



Fatal crash in same spot | Page 3

New crossover lights are a **safety hazard**, residents say

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Helen Kopec and Elizabeth Lewis are afraid for their lives.

The pair are like many ac-

tive NOTLers: they like the outdoors and enjoy exploring the community via its walking paths, trails and sidewalks.

That's become increasingly stressful since a new pedestrian crossover was in-

stalled at the intersection of Anderson Lane and Niagara Stone Road, near the library and community centre in Old Town.

"Every time I am here I feel like I'm taking my life into my own hands," said

Lewis, just moments after having to stop halfway through the crosswalk to yield to a passing driver.

This, she adds, is a regular occurrence.

The 80-year-old lives in Garrison Village and mean-

ders through the streets and paths within the neighbourhood en route to the community centre, which takes her through the crossover.

She hasn't felt safe about

Continued on Page 2



Elizabeth Lewis.

Byland winery gets **\$90K** from feds for tourism growth

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Byland Estate Winery is one of several tourism spots in the Niagara region receiving a slice of a \$540,000 pie from the federal government this spring.

Canada's minister of tourism, Soraya Martinez Ferrada, was at the winery on Line 3 Road on Friday, along with Liberal MPs Vance Badawey and Chris Bittle, to announce the investment from FedDev in the region's tourism sector.

Byland Estate Winery received a repayable investment of \$90,000 to enhance its visitor experience, specifically with a focus on widening the property's driveway and improving its landscape to attract more visitors.

Martinez Ferrada said while tourism numbers have increased since their historic lows during the COVID-19 pandemic, they

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The **swimming** sisters

Aquatic sports run in the family for Peyton and Georgia Leigh



For Peyton and Georgia Leigh, swimming is in the family. The two sisters are turning heads in the swimming world. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Julia Sacco | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Teenage sisters Peyton and Georgia Leigh are making a splash in the Canadian swimming world this year.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Peyton began her journey toward a

lifelong swimming career at just four months old, with lessons under coach Margaret Park.

Last year, at the age of 15, she had a shot at representing Canada at the Summer Olympics in Paris, after making it to trials

last March for the 200-metre butterfly and the 400-metre freestyle.

When she didn't qualify for this year's Olympics, she kept on swimming — and made other athletic achievements this spring.

After Olympic trials, Peyton swam at the Speedo Canadian Junior Championships and set new personal best swim times.

She said that she and the Brock

Continued on Page 9

Woman **assaulted** by stranger — inside police station

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

She just wanted to report the fender-bender mishap that damaged her shiny red SUV.

Instead, she ended up

badly battered and bruised after she was attacked by a stranger — inside a Niagara police station.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Shirley Dudeck says she was seated in a waiting area at Niagara

Regional Police's district 1 headquarters on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines last Thursday afternoon when a man with apparent mental health issues assaulted her.

The 77-year-old

Shakespeare Avenue resident was waiting her turn when the man grabbed the fanny pack she was holding.

Inside was all her ID, credit cards, driver's licence and more.

He pulled and she resisted.

He pulled some more and then dragged her several feet, through the exit door and outside, where she

Continued on Page 3



Shirley Dudeck.



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'I feel like I'm taking my **life** into my own hands'



Elizabeth Lewis is a regular user of the crosswalk at Niagara Stone Road and Anderson Lane in NOTL. She and others say vehicles regularly blow through the crosswalk despite the warning lights and signage, putting pedestrian lives at risk. RICHARD WRIGHT

Continued from Front Page

it since the Niagara Region installed it last September.

"There is nothing there that tells me it is OK to walk," she said from the curb, "and there are no lights to tell the drivers to slow down."

In fact, there are lights at the crossover, but the new style of structure — first used by the region in 2016, according to its traffic systems and operations department — doesn't have flashing lights on the overhanging signage.

Rather, they're only on the posts at each end of the crossover.

Those lights are small and don't face the pedestrian.

From a pedestrian's point of view, the lights are barely noticeable and a person has to step aside and look directly above their heads to see them.

They are visible to drivers but are not prominent. And because they are near the shoulder of the road, they might not be readily noticed by drivers focused on what's directly ahead of them.

Kopec, who also enjoys walking in the area, said she believes bright sunlight can cause visibility problems as well.

She has taken it upon herself to become a human warning system whenever she's at the intersection.

"I am not passive about this," she said. "I am standing there waving my arms. I am pointing to the light, I am pointing to myself and they don't even slow down."

Above the standard requirements

Remembering back to a day when she was on her bicycle in the area, Kopec witnessed another pedestrian frozen in place waiting for a chance to get across.

"I yelled, 'Doesn't this drive you crazy?' I engage everybody because it just makes me so angry. And they are in complete agreement. They are flabbergasted and astonished that this is going on."

After requests for information by The Lake Report about safety and design, Nick Rosati, Niagara Region's associate director traffic systems and operations, said that the cross-

over goes beyond the safety measures required.

"Pedestrian Crossovers don't even require those flashers," he said, referring to "Ontario traffic manuals put out by the ministry (of transportation)."

"The enforceable portion is the black and white sign that identifies the pedestrian crossover. We added the flashing lights as a second level to bring driver awareness."

Kopec disagrees that what is there now is above and beyond, and reiterated that the structure simply doesn't have enough bells and whistles to make it apparent to drivers and pedestrians.

"It was poorly planned and is poorly designed. No question," she said.

"If a pedestrian assumes that the driver has seen the light and starts crossing the street ... they are in trouble," she added.

