about regional **Coun. Andrea Kaiser.** For Kaiser, 494 people answered the question with 106 giving her the lowest possible score, with 16 people rating her the highest possible score. In total, 72 per cent of people (358) rated her a 5 or lower, for an approval rating of 28 per cent.

## WHAT PEOPLE SAID

We asked people to leave brief comments to explain how they're feeling about council nearing mid-term. There were 429 responses, and not all can be published in this story, but some of the top reasons for disapproval were council's approval of hotels on King and Queen streets, "aggressive, bully-like and juvenile (eye-rolling)" behaviour during council from Zalepa and Wiens, not following the town's official plan, lack of staff oversight and making decisions that will damage the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Too many closed door decisions, not taking resident concerns seriously."

"I was very careful in the last election to vote for those contenders who made promises to maintain the integrity of this small historical town. These same contenders who said they cared about residents and not just tourists and tourist dollars. Some I even spoke to privately and who vowed to protect the rights of the less affluent. Those same councillors I elected have broken every promise. It's shameful."

"Not listening to constituents. Not following the official plan. Too many close door meetings. They are not following what they said to get elected. First cousin developer and not recusing on his applications. Can't be trusted. Wiens, Zalepa and Cheropita should be forced to step down."

"I'm basing my comments only on a couple of situations currently happening in the town, and the impression I'm getting from some of the councillors is that these town meetings are for "show" only and that, somehow, the decisions have already been made. I was also very unimpressed with the unprofessional behaviour of Mayor Zalepa and councillor Wiens recently ... aggressive/bully-like and juvenile (eye-rolling). There are official plans in place to move this town forward (with, understandably, some expected tweeks here and there). However, it feels like these plans are viewed as vague "guidelines" that are easily trampled. The town has a look and feel and that is what sells it to the visiting public, but it appears that we are unconcerned with that and a chipping away at the very reason people come here to visit and or live."

"I honestly believe this is the worst council we have ever had. Lived here 50 years and never experienced anything like this. We need more councillors for the residents and less for the developers."

"They are not acting in the best interests of the town or the people they represent. They pander to developers in such a way that it's sinister. It's pointing to outright corruption."

"The lord mayor and deputy lord mayor are acting like they run the entire town and show no respect for their colleagues. Erwin Wiens is a bully and both have started to berate any other councillor who dares to disagree with them. Development is out of control in town and instead of being strategic about it, they are spending money to throw a party for Trisha Romance. I expected better governance from Gary Zalepa, who is now having hissy fits like a toddler when things don't go his way. Also no news on Regional issues like avoiding a roundabout in St. Davids. Expected more of the new councillors too, many who have young kids, who should be using their roles to make connections with the DSNB to build a high school in NOTL. New councillors just need to speak up more. Already looking forward to election 2026!"



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“The current council has no respect for the historical heritage of NOTL nor its residents. Once the charm of town is destroyed and NOTL is just like any other over developed town the golden goose is dead and there is no going back. WHY? Where is the vision for our town? We are fairly recent residents and have already witnessed so much change. NOTL will be a charmless town with Dairy Queen and their ilk downtown and tacky tacky houses and monstrous hotels everywhere. RIP NOTL if the current council and their backers prevail.”

“Mayor Zalepa told us before being elected that he would be a part time mayor. I’m not sure which part of the time he works for the people of NOTL! Did he take only a part of the raise Council voted themselves? This Council does not listen to their constituents, does not uphold the tenets of the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws. Generally...a big disappointment. Those who voted for Zalepa, a realtor, who is totally conflicted in many Council decisions, are you satisfied with his poor performance?? Betty...are you listening? Come back, Betty.”

“Overall I am really disappointed in the performance of most of the councillors. They have broken promises, have short sighted perspectives and have provided disrespectful responses to the public that they represent.”

“Many councillors are definitely not voting as they said they would during run up to election. The character of our Town is being offered to the developers to do as they please for their own financial gains. Every by-law change request is being supported by the planning staff and passed by council. The council has raised the white flag of surrender to the will of the OLT.”

“This council is destroying our town. Development is good, but thoughtless development ignoring the character of the town and its needs is irresponsible and short-sighted. We need affordable housing that fits the architectural character of the town. We don’t need another hotel in old town. Large scale hotels should be built closer to the highway and have easy access to all Niagara. And what happened to the official plan?”

“Weins isn’t a cop anymore. He should stop acting like one. Dissent is responded to with vitriol particularly from the mayor and Weins. Mavridis is there seemingly for her family business interests: prove the public wrong on that (don’t worry, she won’t). O’Connor is a one truck pony who won’t stop talking about trees but lives in a condo so doesn’t have the responsibilities of tree ownership. Kudos to Burroughs and Bala for representing old NOTL (what’s left of it). Won’t be much left of town’s uniqueness in another generation at the rate we’re going. Hard to see a mayor from the real estate industry standing acting as a bulwark against ‘progress.’ “

“The council is just ignoring the valid, urgent concerns of the majority of residents who are realistic in noting that what makes our town so desirable and attractive as a destination, is being sold off to meet unrealistic and inappropriate development in key areas of town that will be irreversibly impacted. The 5 star tourist will react by finding more desirable destinations to spend their money. Disappointed, disgusted, disillusioned and frankly fed up with their attitude and disrespect of fellow citizens.”

“The mayor has no vision for the Town or leadership skills. Councillors shun citizens and do whatever they can to stifle their voice. Most councillors’ actions run counter to their election promises and that applies to the Mayor as well. They are unable to separate NIMBYism from legitimate concerns regarding the Town’s future viability. They show little strategic ability and no backbone when it comes to developers. They have created a free-for-all for developers and like to claim that their hands are tied or that they have to avoid litigation when, in truth, they simply aren’t able or willing to provide leadership or direction. This is probably the worst Lord Mayor and town council we have seen for some time. It is unfortunate given the significant issues that need to be addressed. NOTL is unique and highly attractive to businesses, developers and visitors. Council can be assertive in laying out the ground rules that will protect the Town’s future without concern that it will be abandoned by the business and developer communities. Council does not seem to share this positive view.”

“Our PART-TIME Lord Mayor is working full-time with others to destroy NOTL. This council does not listen to the NOTL residents!”

“They’ve all given up on fighting/opposing egregious development projects in the town. They inherited some of it but the newer projects just seem to get more and more outrageous and detrimental to the town.”

“There is clearly a ‘gang’ who vote together. They have an agenda. They are not out to represent the best interests of the town — only their own developer agenda. LM Gary Z is lazy. He admits he treats it as a part-time job, fobbing off stuff to staff that he should lead on. Betty Disero didn’t need a highly paid assistant, but she wasn’t working in real estate like Gary. Mr. Burroughs and Ms. O’Connor truly understand their constituents and what it means to govern responsibly.”

“Thought Councillor Cheropita’s comment that NOTL needs a five-star hotel was a slap in the face to the Vintage Inn group.”

“They do not listen to the residents and kowtow to aggressive developers who are not following our official plan nor our bylaws. They appear to ignore our Old Town and it’s history.”

“I am concerned that the council is supporting developers against the wishes of the community by voting for two large hotels in Old Town. These developments are not in line with the official plan and are architectural outliers that will negatively impact the Old Town in many ways. These developments should be rejected by the town council. The mayor and the councillors who support him need to represent the wishes of the community rather than the developers.”

“Not truly representing the residents that elected them.”

“Their interests are focused on promoting local developers with no concern for the wonderful heritage, architecture, quaintness, and community life. They are ready to forsake these aspects of our life in NOTL for the sake of the almighty dollar.”

“Dissatisfied with councillors that were elected based upon pre-election promises, but now have done a 180 and are pandering to developers at the expense of the residents whose quality of life will be reduced and who will be subsidizing the cost of the infrastructure improvements required to support new developments in the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

## Very few positive comments received

One disgruntled respondent, who voted 10 on satisfaction for Zalepa, Wiens, Cheropita, Mavridis and Vizari — all of the voters who approved the Parliament Oak hotel — and voted 1 on satisfaction for the rest, except for a 5 for Kaiser, wrote: “Your paper is a rag mag. All you do is trash the same family and encourage the terrorist of the town to do the same. You have no dignity or compassion for your fellow man. Shame on you.”

“Honestly Gary Zalepa will, I hope, remain mayor for decades. But the why is important. He cares so deeply for NOTL that it shines through everything he does. He attends every meeting he can, every public event offered, he remembers names and details and he always, always cares. Not many mayors would be seen cheerily hauling ketchup and mustard refills at the Cherry Festival! And not many mayors get home late almost every day from work. We’re spoiled to have such a dedicated mayor who cares so deeply that he knocked on every door in the region when he was campaigning, and answered any question asked. He’s also been able to navigate the thorny issue of the Rand Estate with the delicacy of any expert negotiator. Not everyone is thrilled he isn’t blindly suing Solmar like the last mayor, but by being smart he’s saved us far more money!”

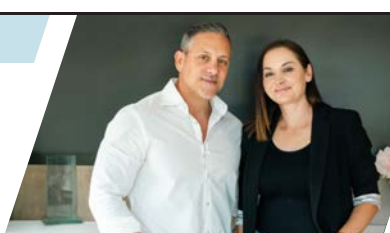
“I feel it is a hard-working council that inherited a lot of challenges before they could even begin to make positive changes.”

“I like that this group of councillors is very diverse so they also vary in their opinions — this is democracy live! However, I don’t really like that when a request is presented that doesn’t quite meet the ‘rules,’ they just change the rules! If you’ve developed a plan then stick to it please!”



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# Group of residents wants library board to **commit to neutrality**

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Cathy Simpson may not be returning to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, but some residents say their battle for library neutrality — the right of patrons to access books that express multiple, even offensive viewpoints — is far from over.

During last Wednesday's library board meeting, residents Tony Powell and Steve Payne made presentations regarding the outrage some residents felt in response to Simpson's firing as CEO — and what is left to be done.

Chair Daryl Novak told The Lake Report the board did not respond to the delegations as they "did not bring anything forth that had not been stated already in various forums."

In an email, Novak explained the board will mount a workshop in the fall focusing on how balanced and diverse library

collections are maintained. "Hopefully, this may help address current misconceptions held by a few residents," Novak said.

Simpson was fired following an op-ed column she penned for The Lake Report in late February.

It focused on censorship in libraries and drew criticism for supporting a controversial U.S. organization and espousing what some called right-wing talking points.

The piece also prompted a letter from library staff objecting to the content of the column.

Powell's presentation focused on concerns about what he said is a lack of diversity of thought on the current board.

"I am concerned there may be a lack of ideological diversity in the present library board," he said.

"And the likelihood that all share similar biases, which, in the absence of self-awareness, would lead to bad judgments."



Tony Powell insists that the firing of Cathy Simpson over her opinions was unethical.

He leaned on the fact that the decision to fire Simpson was unanimous, noting a subsequent petition garnered 800 signatures supporting her.

Payne's presentation began with acknowledging that Simpson will not return.

"That does not settle this issue at all, as far as the community is concerned,"

he said.

Payne referenced the library's collection development policy, which states that: "The library upholds the right of the individual to access information, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others. The presence of an item in the library does not indicate an endorsement of its content."