Kopec also wonders why a "new" sign wasn't installed in the area, similar to those placed when a new traffic light is constructed.

"That is one inexpensive thing they can do," she

said. "But they have to make it really bright and they have to keep it there for at least six months on both sides."

A more "drastic measure," she said, would be to "set up a camera like in Virgil that records when drivers go through when the lights are flashing."

For its part, the region says the onus is on motorists.

"Our Number 1 goal is traffic safety for everybody," said Rosati. "But at the end of the day it comes down to the driver. It is a judgement call from the driver's perspective and if they have enough distance to stop then they need to stop."

Better driver education and maybe police enforcement could help remind motorists to yield to pedestrians, he added.

"Niagara Region is committed to education about road safety as part of its Vision Zero initiative, which is focused on reducing and eventually eliminating serious injuries and fatalities on regional roads," he said.

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Driver killed on notorious section of Lakeshore

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

A single-vehicle crash that took the life of one person early Wednesday on a notorious section of road in Niagara-on-the-Lake has sparked a flurry of mixed emotions from local residents who can agree on at least one thing: the stretch of road is a killer.

Scott Gauld has lived just over a kilometre from the site near Lakeshore and Four Mile Creek roads for more than 10 years.

In that time he has seen at least one other fatality — on June 10 of last year — when a vehicle left the road and struck a huge tree head-on, just feet from the roadway.

“If that tree wasn’t there, they (drivers) would just run off into the marshy, light-forested area,” said Gauld.

“There is plenty of room for them to slow down and sink their car into the mud or whatever else is there.”

Gauld said he started reaching out to Niagara Region authorities about



A second driver in just under a year has been killed after colliding with the same tree on Lakeshore Road. SUPPLIED

taking down the tree just after the 2023 crash and from the lack of response he has received, feels there is no resolve to do anything about it.

“I have been on the phone with the transportation department at the region. I called our regional councillor this morning (Wednesday, June 5) trying to get anybody to make some movement on this, but it has been over a year,” he said in an interview.

He also said he was in contact with the region on

May 27 of this year, “Just to say, ‘Hey, where are you guys on this?’”

The response he got was little more than a brush off, he said.

“I get, ‘Well, we are meeting with our legal department. We are meeting with the roads department.’”

“Lots of meetings are going on and I wake up this morning and someone else has died.”

Shirley Madsen has lived within a few hundred metres of the crash site for more than 20 years.

She knows of about seven or eight serious crashes on the stretch of road. There have been multiple causes, including speeding and alcohol, she said.

The opinion that the tree is the culprit, doesn’t fly with her.

“There are other problems on this road,” she said, recounting a serious incident last year when a drunk driver left the road and destroyed her front yard.

“I think it is going to take several different things to correct this situation,” she said.

“You need facts before you try to find a solution. It’s not that I want to save the tree. I don’t think the tree being there is the problem.”

What Madsen would like is some real consultation and action.

“Whether it is reducing speed limits, whether it is putting a stop sign at Niven (Road) or putting a stop sign at Four Mile Creek Road, which might slow down people a little bit.”

Woman was attacked inside police station

Continued from Front Page

finally let go and tumbled to the concrete.

“It all happened in seconds,” Dudeck said in an interview.

Police officers were behind a glass partition when the attack occurred and they immediately sprang into action, she said.

But by the time they were able to reach her and subdue the man — “literally it was just a few seconds” — the damage was done.

Her back and hip and arms and ribs were banged up. She was bruised and bleeding. And almost a week later she still aches all over.

“The police officers were fantastic,” said Dudeck, a retired gym teacher.

“They were there right away and they were so helpful afterward.”

She doesn’t know the man, but had chatted with him briefly before he turned on her.

He had come to the police station because “it’s a safe place,” he told her.

“And he was really concerned about where all the surveillance cameras were,” she said.

Then suddenly, he lashed out.

When he grabbed her fanny pack, “I wasn’t going to let go. I just reacted. I know some people will say I should have just let it go, but I had everything in it,” she said.

Asked for details about the incident, police issued a statement noting that after Dudeck refused to give up her fanny pack, she “fell to the floor while still clutching the purse and was subsequently dragged while the suspect attempted to flee the building.”

“The suspect dragged the victim through the lobby, front vestibule and toward the concrete steps in front of the police station,” where officers subdued him.

Despite her own trauma



A man attacked Shirley Dudeck, 77, without warning while she was at a Niagara police station to file an accident report. She remains in a lot of pain with bruised ribs and other injuries. KEVIN MACLEAN

— her rib injury means it literally hurts to breathe or cough or yawn — she feels sympathy and compassion for her assailant.

“The poor man,” she said, referring to what she suspects are some serious mental health problems.

“I feel sorry for him. He obviously has got some serious issues that made

him do what he did that day.”

Beyond him being charged by police, she is unsure what has happened to him.

“I’d like to think he is getting the help he needs.”

The officers at the station came to her aid immediately and were “so helpful and concerned,” Dudeck said.

They insisted she get medical care and arranged for an ambulance to take her to the St. Catharines hospital.

She said she got great care at the hospital but it all made for a long day.

The incident occurred about 1:30 p.m. and she finally got home, thanks to a helpful friend, about seven hours later.

A female officer from the station gave Dudeck her phone number and then arranged to drive her car home to NOTL.

Police said a 39-year-old St. Catharines man has been charged with robbery.

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Mennonite contribution to Niagara to be uncovered in museum doc project

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is getting a boost from the federal government's library and archives group to work on a project uncovering the details of the Mennonite community's settlement in Niagara.

Library and Archives Canada will fund the museum's new project, in which it will be gathering, preserving and sharing a collection of oral histories from six Mennonite families as a documentation of how Mennonite immigrants displaced by war survived and helped create the agricultural landscape of Virgil.

This is part of the federal government's Documentary Heritage Communities Program, which aims to provide \$1.5 million in funding each year to local organization to support their work in keeping and preserving records and publications that reflect Canada's history.

The museum hasn't shared how much funding it will receive for the Mennonites of Niagara project, but says it will be made into an oral history website available by the end of this year and will encompass more than 100 oral history interviews conducted over the past 12 years and complementary

audio-visual materials, such as diaries, maps, photographs, music and family memorabilia.

Members of the Mennonite community have come to settle in Canada during a handful of key waves of migration, including the 1870s, the 1920s and after the Second World War.

The project will document the arrival of these six families in Niagara, their experiences leaving a war-ravaged Europe, the displaced persons camps, prison-of-war camps and the development of their new community in Virgil.

"They brought with them their survival skills,

their knowledge of the land, their faith, and their sense of community," said Sarah Kaufman, the museum's managing director, in a media release. "The voices of these families need to be heard, recorded, and preserved."

Alongside the digital exhibition, which will be available at memoriesofniagara.wordpress.com, the museum's work will be incorporated into a new, permanent exhibition at the physical museum.

Anyone interested in more information, or in contributing their family's knowledge and history to the project, can contact the museum at 905-468-3912.

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Man, 85, dead after minivan goes into pond

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

An 85-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake man is dead after the minivan he was driving collided with an SUV and landed in a pond in a rural area of town on last Wednesday evening.

Emergency crews frantically searched the pond near Church and Stewart roads for more than an hour after being called to the scene round 6 p.m.

"Tragically, the male driver was recovered and pro-

nounced dead on the scene," Niagara Regional Police said.

The unidentified man was eastbound in a 2015 Dodge Caravan on Church Road and apparently headed home, police said.

He "proceeded through the intersection" and his minivan collided with the SUV, which was northbound on Stewart Road, police said.

It remains unclear if the minivan driver stopped at the intersection prior to the crash and a police spokesperson told The Lake

Report the force's accident reconstruction team is investigating that aspect.

The impact of the collision sent the minivan careening off the road, where it landed in a large pond nearby.

The 2008 GMC Acadia SUV that the van hit suffered damage to its left side. A stop sign at Church and Stewart roads was bent flat to the ground and tire marks showed where the van left the road.

The 78-year-old St. Catharines woman who was

driving the SUV and a passenger in her vehicle were unhurt, police said.

In a media statement, police declined to release the names of those involved "out of respect for victim privacy" and their families.

While emergency crews dove into the pond looking for survivors, regional police and firefighters from the Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines fire departments blocked off the road.

Emergency medical personnel and a rescue boat also were on the scene.

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Investment aims to boost tourism in region

Continued from Front Page

haven't gone back to pre-pandemic levels.

The hope is that investing in these projects will help bring tourists back to Niagara, she said.

"Yes, they will spend more money in the region, but they will have a great experience, an experience that will make them want to come back," Martinez Ferrada said.

Flat Rock Cellars in Jordan Station was granted \$200,000 and the city of Port Colborne was granted \$250,000 for the improvement of the Wharf Terminal.



MP Vance Badawey, Coun. Wendy Cheropita and Minister of Tourism Soraya Martinez Ferrada had a chat after the announcement of \$90,000 for Byland Estates. JULIA SACCO

Martinez Ferrada said that the government was selective when choosing which projects to support.

"One of the main objectives is to always make sure that we're supporting organizations and companies

that will actually grow the tourism sector," she said.

After the pandemic, the government is seeing trends in tourists looking for authenticity, she continued.

"If you come to Byland and you talk to Jackson

(the owner), they're going to leave this place not only with the bottle of wine that they bought, but the story behind it."

Badawey shared similar feelings about the chosen projects.

"It's more than just touching something or feeling something or tasting something. It's a feeling that we can all recall from when we were children, or when we travel now as adults," he said.

"Some of the destinations we enjoy the most may not be the most traditional, but it's the destinations that make us feel good."

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Strawberries and community make a festival

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Gathering enough strawberries to supply an entire festival takes a village — or in this case, a town with dedicated volunteers.

It's strawberry season in Niagara-on-the-Lake and with that comes the St. Andrew's Strawberry Festival. This year, it's on June 22.

Since 1985, the church has hosted its annual super sweet festival featuring freshly made jams, crepes, shortcakes, frozen yogurt and strawberries available for purchase.

Doug Dineley, spokesperson for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and a founding member of the Strawberry Festival, caught up with The Lake Report at the Pillitteri family's Seaway Farms, one of the festival suppliers.

Joined by strawberry farmer Steve Pillitteri-Smith, Dineley walked through a strawberry field where the Juneberries, the traditional Ontario strawberry, are grown.

"The Juneberries are the best for jam and homemade recipes," Pillitteri-Smith told The Lake Report.



Doug Dineley and Steve Pillitteri-Smith have a great relationship, something that helps the Strawberry Festival run smoothly when sourcing the fruit. JULIA SACCO

The sweet variety is the most popular because of its powerful flavour, but they don't have a long shelf life, he said.

For the Strawberry Festival, Juneberries are the fruit of choice.

"We need a lot of strawberries and these taste better," Dineley said.

The strawberries used in jam arrive four or five days before the festival, so church volunteers can make the jams as fresh as possible.