"Now that (Simpson) has nonetheless been fired, it is up to the board of the NOTL library to decide whether it believes in its own collection policy statement, or is willing to fire staff like Cathy Simpson who support it," Payne said.

The library board has previously stated Simpson was fired not for writing the column, but for signing the column as the library's CEO, thereby giving the appearance that the board shared her opinions.

After the meeting, residents raised their concerns in conversations with The Lake Report.

Brenda Dyck-Goossen, a former member of the library board for 12 years, said Simpson didn't deserve to be fired.

She said among library professionals in her circle, the NOTL library board is seen as a "laughingstock," for the way Simpson's situation was handled.

"This is completely ridiculous. It's like a kangaroo court. And during Freedom to Read Week? It's the basic tenet of librarianship," she said.

During the meeting, the library board discussed the process now underway to appoint a new board member, following the resignation of Graham Bailey a few months ago.

The board has received several resumes and is set to begin selection and interviews.

Dyck-Goossen said she hopes the board keeps neutrality in mind when choosing Bailey's replacement.

"To be on the board, it doesn't matter if you know

a little bit about IT or some kind of administration if you don't understand the democratic principle that the library provides information to everyone," Dyck-Goossen said.

Daniel Shakhmundes was shocked to learn about Simpson's dismissal.

"I couldn't find any merit in it. The termination speaks for itself," he said.

He believes the library board made a mistake and should be held accountable for costing someone their livelihood.

"They cost someone their job," he said. "Why should we put up with that?"

Christine Stevenson came out to show her support for neutrality and voice her concerns about a need for more diversity of thought among the library staff.

"I'm very concerned about what's happened here and I don't think these (board members) are qualified to be doing what they're doing," she said.

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

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# National Indigenous Peoples Day in NOTL was all about friendship and togetherness

Richard Wright  
 The Lake Report

The Niagara Regional Native Centre celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21 with an open-door approach where visitors were expected to simply enjoy a day of socializing and, if so inclined, to take part in various low-key activities.

“This year, we decided to keep it on a little more of the casual side, allowing people to come here and just be together,” said the centre’s unity team director Liz Sault.

“There are a lot of people who aren’t here normally here which is wonderful,” she added. “I feel like it is bringing community back together, which is really the intention of this.”

Centre staff and friends opened the day by attending a morning flag raising ceremony at St. Catharines City Hall.

They then moved to the friendship centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake for a well-attended afternoon that



Archery instructor Kirstyn Smith helps Rawera;wi Bowering-Burns with archery technique during National Indigenous Day celebrations in NOTL. RICHARD WRIGHT

featured a mix of youth and age and was highlighted by an opening ceremony of drumming and singing followed by a small traditional feast, mingling and “community facing” events.

Those events included arts and crafts and activities such as drop-in archery and lacrosse lessons.

“For me it is really about the little ones,” said Sault, just as a group of children ran past laughing and enjoying their day.

“It is about letting them know who they are in a positive way.”

At one small play station on an outdoor concrete platform at the back of the centre, that message of self-respect and identity was driven home with the simple addition of a small pool of water where children splashed and played..

“Water is life” and “Ni-ibii,” the Ojibway word for water, read a hand-made sign adorned with messages of

everything from how water sustains all things, to more serious messages of how clean water has become a luxury rather than a right in some Indigenous communities.

In the back field of the centre, healing and wellness co-ordinator Roger Jacklin spent the day overseeing the archery range.

Jacklin explained that archery isn’t just about a steady hand and good aim. He provided teachings about what he believes is a bigger meaning behind the bow.

“Today we are trying to get across respect,” he said.

“To do archery you have to have respect for the bow, respect for the arrow, respect for the people around you and respect for yourself. We are trying to instill that everyone around you is important.”

The Niagara Regional Native Centre is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and holds regular programming from socials, mental health, nutrition, literacy and youth empowerment, just to name a few.

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



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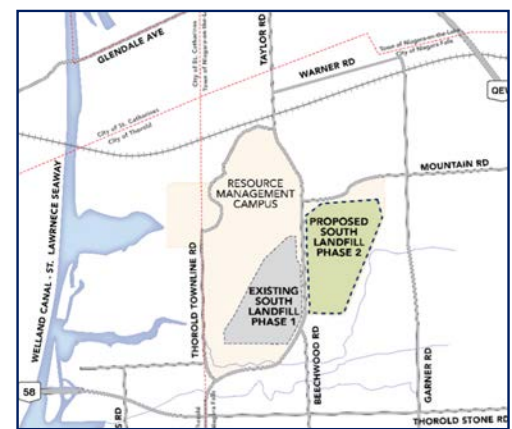
### Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference (ToR) South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment

Walker Environmental Group Inc.



As part of the planning process for the next phase of the South Landfill (Phase 2), Walker Environmental Group Inc. (Walker) has submitted a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for review as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved, ToR will serve as a framework for the preparation and review of the environmental assessment for the proposed undertaking.

The South Landfill, a key component of Walker’s fully integrated Resource Management Campus in Niagara Falls, is expected to reach its final disposal capacity between 2029 and 2031. Despite increased waste diversion, landfill space is still needed to manage materials that cannot be recycled and to accommodate future population growth. To continue to provide the Niagara region and surrounding communities with safe, affordable, and reliable waste disposal, Walker is proposing to develop the next phase (Phase 2) of its South Landfill. Phase 2 will provide an additional 18 million cubic meters of landfill capacity over a 20-year period, supply renewable energy for the community by turning landfill gas into energy, and continue to support over



Shown: Location Map

#### Review the Terms of Reference (ToR)

Members of the public, government agencies, Indigenous communities, and other interested persons may inspect the proposed terms of reference during normal business hours at the following locations:

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Client Services and Permissions Branch**  
 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor  
 Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5  
 416-314-8001/1-800-461-6290

**Walker Head Office**  
 2800 Thorold Townline Road  
 Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6S4  
 1-866-699-9425

**Niagara Falls Public Library**  
 4848 Victoria Avenue  
 Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 4C5  
 905-356-8080

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Niagara District Office**  
 301 St. Paul Street, 9th Floor  
 St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 3M8  
 Tel: 905-704-3900 / Fax: 905-704-4015

Your written comments about the terms of reference must be received before **July 30, 2024**. All comments must be submitted to:

**Stephen Deneault, Project Officer**  
 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
 Environmental Assessment Branch  
 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor  
 Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5  
 Tel: 437-247-3443/1-800-461-6290  
 Fax: 416-314-8452


A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent for its consideration. For further information on the proposed study please contact:

**Darren Fry, Project Director**  
 Walker Environmental Group Inc.  
 2800 Thorold Townline Rd, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S4  
 Phone: 1-866-699-9425  
 Email: [info@southlandfillphase2.com](mailto:info@southlandfillphase2.com)


The Terms of Reference (ToR) is also available online at [www.southlandfillphase2.com](http://www.southlandfillphase2.com)

All personal information included in a submission—such as name, address, telephone number and property location—is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Project Officer or the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks’ Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.

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## Pride Potluck attracts steady flow of new friends

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

Not heavy rain nor extreme heat could prevent Soleil Chauncey and friends, new and old, from having the time of their lives on Sunday at Simcoe Park.

The 12-year-old organizer of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Pride Picnic on June 23 danced and laughed with her best friend, Nova Versteegen, and greeted those who came to the park's brightly decorated amphitheatre with a huge smile on her face.

Over the course of three hours, about 20 visitors lent their presence and support for the event, which was quickly organized over just a couple of days the week prior.

"It's just really nice and fun to have all the rainbows here," said a winded Chauncey after running back and forth down the slope of the amphitheater draped in a huge Pride flag. "People have been coming up and asking, 'Is this a Pride event? It's so pretty and rainbow-ey.' They have all been really nice."

Roxana Marilao of Rochester, N.Y. was one of the first to drop in after spotting it off in the distance while walking through the park.

The high school teacher, who is originally from



Pride Potluck organizer Soleil Chauncey, left, and her friend Nova Versteegen showing off their pride spirit June 23 in Simcoe Park. RICHARD WRIGHT

Chile, easily matched Soleil's energy and excitement, taking time despite the heat of the day to let loose and show off her salsa dance moves.

Following her short performance, she gave a clear message of support.

"I love it," she said.

"I know students are hurting and when they feel they are alone, they feel unaccepted. We need to see others for who they are and then we can make the world better," she added.

Soleil's mother, Silk Chauncey, was extremely happy with the turnout.

One of the highlights, she said, was the arrival of a group of new Nigerian-Canadians, who traveled to NOTL from Niagara Falls specifically to attend.

Same-sex partnerships are illegal in Nigeria, and Silk Chauncey said she could sense the group's reluctance at first to make their presence known.

"They weren't very forthcoming at first and

looked nervous," she said. "So I invited them over and offered them some food. It was so nice."

The mom and daughter have plans to make their Pride Potluck an annual event in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In the meantime, Soleil is taking part in Toronto's Pride Parade Sunday, June 30, representing Pflag Niagara, a peer support and advocacy group that has branches across the nation.

wright@niagaranow.com

## Joyous NOTL plans third annual Summer Potluck

Mariah Reese  
Special to The Lake Report

Joyous NOTL is hosting its third annual Summer Potluck on Saturday, July 27.

This year's celebration, at McFarland House, on the Niagara Parkway, from noon to 2 p.m., is shaping up to be a truly "joyous" event with summertime music as well as some games and door prizes.

We will provide drinks, plates, cutlery, etc. but ask that people bring a dish to share.

One Joyous NOTL member, a professional chef, has offered to bring his pizza oven.

This is a great oppor-



Mariah Reese, with husband Robert, invites everyone to turn out for the group's third annual Summer Potluck on Saturday, July 27 at McFarland House. JULIE SAGGERS

tunity for members of our community to come together to share and enjoy some delicious food, make some new friends and enjoy just how joyous living here can be.

Joyous NOTL is a popular Facebook group that provides a place for community members to visit where positivity is the goal without any political or social agendas.

It is a place to both seek out positive interactions and moments from everyday life as well as to share them.

Anything from posting one's first bloom in the garden that makes you smile, a sunset, a conversation or even those seemingly intimate moments from life that can mean so much to us on a personal level.

Joyous NOTL recognizes that life isn't always sunshine and rainbows, but it is a place where anyone is welcome and can find something to remind us that we do have so much to find joy in.

Facebook and Facebook Messenger is the best way to contact or find out more about Joyous NOTL.

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**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

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Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

## Painting in the rose garden



Julia Kane works on a landscape painting outdoors in the rose garden at the Ronald Books Fine Art gallery on Niagara Stone Road in NOTL last weekend. Members of the NOTL Arts Collective were on hand for the event.  
DAVE VAN DE LAAR

### Editorial

## NOTL mayor and council can do better

Richard Harley  
Editor-in-Chief

Much of Niagara-on-the-Lake, it seems, is at loggerheads with its municipal leadership.

Not all, but a majority of councillors seem opposed to listening to the people who voted them in. Or, if they're listening, they're not supportive of what "the people" are telling them.

It's a tough and thankless job, one that pays peanuts and there is always a long line of people telling you you're wrong.