"The day before the festival we start slicing 90 flats of strawberries in order to do all the differ-

ent strawberry shortcakes, the crepes and the yogurt," he said.

That's not including the fresh strawberries up for sale.

Dineley said the church gets around 20 flats of strawberries on the Monday before the festival for jams, around 80 flats on Friday for baked goods and treats and another 200 flats on the Friday night before the Saturday sale.

On festival day, it takes close to 100 church volunteers to pull it all together.

Seaway Farms supports the festival along with Tigchelaar Berry Farms

in Vineland and Dineley said these community connections make all the difference.

"People like Steve, he loans us his truck and cold storage. Kenny Hunter, he picks up the strawberries for us," he said.

"Everyone goes to bat for each other."

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Strawberry Festival is Saturday, June 22, beginning at 9 a.m.

It will feature the usual sweet treats, peameal bacon on a bun, live music and a silent auction. Admission is free.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com

Popular Shaw Guild Garden Tour returns June 15

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

The annual Shaw Guild Garden Tour is one of the most highly anticipated calendar events of the year in Niagara-on-the-Lake for those enthusiastic about nature cultivated by passionate horticulturists.

Every June, enthusiasts clamour for the chance to be in the presence of some of the most beautiful and memorable outdoor spaces in the region.

Nestled on private residential properties that are often heritage homes and featuring vibrant colours, welcoming aromas and intricate floral designs, each stop on the tour is like a trip to a conservatory, art gallery, museum and concert hall all in one.

"We like to tell people that it is more than a garden



Stephen Fraser and Jane O'Connor in their Regent Street yard that will be featured in this year's tour. RICHARD WRIGHT

tour," said Shaw Guild marketing co-ordinator Jo Ann Ely.

"You get to tour eight different gardens, but in all of the gardens, we either have plein artists or musicians playing. They really add to the ambiance of the day."

The added value of the cost of a ticket doesn't stop there. Each garden, noted Ely, is equipped with its own on-site master gardener.

"They are there to answer questions and to help with

anything more (garden-wise) that you may need."

Ely expects the on-site experts will be very busy. This year's entries, she said, are very eclectic and quite expansive.

The property at 345 Regent St., for example, was built about 1898 and set in a double-sized lot with a variety of flowering trees and shrubs, she said.

The current owners bought the property in 2020 and have added perennials

and other elements to the landscape.

"And then if you go to Centre Street," she continued, "that is a huge garden. If you walk along the streets you will recognize this garden from a distance — big, beautiful weeping willows in it."

The cost of admission includes a magazine-like brochure that gives the details of each home and directions to the destinations.

The tour runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 15.

Tickets are available online via Eventbrite for the early-bird cost of \$30, plus a small administrative fee.

However, Ely said tickets will be available the day-of at any of the tour's participating locations.

Those transactions will be cash only. wright@niagaranow.com

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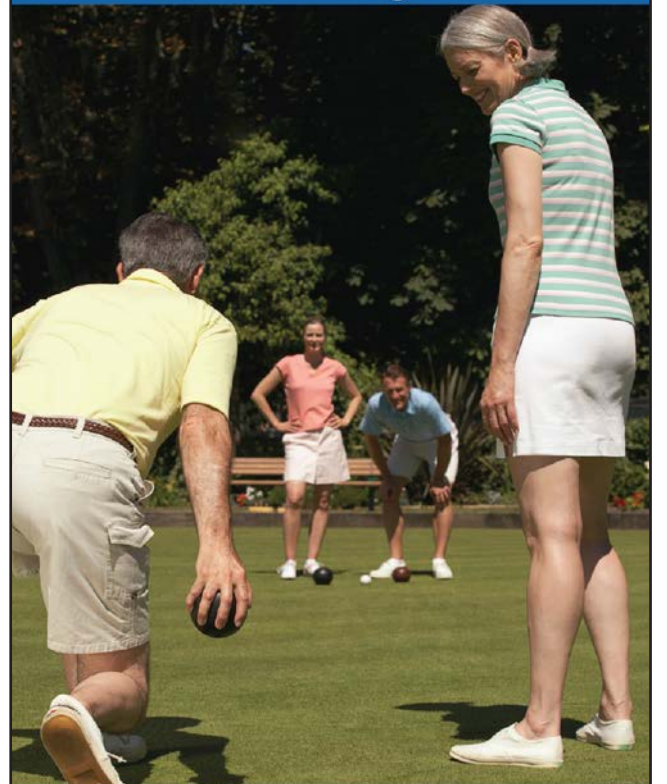
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Students from kindergarten to Grade 8 got their steps in on Friday during Crossroads Public School's annual Rankin Cancer Run. Music from student DJs, dance performances from school club members and lots of high energy kept the good vibes going. All students participating in the run donned Rankin T-shirts designed by Grade 8 student Nolan Funk. JULIA SACCO



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Contributed by Patty Garriock

“In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them.” - Aldo Leopold

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Drag show kicks off Pride month



Kitten Kaboodle, Miss Congeniality winner of Canada's Drag Race season four, rocked the beer garden at the Olde Angel Inn on Sunday. The Angel's "Drag Me to the Beer Garden" drag performances made for a festive way to celebrate the start of Pride in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Two performances from Kaboodle along with Toronto drag performer Sofonda Cox paired with bottomless mimosas and brunch kept the audience dancing and singing along during the 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. seatings. JULIA SACCO

Editorial

No more fatalities – cut down the tree

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

A notorious stretch of Lakeshore Road needlessly claimed another life this week.

We are not sure what happened or why. Any number of factors could be at play, including speed, driver error, animals crossing the road, mechanical problems, bad luck or something else altogether.

But another person is dead.

And it happened almost a year to the day that another fatality occurred, at the same spot, when a small SUV hit the same tree.

The speed limit on that section of road, opposite the Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery, is 60 km/h. Unfortunately, it is a limit that many of us have trouble adhering to.

Traffic along Lakeshore often moves closer to 80 km/h or more. So, that is an issue and a consideration when looking to solve — or at least minimize — the serious problems on this section of road.

The roadway leading up to the tree in question is not complicated. It's a



A memorial for a 49-year-old woman from St. Catharines who, one year ago this month, died after her small SUV struck this tree on Lakeshore Road. KEVIN MACLEAN

straight stretch, with the big old tree near the start of a soft curve westward toward Four Mile Creek Road, a few hundred metres away.

The roadway itself is not to blame, though the addition of warning signs or guard rails might help draw drivers' attention to the catastrophic consequences of leaving the road. Not speeding also would help.

The real problem is the tree — and it literally is a killer.

With a trunk about one metre wide, it towers over the roadway and stands a few feet from the narrow,

paved shoulder.

When a car continues straight, instead of following the curve, it's a recipe for disaster. And, as it showed again this week, it is deadly.

When we visited the site on Wednesday afternoon, all was quiet, but for cars buzzing past.

We couldn't miss the prominent memorial, a wreath and condolence cards, attached to the trunk. It commemorates the death of Jennifer Jackson, killed in a similar crash last June 10.

The massive tree stops anything that crosses its path.

A single black-and-orange safety pylon is strapped to the trunk, which is blackened in spots, bark missing, after who knows how many "accidents."

As resident Scott Gauld observes in our story this week, and our visit confirmed, if the tree wasn't there, any vehicle that veers off the road would simply end up a soft, marshy, patch of greenery.

"Reduce your speed" warnings, safety signs, guard rails even, might be part of the answer.

But, as Shirley Madsen can attest, there also have been problems a few hundred metres westward — when a car wrecked her front yard.

So, warnings, speed check signs and other measures might be part of the solution.

But the most obvious one to us is also the simplest: the tree has to go. It is a killer, is in a dangerous spot and needs to be taken down ASAP.

We are all for saving trees, but with the location of this roadway, this tree poses a needless hazard.

Cut it down.
 editor@niagaranow.com

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Boxer made Canada and NOTL proud

Dear editor:
Kudos on behalf of the community to St. Davids boxer Mckenzie Wright on her brave and commendable attempt to qualify in Bangkok, Thailand for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics. Following two earlier victories, including a

unanimous win over Aldana Lopez of Argentina, a medalist in the 2022 Women's World Boxing Championship, Wright was defeated at the 11th hour by Fatima Herrera of Mexico in her final qualifying attempt. As a lifelong fan of this sport, aptly named by Brit-

ish sportswriter Pierce Egan back in 1813 as "the Sweet Science," I foresee a bright future for our local hero. Mckenzie, you represented Canada and Niagara-on-the-Lake with pride and in our eyes you are a winner. **Samuel Young NOTL**



Mckenzie Wright.

Neighbourhood garden tour was a big success

Dear editor:
I've never been prouder to live in Chautauqua. Last Saturday marked an extraordinary day for the Chautauqua Residents Association with its inaugural Chautauqua Art & Garden Tour. Hundreds of visitors flocked to our corner of town, eager to admire the remarkable horticultural and artistic talents of our neighbours. All afternoon, groups of friends wandered down our laneways, maps in

hand, smiles lighting up their faces as they sought out the next breathtaking garden. For me, this event showcased more than just beautiful gardens and art: it epitomized our wonderful community spirit. I extend heartfelt thanks to the 10 generous homeowners who meticulously prepared their gardens and welcomed the public, the incredible artists among us who showcased their work and the diligent volunteers of the residents association

(with special mention to Mary Kilmer-Tchalekian for her leadership). Thanks also to Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty for its invaluable sponsorship, covering all expenses and making the tour accessible to all. Thanks to them, every dollar raised went directly to the association. The event raised more than \$1,400 for the association, the most raised by a single association event in recent memory. Lastly, my gratitude extends to the numerous

visitors, both local and out-of-town, who joined us and contributed to the event's success. The warmth, respect and appreciation shown toward our neighbourhood was truly heartwarming. It was a joy for the Chautauqua Residents Association to share our neighbourhood with all of you. Planning is already underway for next year's tour. **Weston Miller President Chautauqua Residents Association**

King Charles renews his role as Willowbank's royal patron

Dear editor:
Exactly 10 years after Willowbank first received royal patronage from the then-Prince of Wales, in mid-May, marking the first anniversary of the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we received a letter from the principal private secretary to the King and Queen. Sir Clive Alderton informed us of the completion of a review of the patronages of the late Queen, of Charles when he was Prince of Wales and the former Duchess of Cornwall. Following a thorough analysis of more than 1,000 organizations, we

were told the King is delighted to remain a patron of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts. Royal patronage recognizes the achievements of organizations and the contributions of different sectors of Canada's public life. It also reflects the areas of personal interest to Charles, of which Willowbank's approach to bridging heritage with sustainability, is just one. "Willowbank is devoted to the shift towards a more ecological, sustainable approach. My aim is to support and encourage these kinds of approaches," he noted in his decision in 2014.