That's democracy.

NOTL has a lot of contentious issues on its plate, issues that will forever change the town.

So informed by comments from The Lake Report's survey of constituents' feelings about council, let's look at the top dog, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

Here's a mayor who, as a regional councillor, had a track record of doing whatever he thinks is best.

Here's a mayor who prefers to leave work to staff "experts" instead of sometimes finding a middle ground that works for residents.

Here's a mayor who said from the outset it would be a part-time job, but hired a full-time assistant after realizing it is actually more like

two full-time jobs.

Here's a mayor who has appeared to talk down to some fellow councillors.

Here's a mayor who thinks he is always right, while opting not to fight for what people in the community actually want.

Here's a mayor who declared a conflict on the Rand Estate simply because he lives in the vicinity of the proposed development but appeared to not flinch when the deputy lord mayor voted on a hotel project proposed by his first cousin.

Here's a mayor who calls colleagues out of order for questioning his or staff's information.

Here's a mayor who needs to be a better leader for our community.

And if that sounds harsh, or like it's coming from a disgruntled resident, that's because it very much is. The Lake Report's survey of residents shows a high level of discontent with the mayor and several members of council.

And it's not just because of the Parliament Oak hotel. That's only one part of a pattern of indifference and nonchalance when it comes to supporting what residents want for NOTL.

This is about is having representation. A voice. A politician who listens.

The mayor might argue

that he does indeed listen, weighs all the pros and cons, and then acts in what he thinks is the best interests of the community.

But people don't feel they are being heard or listened to.

We live in this town, too. And one thing we should all hope for as residents of a democratic country, is that our voices are heard.

That simply isn't happening.

We believe the role of a politician is to be the voice of the people on many subjects, including sometimes challenging staff reports.

We need a leader who will do that, when necessary. This is not to say staff reports are not valuable. They can be.

But we, the residents, have to live for years with the outcomes of council decisions and as a result should have some say in what happens in our town.

The people of NOTL want a leader who works for them.

For example, Niagara Region (and no doubt the builders who hope to get the contract, wink wink) thinks St. Davids needs a roundabout.

But those traffic "experts" aren't experts on what makes a healthy community, or on heritage, or really anything else besides traffic — if they're even "experts"

on that.

Nonetheless, if the professional staff says so, Zalepa supports it. His constituents be damned.

Why care about destroying the character of a neighbourhood when we can save 25 seconds of driving time?

Here's the thing: There is almost never traffic lined up St. Davids' sole intersection. And when there has been, it's because the region was fixing Concession 6 for the second time (you'd think if those experts were so good it would have been done right the first time).

This is just one small example of a pattern of unwillingness to support residents' concerns. And it's having a negative effect on our town.

Ironically we are aware Zalepa is a big fan of "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Well, we suggest he take inspiration from and adopt some of the leadership qualities of Capt. Picard. Because right now he's more like the Borg — assimilate or get left behind.

We are almost halfway through this council's mandate. It's not too late for the mayor and others to recognize where and how they can do better.

Then, in two years, if voters don't like the job council has done, they can express themselves at the ballot box.

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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

Let's focus on **solutions**, not just opposition

Dear editor:

The battle of the Titans vs. the NOTLers continues unabated.

The Titans want big hotels, big event venues, high-end condos, affluent customers, high traffic.

NOTLers want none of that.

What do the NOTLers want? Perhaps what they want is for nothing to change.

If that is the case, it's clear an agreement between the Titans and the NOTLers will continue to elude us.

But if the NOTLers are willing to recognize the need and accept residential and commercial development to proceed, what would that development look like?

As a fellow resident I would guess single-detached housing or attached housing might be acceptable, so long as its architecture and landscape planning fits with the surroundings.

The impasse between the two camps is: size, height and density of project proposed. And in some cases architectural design.

The Titans want more hotels, more convention centres, more parking.

What the NOTLers should wish for is more housing — more affordable housing — that would enrich and diversify our aged community.

But frankly the more vociferous among them hardly speak of that. Their message is simply a loud and angry push back on what the Titans are proposing.



Lydia Madonia says instead of just fighting progress, let's have discussions about what the best solutions might be.

No reasonable alternatives are considered or proposed that I know of.

We had a developer who was planning on building a three-storey condominium complex on King Street. He was turned down and scared away.

Let's look at what is happening now with that very parcel of land. A proposed four-storey hotel, with much higher density of traffic and commercial business.

I ask you: Why was the original developer scared away by our vociferous group? Why were we not able to reach an agreement with that builder?

I, for one, would have approved of a tasteful housing project in the midst of our heritage town rather than one more gaudy and pretentious-looking four-storey hotel.

At this point I must confess that in spite of their best intentions and efforts, the group of residents who show up and speak up at meetings have put but a small dent on the development of this town.

Einstein said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results.

It's time to stop doing the same thing over and over again. The Titans have money, power, connections and lawyers who know how to circumvent local challenges.

It is time for all of us residents to come together and to agree on a realistic, mutually beneficial and livable plan.

Development will continue as it must, unless we believe we are residents on "The Truman Show."

The question is size, density, type of development. Yes, those factors are important. Yet we need to recognize that both residential and commercial developments will continue.

Developers are seeking the best return on their investment. We are seeking the best possible outcome for our community. And let's not forget that the best outcome for our community could mean better economic returns.

Let's be frank, most of us will not be around 30 years from now. What legacy, if any, are we leaving to this community?

We need more young people, more children in our community if we want NOTL to survive.

The alternative is "The Truman Show," or to put it in actual terms, 30 years from now this will be a ghost town where people come to take pictures and buy an ice cream.

They may even come to stay overnight and imagine how life might have been 50 years before.

Folks, development of vacant land will happen whether we like it or not. We need to be part of a planning committee with ideas and acceptable compromises.

Three-storey condominiums should be acceptable compromises, as should three-storey commercial developments.

Why can't we agree on that?

**Lydia Madonia**  
NOTL

America, Trump and the **price** of NOTL real estate

## THE TURNER REPORT

Garth Turner  
Columnist

Who hasn't stood on the river bank and stared across at Fort Niagara?

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, America is close. No wonder so many from New York state and beyond trek here. They love us. We're quaint. Besides, they have disposable income.

Maybe that's because it's so much cheaper to be an American. At least when it comes to housing.

The NOTL-Youngstown comparison is stark. OK, they lack politically incorrect horses, a fancy "lord" mayor or streets that look like a Mercedes storage facility. But it's instructive to ask why the average selling price was \$290,000 (\$387,400 Cdn) there last month and \$1.123 million here.

In Youngstown, the median listing price is down 34 per cent in the past year. Prices actually fell a whopping 10.8 per cent in May. It is, absolutely, a buyer's market.

In the States, as you know, people can sign up for 30-year loans. Plus there's the chance of interest deductibility. Oh, yeah, and Trump.

Over here we've had 10 interest rate hikes, one small reduction and only a minimal change in local prices. In fact, the latest listings are hard to choke down — almost \$6 million for the funeral home on Regent, being sold as ripe for redevelopment (they tell me the operation is relocating not, ahem, croaking), \$4 million for a lavish house on a skinny lot in Old Town and well over \$5 million for a dated place on a big lot near the NOTL Golf Club.

Despite that, says local Bosley agent Marilyn Francis, "We're certainly in a buyer's market at this time." The big deal, as mentioned here last week, is the cost of money.

"While there was some anticipation the initial move to bring down rates would help to increase buyer confidence," Francis adds,

"the quarter-point reduction didn't have a noticeable impact, even with the speculation of further rate cuts to follow."

Indeed. A nothingburger.

More rate cuts should come. TD economists just forecast decent growth prospects going forward. StatCan says income gains are running well ahead of inflation — which the Bank of Canada swears will soon be back in its 2 per cent range.

So things should get peachy, even for the multi-million-dollar sellers.

Or maybe not. Let's look back across the river, because the time between now and November could bring surprises — and may already be what's kicking the stuffing out of American homebuyer confidence.

Yeah, the orange guy.

Trump, despite being a felon and grifter, is competitive with Joe Biden (big debate tonight) and has recently raised a boatload of money.

In line with the populist sentiment sweeping Europe, Trump believes in nationalism and protectionism, with avowed intent to impose tariffs and duties on all imports. There are also concerns he'll do to the Fed what he did to the Supreme Court, and engineer a stimulative rate drop.

All of this, says Scotia-bank's chief economist, would be very inflationary while depressing the economy (global trade works, protectionism doesn't) and whack Canada hard. Like, a job-sucking recession. Interest rates here, a recent bank report suggested, could rise almost 2 per cent. The combination of trade woes and swelling money costs would be bad news for residential real estate.

It's not like Trump would put a wall down the Niagara River, but he might as well. Never in history have nationalist economic policies (in this case "America first") had a good outcome. Costs go up. So do prices and profits. Trade takes a hit. And Trump's planned tax breaks would hike the breathtaking USA debt.

This isn't political. It's math. And a threat. So, you might wish to have a word with those nice visiting folk while they suck down an ice cream on Queen Street.

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

Lord mayor and some councillors **should resign**

Dear editor:

Recent planning decisions made in Niagara-on-the-Lake are so egregious that I believe the lord mayor, the members of council who voted in favour of them, and possibly the chief administrative officer, should resign.

During the past two municipal election campaigns, there was broad consensus among the candidates that the completion and approval of a new official plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake was key to preserving the town's unique heritage and character.

The rationale given was that a revised official plan would give council a vital tool in its efforts to control future development in our town.

The plan was, I believe, ultimately approved by both Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Region. It sets out a blueprint for existing and future land use in the town, which is backed up through regulation — zoning decisions and bylaws.

As was made clear in a recent Ontario Land Tribunal decision on a development in Fort Erie, a municipal official plan carries some clout when it comes to determining what developers can build in Ontario towns and where they can do so.

It stands to reason, therefore, that the first thing our town planners should do when they consider a development proposal is to assess whether the pro-

posal conforms to NOTL's official plan. If it doesn't, the town should reject the proposal and is within its rights under Ontario law to do so.

But that's not what appears to be happening.

Instead, our town planners seem to be focused on provincial legislation and to have used it as the primary basis to recommend approval of development projects that clearly do not conform to Niagara-on-the-Lake's official plan. They are doing so despite the wording in the Ontario Municipal Act that appears to give priority to official plans when it comes to development decisions.

That was clearly an issue when the town went to the

Ontario Land Tribunal in an effort to stop the new apartment building that appears destined to be built at the south end of King Street.

Ultimately, it's up to the lord mayor and council to set clear direction for the CAO and town planning staff with regards to our official plan being the first consideration when it comes to future planning decisions.

It's also their job to ensure that direction is followed. However, recent planning decisions suggest that they have not done so or are not willing to do so. This issue is not only about a litany of broken election promises, it's about the future of our town.

**Terry Davis**  
NOTL

# Wiens, Cheropita and past **campaign promises**



**ARCHITEXT**

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

I'd like to start off this week by saying how much I appreciate that each of you take the time to read my scribbles in this opinion column each week.

Next month, I will mark six years of volunteering to write Arch-i-text for The Lake Report.