We are ecstatic that the King continues to see value in the Willowbank mission. For the School of Restoration Arts, this patronage means a link with established programs, including the King's Foundation. And we're proud to say that, 10 years on, this partnership continues to thrive and two of our students are heading to the foundation's summer school this year to develop their knowledge of traditional architecture, design, building and repair techniques (thanks to a generous investment from the Humeniuk Foundation). Further endorsement of Willowbank by the King

as royal patron highlights the recognition of the school's innovative approach to heritage conservation and its approach to the stewardship of historical places and sustainable communities through a model of education that balances both theoretical and practical. The King's decision to retain patronage of Willowbank is a tremendous honour, and we are very grateful for his public support and look forward to growing this relationship. **Elizabeth Oliver-Malone Archivist emeritus Willowbank School of Restoration Arts**

Is Hummel hotel the right fit? Is parking garage even buildable?

Dear editor:
I understand that town councillors are elected by the residents on the basis that they will represent their best interests and opinions when voting on all local matters. Last week, however, the majority of the council approved the rezoning of residential land surrounded by heritage homes for a large commercial hotel requested by developer Rainer Hummel, ("Council approves Hummel plan for four-storey hotel in Old Town," The

Lake Report, May 30). Do they believe that the town will be improved by having more strangers on our sidewalks and even more visitors on our narrow streets rather than more permanent residents, which the current zoning allows? Was it the beauty and compatibility of the contemporary design of the proposed hotel that was so compelling that they couldn't resist? I would have thought that having more residents, more homes and fewer outsiders

was preferable to having another hotel. For almost 50 years I have been involved in the design, ownership, operating and constructing of all of the existing hotels in the Old Town and I feel that I can speak with a reasonable degree of expertise when commenting on the proposed hotel design. But anyone should be able to appreciate that the plan calling for construction of three storeys of underground parking 25 feet below the water table would be so

complicated and expensive as to be unbuildable. Therefore the majority of the council has approved a project that will probably never be built and will have to approve a different design that will have to be revised into who knows what by the next owners. I would welcome an explanation from each councillor who voted in favour of this project outlining how they concluded that this was the best use of the property. **Wayne Murray NOTL**



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Some towns **listen to their residents**, and some don't



Brian Marshall
Columnist

Community resistance to ill-considered government land-use dictates are mounting across Ontario.

On May 6, Oakville's town council voted 14-to-1 against accepting the federal government's densification deal.

To provide a little background, last summer when the feds announced its \$4-billion Housing Accelerator Fund, the town lined up with many others for its share of the pie.

As part of the deal, councillors were told they needed to change Oakville's planning rules.

Federal housing minister Sean Fraser required Oakville to permit four housing units on every residential property in the town "as of right," as well as four-storey apartment buildings on properties in areas dominated by detached, semi-detached and town-house dwellings.

Oakville council, in an 11-to-2 vote taken during January, took the first step to approving those changes.

Town staff was directed to develop the necessary zoning amendments for council's final approval and a public consultation process was initiated.

In February of this year, the town's mayor — without consulting council — signed a \$25-million deal with the feds compliant with these requirements, after which the town received a \$1.28-million downstroke for housing.

When word of this deal hit the streets, Oakville residents rose up en masse in opposition.

This public outcry from the majority of the citizens led town councillors to reconsider their January position and, last week, to

reject the zoning changes.

In fact, Coun. Cathy Dudeck went so far as to suggest that significant changes to town-wide zoning — which includes allowing four units per lot — should only be adopted if approved through a referendum.

She stated, "Four 'as of right' is four as of wrong. Oakville residents spoke loud and clear about the importance of preserving their stable residential neighbourhoods when they supported our Livable Oakville plan."

So, Oakville now has to cut a \$1.28 million cheque back to the federal government.

Something Mayor Rob Burton — who, despite signing the February deal, was one of the 14 votes against — said he wasn't "fussed about."

The people of Oakville spoke and their elected representatives listened.

It's no secret to anyone who reads this column regularly that I consider most of Premier Doug Ford's provincial government legislation around housing to be flawed — wrongheaded at best and, at worst, blatant self-serving pandering to his financial supporters in the development sector (think of the Greenbelt debacle).

Wrongheaded?

Well, consider his government's stance on heritage, for instance.

The changes made to the Ontario Heritage Act as a part of Bill 23 — More Homes Built Faster Act 2022 — were a very clear statement that this provincial government believes the protection of built heritage not only limits the freedom of developers to build as they see fit, but that heritage is just so much old stuff that should be cleared away to produce a "clean slate."

One of Bill 23's changes to the Heritage Act required Ontario municipalities to "move it or lose it" vis-à-vis listed properties.

In essence, the municipalities were allowed 24 months to designate the listed properties on their municipal registers of properties of cultural heritage value.

Failure to complete the designation process within



The four-storey hotel proposed by developer Rainer Hummel for Queen Street — if built according to modernist drawings such as this submitted by the applicant — will "fundamentally" alter the streetscape in Old Town, writes Brian Marshall.

the allotted timeframe would result in the non-designated properties of interest being removed from the register for a period of five years.

This seemingly simple change — for municipalities committed to the preservation of their heritage and the associated character of their community — resulted in significant shifts to assigned resources (both financial and human) as they attempted to beat the clock.

In short, a lot more money was spent, contract employees hired and responsibilities within planning departments shifted/altered to prioritize processing designations on historic listed buildings within an impractical short timeline.

To put this in perspective, Niagara-on-the-Lake had, by my rough count, about 205 non-designated properties on their municipal register.

Even with the allocation of additional resources, it was an impossible task to even consider successfully guiding half of these properties through the designation process.

Thus, it became a heart-wrenching choice of which properties needed to receive priority before the provincial clock struck midnight.