And, it has been your kind words, expressed by you in-person, on the phone and through emails, that has provided me with the motivation to expand the original historic architecture focus of the column to include issues that relate to the preservation and maintenance of Niagara-on-the-Lake's unique cultural heritage landscapes and character.

For this I'd like to express my thanks — for without your encouragement, dear readers, I would have tossed in the proverbial towel on the preservation of our town long ago.

It is for each of you, the residents of NOTL — born here or moved here — for whom I continue to write this column.

You have told me you desire this town to be a place which now, and into the future, represents a livable community that respects all demographics while preserving our cultural heritage landscapes.

Again, I thank you for your support.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now, let's continue the examination into the original platforms and subsequent performance of the members of our town council, which we began last week. We'll begin with the incumbents.

During the 2018 election, responding to a Niagara Foundation questionnaire,

then-candidate Erwin Wiens wrote, "The council needs to look at the town as a whole, which requires understanding that the preservation of heritage in the villages and protecting farmland is paramount to promoting tourism, the economy and, more importantly, the quality of life for residents. Council and staff need to live out our corporate mission statement along with our official plan to keep all development 'in sympathy' with the area."

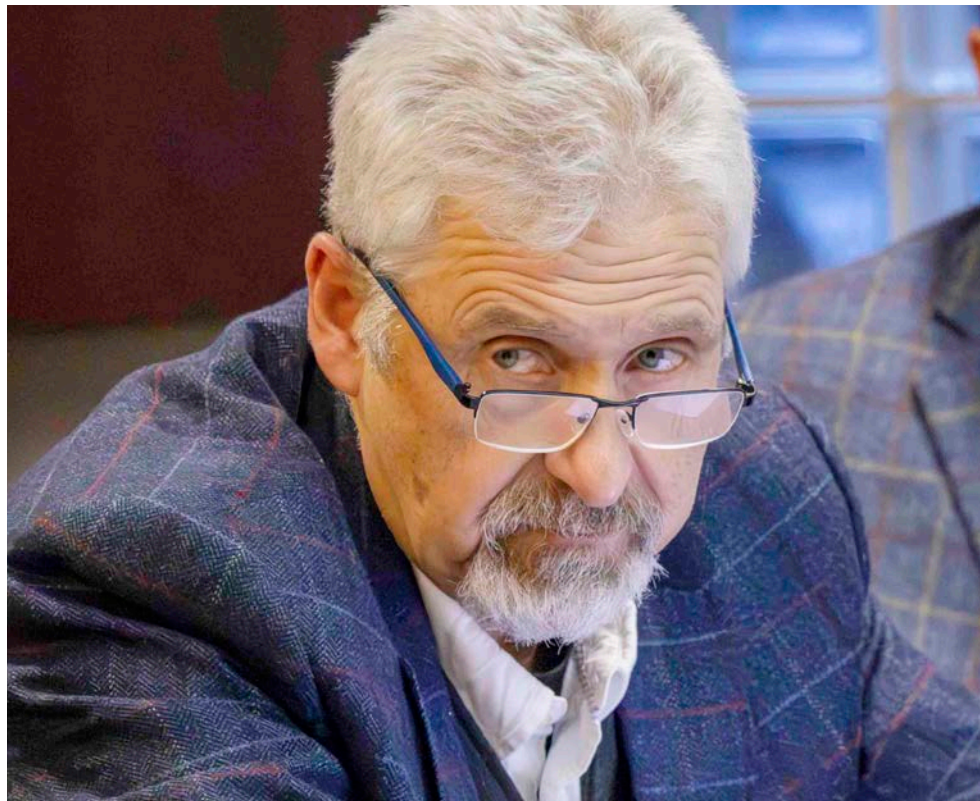
He continued, "Infill development such as the former Parliament Oak school should be harmonious with the immediate neighbourhood in terms of lot size and height."

"Agreed, our official plan states that all development needs to be 'in sympathy' with the surroundings. This statement along, with the provision for input from our heritage committee, seems self-explanatory, yet is routinely ignored. This is solved simply by a council that believes and lives out the mission of our town. To me it is obvious, yet numerous developments do not appear this way. This goes against everything the town purports to stand for."

By 2022, Mr. Wiens' position on these and other concerns posed by the Niagara Foundation to candidates in that election were expressed in a somewhat less forthright manner than in 2018.

On the protection and preservation of heritage and in guiding development, he stated, "Council's role in heritage is to ensure the tools are in place. Presently we have a heritage planner, a heritage committee, an urban design committee and the zoning bylaw. It is important that council relies and collaborates using the expertise we have."

With respect to decisions effecting institutional/public use land holdings/buildings such as the Parliament Oak, candidate Wiens responded, "There are five factors that determine the use of land, what the public wants, what the council wants, what town staff recommend, what provincial legislation requires and what the owner



Despite some public opinions otherwise, Brian Marshall says Coun. Erwin Wiens has lived up to his election promises. From being the councillor who received the most votes in the 2022 election, his approval rate now sits at 16 per cent. FILE/EVAN LOREE

wants. As prudent custodians of the public purse and in a just and fair society that is the direction a deliberating person should take."

**“I'd suggest that if our elected representatives are confident in their position, this action would underwrite that position. Of course, if their argument is simply a smoke and mirrors justification, then public discourse would not be in their best interests”**

And continued with, "Before I make any decision on any property, I want to listen to all of the affected parties and listen, learn and do what is best for the town. It is not prudent for any elected official to make statements regarding any specific properties absent of all the facts."

Speaking to community involvement in planning matters, Mr. Wiens pointed out there are open houses

and public meetings "to allow resident to voice their concerns. It is imperative that residents get involved at the early stages of any project so that their voice can be heard and their input considered."

In as much as these statements taken together only make one commitment — to listen, learn and do what is best for the town (and what is best for the town is completely subjective dependent on who is making that judgment) — it is not possible to suggest Wiens' performance over the last 19 months is inconsistent with his 2022 platform.

Indeed, by defining what council wants as separate and distinct from what the town residents want, he promised to follow his own path.

Moving on to Coun. Wendy Cheropita's 2022 responses to the same Niagara Foundation questions, she proclaimed herself a "big supporter of contextual architecture," and went on to state, "Contextual architecture promotes continuity in design and structure for new buildings. While determining acceptable styles of buildings, materials and site layout, which are all very important to creating an effective design. Contextual architecture

ensures compatible designs and preserves the character of our neighbourhoods."

Speaking to her position on decisions effecting institutional/public use land holdings/buildings, such as Parliament Oak, Cheropita wrote, "My desire is for council with resident input to create a vision for each property. For instance, I will work with fellow council colleagues and the lord mayor to maintain the institutional zoning for Parliament Oak. This property could become an educational, arts and cultural community hub, with a small number of homes of compatible design built at one end of the property."

And concluded this topic with, "Let's build what the community needs."

Asked what her vision for what NOTL would be 20 years into the future and how she would drive that vision during the upcoming term of council, her response reads, "A community that is regarded for its outstanding quality of life and thriving agricultural industry. A town that has preserved its historic and heritage assets and charming streetscapes. An economy and small business community that is growing and expanding. I would use every possible regulatory

and legislative measure to make this a reality."

Here I am forced to ask how either proposed hotel might be construed as contextual architecture or contribute to the preservation of NOTL's charming streetscapes.

The remaining two councillors who were incumbents in 2022 — Gary Burroughs and Sandra O'Connor — have taken positions in decisions that have faced council during the last 19 months that were typically consistent with their respective platforms.

For O'Connor, this can broadly be described as advocating for both health care and environment together with oversight of development to ensure that existing community character is preserved and protected.

In Burroughs' case, the essence of his platform was the preservation and protection of NOTL's unique history, heritage and streetscapes, the maintenance of residents' lifestyle, supporting growth for businesses and allowing for sustainable development.

Next week we will visit with the platforms of, and positions taken by the last four councillors — those elected for their first term in 2022.

As to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa's contention — echoed by Coun. Maria Mavridis, et al. — that the majority of Niagara-on-the-Lake's residents are supportive of the massive hotel proposal for King Street, perhaps council might consider a public referendum.

I'd suggest that if our elected representatives are confident in their position, this action would underwrite that position. Of course, if their argument is simply a smoke and mirrors justification, then public discourse would not be in their best interests.

Are they brave enough to let NOTL citizens to speak? We shall see.

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



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## Councillors need to **reconsider development**

*This is an edited version of a letter to members of Niagara-on-the-Lake town council. A copy was submitted to The Lake Report for publication.*

I have some serious concerns regarding your amendments to our town plan.

Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens: As an elected official for NOTL, your election platform promised contextual zoning, openness, honesty, the preservation of heritage properties and the promise to limit the density of hotels to ensure that the natural fabric of the neighbourhoods remain intact.

What gives you the right to amend the town plan?

Under your guidance, new builds can now be six storeys tall instead of the agreed upon three storeys. This amendment will break all of your promises.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa: As an elected official for NOTL, whose election platform promised good governance, what gives you the right to amend the town plan? You promised to control development.

How does good governance fit with amending the town plan? Good governance requires inclusivity. How does inclusivity fit with compromising a neighbourhood? New builds can now be six storeys tall

instead of the agreed upon three storeys.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita: As an elected official for NOTL, your election platform promised to maintain the character and style of streets and neighbourhoods. What gives you the right to amend the town plan?

Please explain how a massive building more than 60 feet high can be integrated into a heritage neighbourhood. This is very much in conflict with your election promises.

Coun. Maria Mavridis: As an elected official for NOTL, what gives you the right to amend the town plan? Who provided the information/statistics that

indicate we need more hotels? Whose information indicates we need more five-star hotels?

As a representative of the people of NOTL, you need to verify/validate these statistics. You might be working with incorrect, incomplete or misleading information.

In a perfect world, town council would be held accountable for its actions and be subject to voter recall. "Failure to respect the wishes of the community" is very serious.

I ask that you please review your decisions and reconsider your actions.

**Brian Lillos**  
NOTL

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## Respect and protect our Old Town's heritage

Dear editor:

Last week, I sent a letter to Niagara-on-the-Lake's town councillors and the lord mayor asking them to adhere to the town plan regarding heights and area of land covered by buildings and heritage context.

Five of council's nine members have ignored the town plan and protecting Queen Street's heritage

district (the first national heritage district in Ontario).

In her rebuttal to Bob Bader's comments ("Mayor and councillor push back against hotel criticism," The Lake Report, June 20), Coun. Maria Mavridis points to two-storey underground parking at King's Point (where I live) as if it is the same as the three-storey parking proposed for Rainer

Hummel's hotel development on Queen Street. The worry is it will be flooded due to the area's high water table.

She doesn't acknowledge the difference between five storeys proposed for the Parliament Oak site and three storeys of King's Point (allowed, down from four storeys requested).

Why did the Niagara District School Board refuse to let

NOTL buy Parliament Oak?

Obviously because the 5 C mentality prevailed: conservative, competitive, capitalistic commerce at all cost.

We local taxpayers may have to leave our town to the rich tourists and their avaricious developers.

Town council, please save our Old Town.

**Elizabeth Oliver-Malone**  
NOTL

## Development naysayers are an **endless source** of amusement

Dear editor:

I look forward to enjoying my fresh read of The Lake Report every week to see if the Old Town complainers will ever run out of adjectives and other mumbo jumbo in each of their independently prepared complaint submissions regarding new development.

Extremely, warped, egregious, inappropriate, political crime and betrayed are some of my favourites, but civil unrest and reference to Disneyland are truly funny.

The nature of these complaints appears to have become acceptable for some, although not everyone, and that warrants more voices from the other side.

People should also remember that before these

complaining-type folks started to occupy their little piece of dirt, the larger geographical area was in a constant state of transformation. In that historical recognition, the only people who arguably have a right to voice grievances are the Indigenous.

We all have very little time to be unhappy. So, let's all assist in supporting the new hotel developments, and in 100 years or so these beautiful hotels will mature to heritage status, which may make the current complainers happy.

I would also like to add two more words to the complaint submissions department: arrogant and goody-goody.

**Peter Rusin**  
St. Davids

## Council **never had chance** to reject housing for Parliament Oak site

Dear editor:

I read Coun. Maria Mavridis' response, published in the June 20 issue of The Lake Report, "Mayor and councillor push back against hotel criticism," to a resident's comments on the council review of an application for development of Parliament Oak property.

While I did not find the resident's letter offensive, of particular interest is your comment, "Some have said they prefer residential. That was presented and was met with the same outcry from residents. Ship sailed."

While it is true some residents expressed concerns on a previous application related to an apartment building and residential development on the same property, albeit under different ownership

during information sessions, your comment suggests the previous council rejected that development in its entirety.

The ship has not sailed. In fact, it never arrived at the dock.

The previous application was never reported out as a recommendation to committee or council as the developer moved direct to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

While the previous application was reviewed by the municipal heritage committee and urban design committee, at no time was it presented to the planning committee or council during the previous term.

Perhaps Mavridis may want to clarify her statement.

**Allan Bisback**  
Former NOTL  
town councillor

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**

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

DATED June 18, 2024  
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Have an opinion you want heard?



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

## Chateau des Charmes has new ownership

Jill Troyer  
The Lake Report

The elegant white tent on the courtyard behind Chateau des Charmes is normally the scene for special events and stylish weddings, but last Friday it was where Paul-Andre Bosc handed off the ownership and operations of the winery to the new CEO, Marco Piccoli, and a group of young Canadian investors.

Bosc shared the news of the sale of Chateau des Charmes with staff first. The winery was founded by his father, Paul Bosc Sr., in 1978, who is widely recognized as a pioneer in the Niagara wine industry.

The sale price was not disclosed.

While Piccoli has his eye firmly on the future, he said he is also deeply respectful of the history and traditions Chateau des Charmes has developed over the last 46 years.

"This represents a generational handoff, a passing of the baton to a new generation," he said.

"The quality is there, but we need to accelerate innovation. A lot of legacy must stay, but now is also the time for new ideas and new partnerships," he added.

One of those new partnerships will be with the Niagara Custom Crush Studio in Vineland, known as the Crush.



Chateau des Charmes, on York Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has been sold. JILL TROYER

It provides a collective of independent wineries with modern production facilities and services, and offers consumers the opportunity to taste wines from a wide range of brands in one place.

The other partnership is with a company called Bev-Pro Canada, which Piccoli said "will help us accelerate sales, hospitality and marketing opportunities."

While news of the sale of Chateau des Charmes was a surprise to most when it was announced on Friday, it had been in the works for a long time.

Bosc explained to staff last week that he and his dad started discussions about the future of the winery as far back as three years ago.

He said he told his dad, "I was always part of a team, it was like being in a band, and I don't think I'm going

to be a very good soloist."

At that time, Paul's mother had died, he'd lost his wife only two years before that, and his dad was 86.

"So, with his blessing, we decided to keep an open mind about our future," Bosc said.

"My father was deeply involved in this process, until just before he passed away last December. We liked that the investors are young Canadians, and Marco Piccoli is the right person to be the next CEO."

He noted he and his dad have known Piccoli for 20 years, and in addition to his very successful career here, as former director of winemaking and operations for Arterra Wines, his European roots are a parallel to Bosc's own.

Piccoli was formally educated in Italy and Germany, just as Paul Bosc Sr. was educated in France.

Bosc himself has spent a lifetime in the family business. He started out planting vines on Creek Road in 1978, later moving into sales and international relationships. He became president and CEO 20 years ago.

But now, "it's time for us to hand over custodianship to a new generation," he said.

Bosc won't be out of the picture at the winery. He continues to own the property directly across from Chateau des Charmes on York Road, with more than 40 acres of vineyards he and his father originally planted.

The grapes grown there will be used exclusively by Chateau des Charmes.

As for the specifics of the changes afoot at the winery, the promise is for exclusive events and innovative new wines that celebrate Niagara, with details yet to come.

## St. Mark's celebrates summer long weekends

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

Almost 200 years ago, about 90 local townspeople raised enough money to mount a single bell in the belfry at historic St. Mark's Anglican Church.

The town craved a steeple bell to announce important community happenings and sound the alarm in times of calamity.

Now 19 bells, the St. Mark's chime set is considered among the finest in Canada.

Beginning this Sunday, June 30, at noon, the St. Mark's chimes will once again come alive with contemporary music — the first of three free chiming concerts offered by the church this summer.

"I hope everyone will bring a lawn chair and lunch," says Leighton Lee, rector of St. Mark's.

"Bring some friends, spread out on our beautiful lawns and hear our wonder-

ful bells ringing out over the rooftops."

The other free noon-hour concerts also are on Sundays — Aug. 4 and Sept. 1 — in the churchyard at St. Mark's, 41 Byron St. Rain or shine.

The audience is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for the casual concert. Each Sunday will highlight a different repertoire.

For the second year, the chiming concerts will be performed by well-known local chimer Bernadette Secco.

"I sit high in the belfry with the bells right above me," said Secco.

"So, the music almost overpowers me. But I have no idea how the audience is reacting," she said.

"It's wonderful after the concert to visit in the churchyard with all the people who have gathered to hear these wonderful bells on a peaceful summer afternoon."

For the first concert Secco will continue the theme from the June 6 D-Day commemoration — music from various Canadian military campaigns, from privateers in 1778 to the Second World War.

"I'm particularly fond of 'The Bold Canadian,' written shortly after Gen. Brock sailed from Niagara and forced the Americans to surrender Fort Detroit. This song was very popular and helped recruit troops and militia men to sign up during the War of 1812."

Secco chimes every chance she gets. Her varied and extensive repertoire encompasses hymns, show tunes, traditional and patriotic songs, and classical music. She arranges most of the music she plays.

The bells of St. Mark's have grown in number and stature to become one of the three largest chimes in Ontario. And it's certainly the largest in any small parish church.



Bernadette Secco, seen in the St. Mark's church belfry, will present contemporary music on the bells, each Sunday of the three summer long weekends. The first concert is this Sunday, June 30. FILE

# Niagara Escarpment Commission turns 50

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

The key to any good relationship is communication. Jim Collard, the chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, couldn't agree more.

In one of the final acts of his term as head of the 17-member commission, the former Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor has initiated the drafting of a corporate road map with the goal of enhancing the escarpment's beauty, health and public value, via a number of visions and actions.

"Every organization should have a strategic plan, a blueprint of where they have been and where they want to go and how they want to get there," said Collard, whose term ends on Sunday, June 30.

"Every municipal council does it right after an election. At the (commission) level, there hasn't been one for a long time."

With members of the escarpment commission in NOTL on June 17 and 18 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the entity, Collard jumped at the opportunity to be part of an official day-long brainstorming session on the 17th, aiming to create a plan that will guide the commission well into the future.



Niagara Escarpment Commission chair Jim Collard, centre, with commission member Shawn Carey, left, and Drew Vanderdium, deputy minister of natural resources, at the 50th anniversary party at Queenston Heights. SUPPLIED

One of the document's first points to establish?

Improving communication and co-operation between the commission, its member municipalities and partner organizations.

"I did notice that when I came in (as chair) that not everyone was always on the same page," he said.

The commission's jurisdiction is quite vast, he noted, and "is really like a big town that extends from here to Tobermory," which is 380 kilometres from Niagara-on-the-Lake, "and 23 communities in between."

He said one of the key values that came out of last week's discussions is for the group to better communicate with the municipalities in its jurisdiction.

"In many cases, municipalities would just automatically defer issues to the (commission)."

It doesn't have to be that way, said Collard: municipalities have "far more boots on the ground" with their own employees than the commission's employees and can respond more quickly to situations as they arise.

"For example, the (commission) gets a noise infraction complaint about something on escarpment lands in Niagara. Its enforcement officer lives in Georgetown."

Georgetown is 80 kilometres from NOTL, which doesn't lend to reasonable response times.

"How can we make that work better?" he asked.

The issue of dialogue and co-operation extends further than the municipal sphere.

"We have to have better communication with our partners as well," said Collard. "For example, the Bruce Trail Conservancy."

He said members of the conservancy attended the commission's anniversary celebrations, "and I can tell you up to that point in the year, I knew they existed but I never actually talked to anyone from the Bruce Trail Conservancy."

The conservancy does a different job than the escarpment commission, he added.

"We are land use planners. We don't do actual trail enhancements or recreational enhancements. That falls to conservation authorities. Our mandate is to protect the escarpment biosphere in its entirety."

Collard wondered how the two partners can work better together to reach the same goal, which is having an escarpment that will be cared for, properly nurtured and preserved.

He hopes the commission's strategic plan will answer those questions.

"Like all plans, it talks about how to better use your resources. How can we best use our staff, how can we best use the commission, what is each other's individual roles in all of this?"

Currently in draft form, Collard expects the strategic plan to be finalized over the summer months, with five or six priority areas as part of the plan.

wright@niagaranow.com



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: STARTS WITH "Z"

**At roughly 10 million, it's the largest ethnic group in South Africa.**

Last issue:

Category: TRIPLE "A"-RATED FOOD

Clue: It's squid! Buon appetito!

Answer: What is calamari?

Answered first by: Bill Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Claudia Grimwood, Lynda Collet, Bob Wheatley, Sue Rautenberg, Jim Dandy, Katie Reimer, Carol Durling, Wade Durling, Howard Jones, Esther VanGorder, Kathy Humphries, Nancy Rocca, Patricia Fraser, Pam Dowling, Gordon Yanow, Lynda Hosty, Marla Percy, Hedy Wiebe, Catherine Clarke, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith, KC King, Sheila Meloche

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!

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Inspired by the production of "The Secret Garden," spaces around the Shaw Festival are blooming with flowers as art in unique displays created by some of the Shaw Guild's volunteers. Pictured, from left, are: Shaw designer Judith Bowden, Elaine Evans, Arlene Carson, Margret Walker, Lorraine Horton, Janet Ennamorato, Patricia Pehar, Kim Mustill, Libby Bullock, Susan MacDonald, Lesley Walsh, Sylvie van Wissen, Debbie Steley, Kathy Goulding, Louanne Lynch, Heather MacNeil and Mary Mizen. SUPPLIED

## Shaw Guild's pressed flowers displays are inspired by 'The Secret Garden'

Susan MacDonald  
Special to The Lake Report

Imagine artwork made of pressed flowers that's unveiled at the opening of the Shaw's production of "The Secret Garden" and continues to grow throughout the run of the play.