Municipalities across

Ontario, supported by many other organizations (e.g. Architectural Conservancy Ontario) have been incessantly lobbying the provincial government since Bill 23 was passed to give them more time.

And last week, the government announced that it had listened.

Buried within Bill 200 (Homeowner Protection Act 2024), which was introduced into the legislature on May 27, were proposed amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act that, in a letter by Citizenship and Multiculturalism Minister Michael Ford, stated, "if passed, would extend the review period for legacy listed properties by an additional two years."

He goes on to write, "The newly proposed amendments are the result of feedback received from municipalities, community organizations and the public, and, if passed, will alleviate administrative pressures while still meeting the intent of the original amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and its regulations, aimed at increasing housing supply and supporting the growth of our province."

Translated, the Ford government is still no supporter of heritage and remains

committed to its original direction, but cannot afford to continue alienating municipal governments and voters across the province.

Particularly if, as many political pundits are predicting, Ford calls an early election in 2025.

Still, in my books it is a win — showing that public pressure can influence the decisions of government ... even one as agenda-driven as Ford's.

There are certainly other recent examples of this type that I could cite, however, these two will serve to make the point and allow us to ask a particular question.

Why does our town council continue to seemingly ignore the will and direction of the people, limit voters' voice before council while sidestepping the town's current Official Plan wherein it states as an overarching principle that "All are agreed that this atmosphere should be maintained and enhanced in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake?"

In the most recent of several incidents, on May 28, town council deliberated on an application to rezone a Queen Street property between Mississauga and Simcoe streets, which would allow the creation of a four-storey, 81-room hotel.

They voted to approve the application in a 5-to-3 vote — with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and councillors Wendy Cheropita, Nick Ruller, Adriana Vizzari and Erwin Wiens voting in favour of approval, while councillors Gary Burroughs, Sandra O'Connor and Tim Balasiuk voted against it.

Here I have to ask our elected representatives who voted in favour of this application this: in the face of opposing public sentiment, did you really consider the ramifications of your position?

A four-storey hotel (taller and massing more than any existing building fronting on Queen) at the gateway to Old Town's main street, if built according to the submitted modernist drawings by the applicant, will fundamentally and irrevocably alter Queen Street.

It will be the dominate building on the entire streetscape. It will diminish the heritage value of the Charles Inn, Chrysler-Burroughs House, shouldering historic properties, et al., and the Queen Street streetscape to the south.

Welcome to Niagara-on-the-Lake/Niagara Falls, because the two will architecturally be perceived as identically transparent tourist traps.

With all due respect to councillor Cheropita's posit that this was purely a vote on zoning ... I have to say that, in my opinion, your approval of this application has largely turned over the future of Old Town's Queen Street cultural heritage landscape to a developer.

So, to my readers, are y'all willing to deliver the preservation and future of Niagara-on-the-Lake's unique character — including Glendale, St. Davids, Queenston, Virgil, Old Town and all rural points in between — to developers?

If not, get off your couch, stand up to be counted and tell the councillors to do their job in preserving the precious jewel we all enjoy.

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



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CODE GREY

“Code Grey” is one in a series of stories in The Lake Report about health care in Niagara Region. In hospital parlance, “Code Grey” means loss of essential service.

Lack of urgent care options in NOTL a big concern

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Niagara Health is undoubtedly going through major changes with the introduction of a three-site hospital system across its St. Catharines, Welland and South Niagara locations.

But for Niagara-on-the-Lake, a community with 30.9 per cent of the population comprised of seniors and no urgent care centre, residents are worried these changes aren't enough.

After a presentation at the NOTL Community Centre on Monday night, Niagara Health CEO Lynn Guerriero and executive vice-president of clinical operations Heather Paterson took questions from the audience.

An overarching concern for residents was the distance between NOTL and the nearest hospital that would be able to provide certain types of specialized care.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa wanted to know just how long it would take for an ambulance to transport someone from NOTL to the nearest site.

“The drive time from Niagara-on-the-Lake to St. Catharines takes 29 minutes,” Guerriero responded.

“It'll be about 28 minutes to the new site because it's all highway and to the current Niagara



Larry Yap was concerned about ambulance travel time from NOTL to the new hospital site. JULIA SACCO

Falls site, it's 26.7,” she said, adding that these times were calculated with regular drivers in mind, not an ambulance.

Paterson noted that all emergency calls would be triaged to assess the priority of each situation.

Aside from emergencies, NOTLers have a hard time arranging certain screenings for non-emergency ailments.

Resident Heidi Brown shared her concerns about accessibility to these services in town during the Q & A session.

“Right now, if I need a mammogram, I have to go to the hospital to get one. Any other imaging as well. It's not done in the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake,” she said.

Guerriero pointed out that there are a number of community-based diagnostic facilities across Ontario, as a result of physicians pushing for them.

“We have been pushing, you do not believe how hard, that one of these comes to Niagara,” she said.

Until then, there aren't many options for seniors in

NOTL who don't have a car or someone to drive them to appointments.

The Lake Report asked if any patient transport was available in these situations and the answer was no.

Paterson said that there is no current service and patients must rely on family, friends or Uber.

“I think that is something we've talked to the region about around transportation and helping communities come together,” she said.

“It's a concern for us as well. We want people to have access to care.”

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was concerned about how aging NOTLers with complex health issues will be taken care of.

Guerriero said the South Niagara site, under construction now at Montrose and Biggar roads in Niagara Falls, is specifically designed for geriatric populations.