That was the challenge the festival's community engagement and outreach department asked the Shaw Guild — the theatre's volunteer organization — to take on.

As a result, spaces around the Shaw Festival are blooming with flowers as art in unique displays created by some of the guild's 400 volunteers.

The Secret Garden Shaw Guild Art Project is one of several Shaw programs that aim to use live arts to connect with the community.

With the guidance of Shaw Festival designer Judith Bowden, volunteers have built works of art that consist of pressed flower

pieces from seasonal leaves and flowers they collected.

The art installation is designed to represent the four seasons of the year.

The first three — winter, spring and summer — are now on display in the gallery behind the Royal George Theatre for patrons to enjoy when they attend Shaw Beyond the Stage programs.

As guests walk to the studio, they can see flowers in colourful pots and bird-

houses along the path set up by Shaw Guild gardeners.

Small versions of the pressed-flower art installation are also in the lobbies of the Royal George and Festival theatres.

Two satellite displays are available for the public to enjoy at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and the Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre.

The pressed-flower art project began in March.

Flowers were first pressed onto pre-treated fabric in a process guided by Bowden.

The material was then cut in squares, attached to cardboard and sewn by hand for a selection of pieces to assemble and display. The project will continue in late summer to complete a fall section for the gallery.

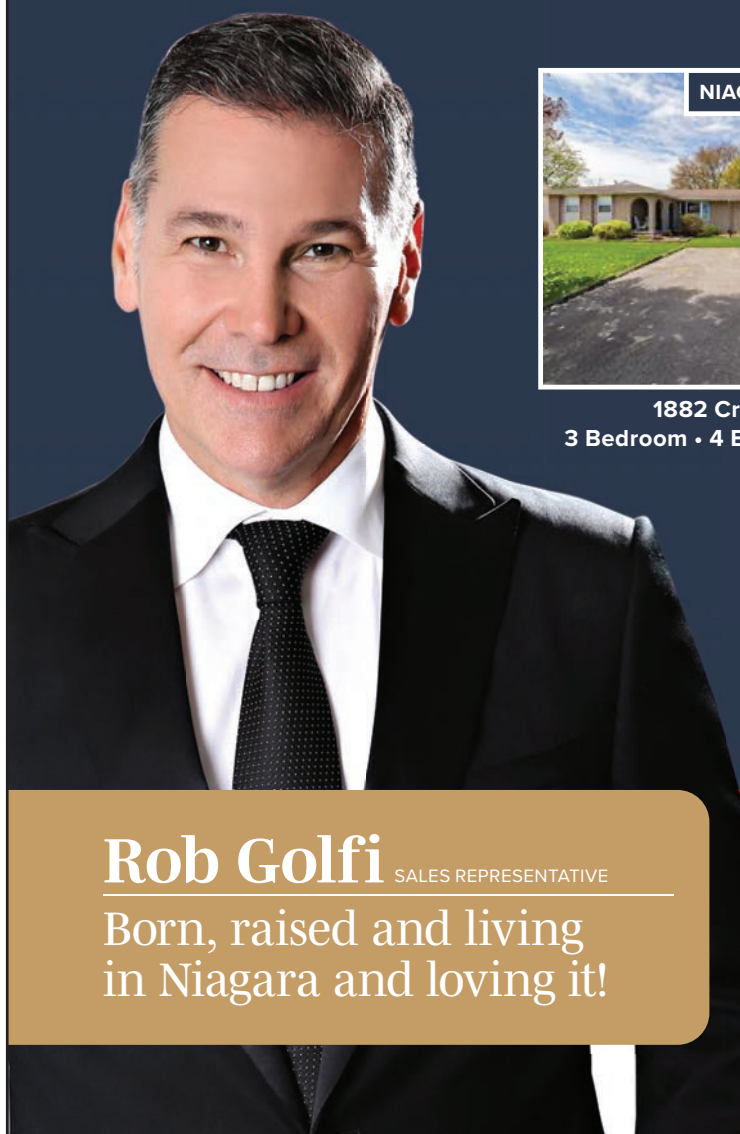
"The Secret Garden," on-stage until Oct. 13, is based on the English novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

It tells the story of faith and healing through the rejuvenation of an abandoned, hidden garden. But it is more than a classic for families to sit in the theatre and enjoy.

In addition to the Shaw Guild art project, pre-show workshops and the volunteer-created special garden spaces allow patrons and the Niagara-on-the-Lake community to experience the joy of nature in varied ways.

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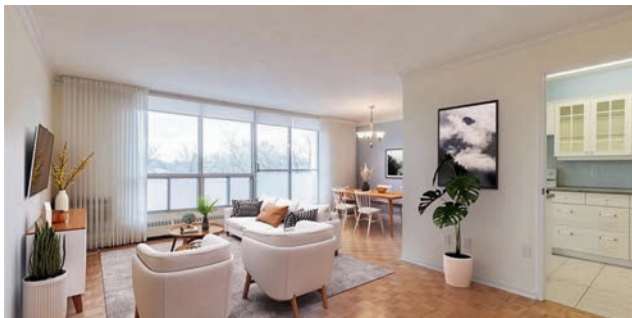
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Louise Robitaille shot an enviable 3-over 75 in 18-hole women's league action on Tuesday. FILE/JANICE WHITE

## Louise Robitaille sizzles with 3-over 75

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

It was a round she won't soon forget.

Three-time Niagara-on-the-Lake women's champion Louise Robitaille carded a remarkable 3-over 75 on Tuesday, a score that would leave any golfer proud.

Playing in the 18-hole women's league, Robitaille was dominant on the day,

and was runner-up for low net with 69. Susan Gagne had a net score of 68.

Diana Dimmer had the second-best low gross score, shooting an 89.

The nine-hole women's league wrapped up a three-week putting competition in which the players totalled their putts over the three rounds.

The winners, with the fewest putts recorded, were: Penny Green and

Deborah Williams (50 putts), Ruth Dowsett and Judy Cardiff (53) and Penny Bannister 54.

This week's top gross scores were: Suzanne Watson (44), Williams (47), and Joan Maida and Lucy Brookhouser (49).

Best net scores were: Williams and Brookhouser (34), Watson (35), and Marion MacIntyre and Bannister (36).

Watson also had the

longest drive on #2 and MacIntyre sank the longest putt on #5.

In Tuesday's weekly WOOFs men's league play, Norm Kerr won low gross honours, shooting 40.

Ron Newman had low net with 31 and Joe Interisano won the hidden hole with a birdie on the par-5 third hole.

Mike Mott was closest to the pin on #4 and notched a birdie 2.



### NOTICE OF A HEARING



### AVIS D'AUDIENCE

#### Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied for a new certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) is asking the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for:

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

#### YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

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

##### HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information about this application and to participate in the process. Visit [www.oeb.ca/participate](http://www.oeb.ca/participate) and use file number **EB-2024-0185** to:

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

##### IMPORTANT DATES

You must engage with the OEB on or before **July 8, 2024** to:

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

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

##### PRIVACY

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

#### LEARN MORE

##### Ontario Energy Board

■/TTY: 1 877-632-2727

● Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

🌐 [oeb.ca/participate](http://oeb.ca/participate)

##### Enbridge Gas Inc.

■ 1 866-763-5427

● Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

🌐 [enbridgegas.com](http://enbridgegas.com)

#### Enbridge Gas Inc. a demandé un nouveau certificat de commodité et de nécessité publiques pour la ville de Niagara-on-the-Lake

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) demande à la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario (CEO) :

- Une ordonnance annulant certaines parties des certificats de commodité et de nécessité publiques actuels (certificats) d'Enbridge Gas concernant les anciennes municipalités qui formaient la ville de Niagara-on-the-Lake et les remplaçant par un nouveau certificat, en vue d'effectuer des travaux pour fournir du gaz naturel dans l'actuelle ville de Niagara-on-the-Lake. Le nouveau certificat est nécessaire pour tenir compte des modifications des limites municipales liées aux fusions et aux annexions passées.

#### À SAVOIR

##### LA COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE DE L'ONTARIO TIENDRA UNE AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE

Il existe trois types d'audiences à la CEO : les audiences orales, les audiences électroniques et les audiences écrites. Si vous avez une préférence en ce qui concerne le format de l'audience, vous pouvez nous écrire pour nous en expliquer les raisons. Au cours de cette audience, nous interrogerons le requérant sur sa demande. Nous entendrons également les questions et arguments des participants inscrits en tant qu'intervenants. Après avoir examiné tous les éléments de preuve, nous déciderons d'approuver ou non cette demande.

##### DONNEZ VOTRE AVIS

Vous avez le droit d'être informé au sujet de cette requête et de participer au processus. Visitez le site [www.oeb.ca/fr/participez](http://www.oeb.ca/fr/participez) et utilisez le numéro de dossier **EB-2024-0185** pour :

- Examiner la requête
- Présenter une demande pour devenir un intervenant
- Envoyer une lettre comportant vos commentaires

##### DATES IMPORTANTES

Vous devez communiquer avec la CEO au plus tard le **8 juillet 2024** pour :

- Fournir des renseignements sur le type d'audience (orale, électronique ou écrite)
- Présenter une demande en vue de devenir un intervenant

À défaut de cela, l'audience se déroulera sans vous et vous ne recevrez plus d'avis dans le cadre de la présente procédure.

##### PROTECTION DES RENSEIGNEMENTS PERSONNELS

Si vous écrivez une lettre de commentaires, votre nom et le contenu de cette lettre seront ajoutés au dossier public et au site Web de la CEO. Si vous êtes une entreprise ou si vous demandez à devenir un intervenant, tous les renseignements que vous déposez seront disponibles sur le site Web de la CEO.

#### EN SAVOIR PLUS

##### Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

■/ATS: 1 877-632-2727

● Du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 17 h

🌐 [oeb.ca/fr/participez](http://oeb.ca/fr/participez)

##### Enbridge Gas Inc.

■ 1 866-763-5427

● Du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 17 h

🌐 [enbridgegas.com](http://enbridgegas.com)

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

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.



Ontario  
Energy  
Board

Cette audience sera tenue en vertu de l'article 8 de la **Loi sur les concessions municipales**, L.R.O. 1990, chap. M55

This document is also available in English.



Commission  
de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario

**TEAMS OF THE WEEK**

**Timbits Grey and NOTL Realty U9-10**



The Timbits Grey Team is The Lake Report's first Team of the Week for June 27. Pictured in the front row, from left are: Samuel Petch, Massimo Del Priore, Malcolm Hawley, Harrison Houghton, Shuka Gupta and Finlay McKnight. Back row: Coach Anita Del Priore, Fiona Mills, Scarlett Lortye, Elle Friesen, Olivia Pozzebon, Arijana Pavlakovich and coach Bernadette Summers. Missing are: Thomas Houghton and Ibraheem Kamran.



Meet the members of NOTL Realty U9-10 team, The Lake Report's second Team of the Week for June 27. In the front row, from left: Henry Kedziora, Lara Dutra, Paityn Giesbrecht, Emilio Kauzlaric and Owen Radunsky. Standing behind them are: Bachar Haddad, Nathan Muir, Blake Felice, Sofia Battle Melendez, Markus Doan, Shebl Haddad and Kaitlin Neufeld.

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

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 avail-

able 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 p.m. with the kiddie militia and drill, followed by a presentation by the Fort George Infantry, Artillery and Fife and Drum Corps.

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.

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](http://friendsoffortgeorge.ca/canada-day/index.html)

**HAPPY Canada DAY**

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**6:30 pm - Evening Program begins:**

- Kiddie Militia and drill
- The 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps
- Musket Demonstrations



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**3 pm**  
The giant "Cake Parade" featuring the 41st Regiment Fife & Drum Corps which will accompany the cake back to Simcoe Park to be sliced and served at approx. 3:30 pm.

Cake donated by: Willow Cakes & Pastries

For more information visit: [niagaraonthelakerotary.ca](http://niagaraonthelakerotary.ca) or call: 647-686-9793

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*The Lake Report*

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| <b>JULY 4 - FEVERISH LEMONS</b> (9 - MIDNIGHT)   | <b>JULY 13 - MIDNIGHT SONS</b>                     | <b>JULY 25 - THE ARYTHMICS</b> (9 - 12:30 A.M.) |
| <b>JULY 5 - RILEY MICHAELS BAND</b>              | <b>JULY 14 - DUO LEEPA</b> (2-5 P.M.)              | <b>JULY 26 - BUTLER'S BACKYARD</b>              |
| <b>JULY 6 - GOING POSTAL</b>                     | <b>JULY 18 - MAPLE JAM</b> (9 - MIDNIGHT)          | <b>JULY 27 - THE BLACKSTONES</b>                |
| <b>JULY 7 - RYAN THOMAS TRIO</b> (2-5 P.M.)      | <b>JULY 19 - BARREL DOWN</b>                       | <b>JULY 28 - RON MCEWAN</b> (2-5 P.M.)          |
| <b>JULY 11 - WHISKEY RATTLERS</b> (9 - MIDNIGHT) | <b>JULY 20 - A SIMPLE GESTURE</b> (9 - 12:30 A.M.) |   |

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**Across**

- 4. Fit out (5)
- 9. Release (7)
- 10. Capital of Tibet (5)
- 11. Sift (5)
- 12. Italian little one (7)
- 13. Covered with water (5)
- 14. Thin fogs (5)
- 17. One or the other (6)
- 18. Receiving device (6)
- 19. Gemstone (4)
- 20. Separated (6)
- 22. Vast (6)
- 25. Inspires dread (4)
- 26. Best (6)
- 29. Swordsman (6)
- 31. Forest god (5)
- 34. River horse (Abbr.) (5)
- 35. Doctors (7)
- 36. Obscure road (5)
- 37. Chocolate ingredient (5)
- 38. Place in order (7)
- 39. Pertaining to the kidneys (5)

**Down**

- 1. Unsustainable boom (6)
- 2. Curved sword (8)
- 3. Long-haired cat breed (8)
- 4. Derby venue (5)
- 5. Consumers (5)
- 6. Make happy (6)
- 7. Adventurous expedition (6)
- 8. Universal in extent (8)
- 15. Irreverence (7)
- 16. Baby powder (4)
- 20. Prediction (8)
- 21. Individual facts (4)
- 23. Capsize (8)
- 24. Tubular pasta (8)
- 27. Themes (6)
- 28. Line on a weather map (6)
- 30. Dared (6)
- 32. West Welsh seaside resort (5)
- 33. Saudi Arabian currency (5)

**Crossword Puzzle**

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**Last issue's answers**

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7						9		



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# How homo sapiens **outlasted** all human species



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Columnist

For much of our human evolution, climate played a major part in the success or failure of various human species variants — including the last, homo sapiens — the lone survivor as Chris Stringer so aptly put it in the title of his 2012 book, “Lone Survivors: How We Came to be the Only Humans on Earth.”

Two years ago, an elegant study in the scientific journal Nature, linked dispersal times and routes out of Africa for archaic and modern humans into the Arabian peninsula, to periods when the climate was favourable — when there was plenty of water, vegetation and game along the routes.

Dispersion out of Africa occurred roughly every 100,000 years and corresponded to matching dates for fossils belonging to archaic and modern human along the routes and fit with known cyclical changes in the Earth’s orbit about the sun.

Recently, another study in Nature broadened the time period from 400,000 to two million years ago with the

goal of correlating habitability — the extent to which temperatures, rainfall and vegetation favoured survival — with the locations and densities of species, such as homo habilis, homo erectus, homo heidelbergensis, neanderthals and modern humans, based on the fossil record and collaborative findings such as tools.

The scope of the study was gigantic, one measure of which was the basic unit for geographical area — one degree for latitude and longitude, and for time, a thousand years.

For each of those geographic and time units, habitability was correlated with fossil findings for the five species studied.

The geographic area for homo habilis (2.3 to 1.6 mya), the earliest of the homo species, was limited to habitable regions in east and south Africa with no evidence of dispersion out of Africa.

Homo erectus (1.8 to 0.1 mya), the longest lasting of the homo species on record, dispersed widely to habitable regions within Africa, southern Europe, India, East Asia and the southeast islands.

Mary Leakey famously called him dimwitted based on the crudeness of his axes over hundreds of thousands of years.

But, given erectus’ success exploring widely differing regions of the Earth, his story was a surely a success and deserves the name “the traveller.”



Modern humans have accomplished a lot. But we’re the meanest and most destructive species the planet has ever seen, writes columnist Dr. William Brown.

Erectus also evolved into heidelbergensis about 900,000 to 800,000 years ago.

With homo heidelbergensis, brain size reached the low limit for modern humans, with commensurate skills fashioning tools and weapons. Like erectus, heidelbergensis has been found in habitable regions of Africa, and throughout Eurasia.

Heidelbergensis was probably ancestral to three main branches — one led to the neanderthals in Europe and to their East Asian cousins, the denisovans, another to a “ghost” species identified by its genome but for which there are no fossils, and the third branch eventually led to homo sapiens in Africa.

For reasons not entirely clear, neanderthals remained stuck in Europe and the Middle East, although some made it to East Asia, based on genetic evidence that the two cousin species, neanderthals and denisovans, mated.

This study in Nature revealed in graphic illustrations, the amazingly

tight correlation between habitability and regions where various homo species settled or spread to and reinforced the strong link between climate and Earth’s orbit about the sun.

That link escaped paleoanthropologists for most of the 20th and early 21st century.

Modern humans eventually managed to spread to every continent, save Antarctica, and proved to be the most capable of mastering extremes of weather and climate.

That is, until the last

several decades when intensive burning of fossil fuels began to have a noticeable impact on mean global temperatures and rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and oceans.

The latter two are associated with more severe weather conditions, with the prospect of much worse weather to come if we can’t keep further increases within the United Nations cap of 1.5 C.

Now, deep into a thoroughly nasty war in Ukraine, and a disastrous conflict in Gaza, the prospect of achieving that minimum goal is receding, as fossil fuel companies crank out more fuel than ever in response to world economies recovering from COVID-19 and dislocations in the supply chain in response to the war, to say nothing of the cost of that war in fossil fuel consumption.

It’s a mess and reminds me that modern humans,

for much of their tenure on Earth have been the meanest, most destructive species on record.

And, like lemmings blindly headed to destruction, we are very much on the same path.

Maybe it’s not too late but there’s little evidence that humans possess the collective will to rein in armed conflicts and climate change.

The sixth extinction is coming: only, this time, it won’t be an errant comet or cataclysmic volcanic eruptions — it will be us.

Despite our many fine achievements, we remain perhaps for the future, fatally tribalistic, and too often treat others we don’t agree with disdain and cruelty, on which I rest my case with Ukraine and Gaza.

*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.*



Organizers Erin McKinley, Dana Lutton, Andrea Douglas and Trudi Watson have been hard at work to make this year’s Cherry Festival even sweeter. JULIA SACCO

## Cherry Festival home to treasures and treats

Julia Sacco  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

This year’s Cherry Festival at St. Mark’s will be more than sweet.

Along with the usual fresh-baked cherry pies, barbecue, bake table, historic tours and Fife and Drum Corps music, the church will be giving early access to the annual Haute Emporium on Thursday, July 4.

From 3 to 6 p.m., NOTLers and visitors alike can take a look at all the treasures that will be on display during Saturday’s festival earlier than everyone else.

“We don’t do this to this extent every year and we’ve got some great items,” festival chair Andrea Douglas said.

Countless treasures are among the racks, including a vintage Maple Leafs jersey signed by former

player Doug Gilmour and a hockey stick signed by all the players during his time as assistant captain.

For shoe enthusiasts, The Lake Report spotted a pair of Jimmy Choo heels priced at only \$25. Cash and card purchases are available.

If sweets are more your speed, stop by the festival itself on Saturday, July 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., where 650 cherry pies are waiting to be sold.



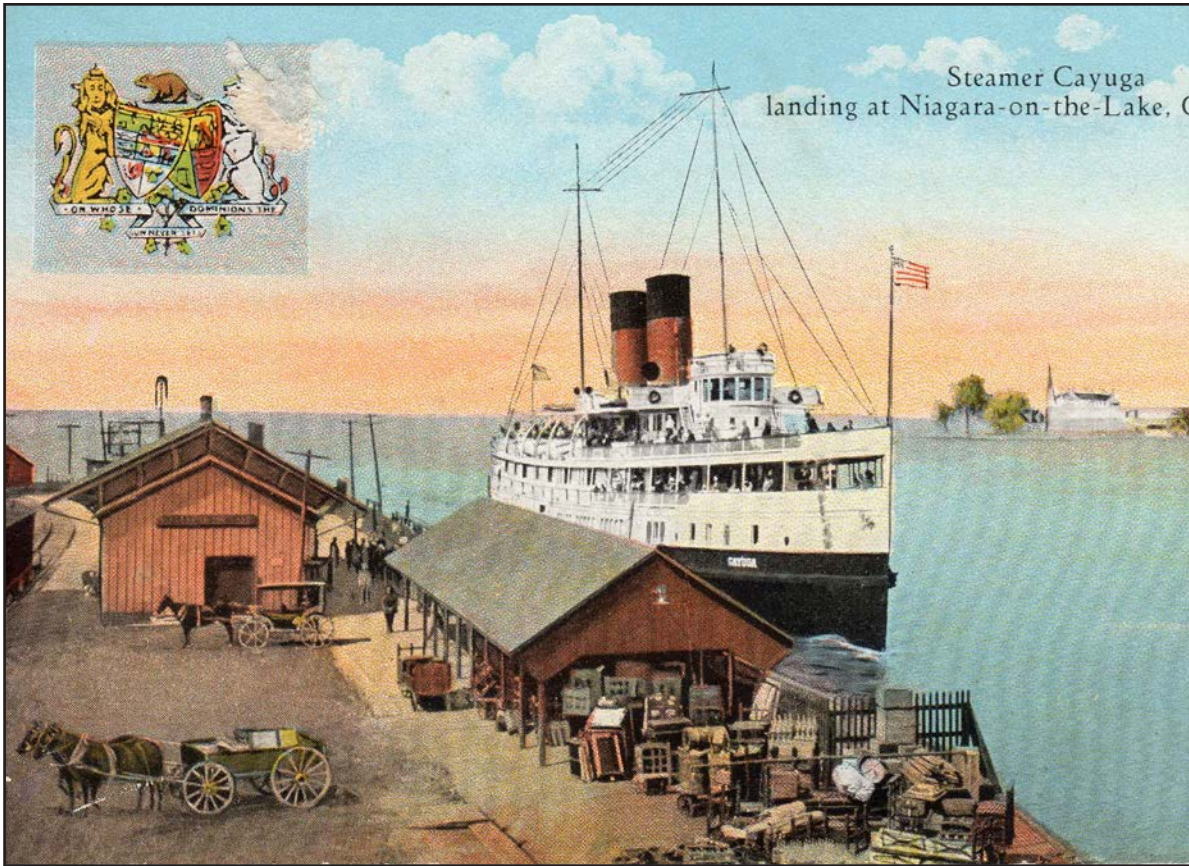
## St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Strawberry Festival Committee & Congregation Thanks You!

The 2024 Strawberry Festival Committee from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church would like to express our appreciation to the Niagara Community and Visitors for making our Festival on June 22, 2024 another successful event. We would like to make a special mention to those businesses and organizations that gave a helping hand to the Festival Committee in preparation for this important fundraising event to maintain the upkeep of the historic Church and continue outreach programs in our great community.

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  - St. Davids Lions Club
  - Independent Grocer Queen Street NOTL
  - The Niagara on the Lake Tiny Museum
  - Simpsons Pharmacy
  - Christian Assembly Hall
  - Jack Custers from Your TV The Source & The Cogeco Team
  - The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
  - The Region of Niagara
  - Niagara Now
- And all of those who so graciously donated to our Silent Auction, Bake Table and New Vintage Booths.

**EXPLORING HISTORY**  
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## Happy Canada Day!

Although our nation celebrates its 157th birthday this week, Canada is undoubtedly much older. Similar to our country's history, Niagara-on-the-Lake has seen many different people settling here over the course of our history, with each one shaping our community in different ways. One such group were those of Irish descent. Some of the early settlers, including Col. John Butler, were Irish and helped to establish the town. By the 1830s, many came to Niagara to work in the shipbuilding industry here. When the Irish famine hit in the 1840s, at least 150 Irish immigrants came to Niagara-on-the-Lake. These new settlers lived in the least expensive part of town, an area that became known as Irish Town. This area was at the south end of Old Town: the Rye, Niagara, Green, and Flynn Street area. The families who settled there included the Murphys, O'Briens, McManns, Flynns, Lynches, Campbells and Fellows, among others.

# Premier of local filmmaker's work set for **July 8**

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

For the first time in Niagara, Niagara-on-the-Lake filmmaker Matt Finlin's documentary "The Movie Man" will be shown to the public at a special viewing in town at Brockamour Manor on July 8.

The film follows Keith Stata, a movie buff from Kinmount, Ont., who built one of the most unique movie theatres in a highly unlikely place.

Highlands Cinemas is a 550-seat complex with five theatres in a town of barely 300 people.

The complex also features a full-on cinematic museum.

What makes the place so special is that it is located in Stata's home, which is nestled into the wooded landscape of the sleepy little town in the heart of cottage country 200 kilometres northeast of Toronto.

For the filmmaker, Stata's incredible story holds personal value and was an easy choice for him to make it into a full-length film.

Finlin, 44, had his first experience with Stata and



Filmmaker and Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Matt Finlin in the backyard of Brockamour Manor. The historic NOTL home and bed and breakfast will be the location of the July 8 screening of his film, "The Movie Man." RICHARD WRIGHT

his theatre as an 11-year-old while camping with his family.

He remembers being in awe of going to a movie in "a guy's house" while on holiday — back when cottages and campsites barely had running water.

"You kind of don't know what this place is then you enter it and it's just sort of magic when you open it up and it's this massive five-cinema multiplex with a museum that

would put the academies to shame. And you're just kind of like, "Wow!"

He credits the incredible experience at such a young age for putting him on a path to become a filmmaker.

"I was always one of those kids that made movies with the family camcorder, a long time before iPhones. It (filmmaking) just seemed kind of out of reach," he added, alluding to the fact that his hometown of Cambridge

seemed so far from the big-screen cities.

"But, I was never a kid to let growing up in a small town stop me. I went to university — finished. I went to teacher's college and I just thought I am going to try it because if I don't, I will regret it."

Today, Finlin has a production company in Toronto called Door Knocker Media that produces TV shows and commercials.

But it is this latest project

that many believe is his crown jewel.

One might ask a pair of Canadian rock and pop icons their opinion of Finlin's work.

Ed Robertson of Bare-naked Ladies fame heard about the movie and, reflecting on his own unique experiences at the Highlands Cinemas, approached Finlin about the project — the two agreed to have Robertson come on as one of the film's executive producers.

The soundtrack is done by Kevin Drew, a founding member of the Canadian indie pop band Broken Social Scene.

"It has been really helpful and lucky to have them come on board," said Finlin, who was accompanied by Drew to the film's biggest screening of all earlier this year.

"The Movie Man" premiered in February at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, one of the most prestigious film festivals in the United States.

Being there and watching his work on one of the biggest stages in the world was an incredible experience for Finlin.

His film, he said, is a combination of his own wonderful memories, and a gift to others who want to experience Highlands Cinemas and the man who built it.

"It takes you somewhere that you couldn't possibly dream of going or maybe it opens your eyes to a place or someone's life that is fantastical. That's what draws me into it," he said, speaking about not just this film but the whole process of storytelling.

"This movie ... is about the experience of going to the movies but it is also about this man and what he has done with his life and what he has given to others."

Outdoor Movie Night at Brockamour Manor featuring "The Movie Man" is scheduled for the evening of Monday, July 8 in the backyard of the historic bed and breakfast in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Proceeds from the film are being donated to the Rotaract, the youth arm of the NOTL Rotary Club.

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# Strawberry Festival is a big and tasty hit

Richard Wright  
The Lake Report

Strawberries make people happy.

While that may or may not be clinically true, the Strawberry Festival at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 22 definitely put smiles on the faces of many.

For eight-year-old Peyton Teal-Harris, this was a day she had been so eagerly anticipating that she could barely contain herself upon arriving.

"It is really cool. There is a bouncy castle, there's strawberries, it's outside and there are so many people," exclaimed the youngster from St. Catharines as she gobbled down a cup of strawberry yogurt.

Her mom, Dee MacLaurin, said the festival was on the pair's radar for more than a month.

"Every summer we do a bucket list and this was definitely on her bucket list," she said.

"She woke up today going, 'Today is the day. Let's go.'"

"It is my favourite fruit," interjected Peyton. "I eat



Cousins Trinity Dodd and Mayla Van Noort get caught in the fun of one of the bouncy gyms at the Strawberry Festival June 22 at St. Andrew's church. RICHARD WRIGHT

them almost every day."

The festival's other features included a silent auction, musical performances, food right off the barbecue, art, trinket and preserve vendors. Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's tiny museum was also on-site.

"Everyone just has a big smile on their face," said volunteer Julie Hunter, add-

ing that the goal of the day is to bring people together and to celebrate community.

Many of the visitors, she added, have openly expressed how nice it is to bump into fellow residents or friends they haven't since last year's festival.

"So, for many people, it is the gathering place," she said.

And this is just the beginning when it comes to the big three community-led fruit festivals in Niagara-on-the-Lake over the summer months.

The St. Mark's Cherry Festival will be held July 6 and St. Vincent de Paul Parish will host its Peach Festival Aug. 11.

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# How to nip **powdery mildew** in the bud



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Columnist



Powdery mildew on a maple leaves. JOANNE YOUNG

As we move into summer, we sometimes start to see more diseases pop up in our gardens.

Some plants are more prone to certain diseases than others, but even so, you can take some precautions to limit the amount of damage that the disease will inflict on the plants.

Wondering about that white film on the leaves of your plant?

As I have been visiting gardens over the past few weeks, I am starting to see more and more examples of powdery mildew: a common fungal disease, infecting a wide variety of plants.

Although there are many different species of powdery mildew, they can all be controlled in the same manner.

The most commonly affected vegetable plants include anything in the squash family such as cucumbers, melons, cucumbers and pumpkins as well as tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.

A few of the most susceptible ornamental plants are roses, peonies, summer

phlox, bee balm, magnolia, ninebarks and lilacs.

Powdery mildew spores drift into your garden with the wind or, if you've had powdery mildew occur in the past, new outbreaks may also come from dormant spores in old vegetation or weeds nearby.

When the fungus begins to take over one of your plants, a film of white mildew, made up of many spores, forms across the top of the leaves.

These spores are then carried to other plants by the wind and splashing water.

Powdery mildew can slow down the growth of your plant and, if the infection is severe enough, will reduce flower or fruit yield and quality.

It will not kill your plant, but it makes it look unsightly.

If the plant is continually infected by mildew, it will cut down on the amount of nutrition the plant can provide for itself and will greatly weaken the plant.

We often associate

mildew with moisture, but powdery mildew thrives in warm, dry climates (15, 20 to 27 C), though it does require high relative humidity around the plant in order to spread.

So, after a long dry period or in areas with very little air circulation, powdery mildew will be more of an issue.

Young foliage is most susceptible to damage — leaves turn yellow and dry out.

The best way of controlling powdery mildew is proactive prevention. Here are some tips to prevent mildew:

- Choose plants for your garden that are resistant to powdery mildew. Many mildew-resistant varieties have been developed and can be bought at garden centres.

- Examine plants in your garden that have a history of powdery mildew once a week. As soon as you spot mildew starting to develop on a plant, pinch off the worst of the leaves.

- Do not compost any

infected plant, as the disease can still be spread by the wind and persist in the composted materials.

- Selectively prune overcrowded areas to increase air circulation around your plants; this helps to reduce relative humidity.

- After pruning off infected parts, do not allow pruning shears to touch healthy leaves. First sterilize your pruners with rubbing alcohol.

- Do not allow soil to dry for too long, especially around susceptible plants. A regular watering schedule will help to keep plants healthy.

- Fungicides should only be used to protect high-value plants with a history of disease. Fungicides will not cure or remove existing powdery mildew infections, but will help the disease from getting worse. Once the majority of leaves have leaf spots, it is too late to treat. If using a fungicide earlier in the season as a preventative or to help kill any overwintering spores, use something organic such as lime sulphur.

- Make sure you clean up any infected leaves in the fall and do not leave them at the base of the plants where the spores can re-infect in the spring.

These proactive tips are also the way to deal with fungal leaf spots such as black spot and rust.

A pinch of prevention goes a long way.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).



## Camp Niagara **relived** at Fort George

Members of the Dominion of Canada Re-enactment Corps storm through barbed wire during a First World War re-enactment of an assault on a fixed location. The presentation was part of an event at Fort George on Sunday.

RICHARD WRIGHT

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