She called it “a centre of excellence for wellness and aging.”

Following that response and words from Paterson, O'Connor urged Niagara Health to recognize NOTL's

need for more immediate care in town.

“Niagara-on-the-Lake in the next 25 years is almost going to double in population,” she said.

“We're looking at possibly trying to advocate for an urgent care centre to meet this almost doubling of the population.”

Guerriero agreed with O'Connor, adding, “We need to really make sure we're advocating for expansion of those types of services in high-growth areas.”

After the Q & A session, O'Connor told The Lake Report she felt the presenters were putting a positive spin on everything.

“We're left with gaps,” she said.

In the U.K., smaller cottage hospitals have been shutting down and health care has been centralized, she noted.

“They found out it doesn't work and they are now going back,” she said.

O'Connor said she wonders if Niagara Health has studied what other countries have done.

Ultimately, she said she wished more information had been addressed during the presentation, including how many beds are needed for a population of mostly seniors and how that changes the standard metric.

Queenston Pottery shows off renovations during studio tour



Eva Mlcak showed guests just how sturdy her pottery is during last weekend's studio tour. JULIA SACCO

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For the first time ever, residents and visitors could take an inside look at Niagara-on-the-Lake's artist studios and take in the creativity.

Last Saturday and Sunday, the NOTL Studio Tour exhibited 28 artists over 16 locations, highlighting some of the creatives in town who fly under the radar.

Queenston Pottery is a perfect example of a hidden gem in town — and owners are hoping to change that.

During the studio tour, the property in Queenston debuted its updated and renovated studio space and sales floor.

Lisa Dahl, daughter-in-law

of owner Eva Mlcak, said that her hope with the studio tour is to “demystify the driveway” into the studio, which sometimes intimidates a customer from stopping by.

And a stop-by is well worth it.

In 1978, after immigrating from the Czech Republic, Mlcak and her husband Frank built their entire home, studio and gallery from scratch.

“We bought this land because somebody had let it go. We always liked this street because the country where we are from and the region where we lived was always very hilly,” Mlcak told The Lake Report.

She said that the York Road property made her feel at home.

Mlcak and her husband were engineers before shifting to focus on their artistic endeavours.

They were both good with design and Frank Mlcak was very handy with tools, something that his son Rick has carried on with.

Almost 50 years later, Mlcak still adds the final brushwork to the pieces herself, putting care and attention into every piece at Queenston Pottery.

After the COVID-19 pandemic and the death of her husband, Mlcak had begun plans to slow down business a bit.

But, at the same time, her son and daughter-in-law were able to make the move to Niagara and lend a hand. “We thought the business

was so beautiful and too important to let it go,” Dahl said.

“We are now taking on and growing off of the strong foundation that has already been built.”

Along with renovations, Queenston Pottery is now offering Studio Tours and hoping to add some pottery classes in the fall.

“We're really looking to turn this place into a destination and experience for people who are here touring, something in addition to a wine tour,” Dahl said.

Queenston Pottery is located at 1648 York Rd. and more information on their hours and offerings can be found at queenstonpottery.com.

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Chautauqua gardens showcase creativity

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Last weekend, residents and visitors to Chautauqua got to take an inside look at some of the most interesting gardens the community has to offer.

The inaugural Chautauqua Art & Garden Tour hosted on Saturday featured 10 properties for viewing, free of charge.

Home to a number of Niagara-on-the-Lake's creative residents, all of the stops showcased an artistic element— whether it be paintings, drawings, photographs or digital creations.

Holmes Hooke's interpretation of the tour at 5A Wilberforce Ave. gave visitors a full artistic experience.

Lined with photos of animals, drawings and paintings, the garden immersed guests in Hooke's artistic works.

"All of the pictures were



Holmes Hooke's garden tour at 5A Wilberforce Ave. featured a performance of rhyme for lucky guests who stopped by Saturday afternoon. JULIA SACCO

taken in this garden," Hooke told The Lake Report.

His hobby photography started with birds visiting the garden, he said, then neighbourhood dogs and cars came through, along with bees, butterflies and more.

"People think they need flowers for colour, but I've got the colour," he said, gesturing to vivid photos of

birds on display.

Along with nature photography, Hooke also displayed his artwork selections, including unique one-line drawings.

"I just decided to do creative things. I think it's got to do with the fact that it's in there — you've just got to get it out," Hooke said about his creative fuel.

He put on a short per-

formance of spoken-word rhymes for guests along the tour, accompanied by a jingle stick.

"I'm a rhymer, I rhyme. And I'm a performer, I've been performing for years," he said.

You can't choose how to share your creativity, he added — the medium chooses you.

juliasacco@niagaranow.com



IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND
AND PREMISES AT THE FOLLOWING
MUNICIPAL ADDRESSES IN THE TOWN
OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation
of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has passed

By-law No. 2024-038

Designating the following property as
being of cultural heritage value or interest
under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18

Barker Hall, 46 Johnson Street

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
this 6th day of June, 2024

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk



Niagara-on-the-Lake

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

The Town is looking forward to its annual Strawberry Social event, where community members (aged 65+) are invited to gather for lunch, fun, and friendship. Admission is free for all attendees.

Who: Niagara-on-the-Lake residents (65+)

When: Wednesday, June 19, 2024. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Where: NOTL Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane

Registration is required.

Please register online at
[www.notl.com/recreation-events/
community-initiatives-events](http://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events) or
by calling 905-468-3266.

**Please register by noon on
June 14, 2024.**





NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE SURPLUS AND DISPOSE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to the Town's Public Notice By-law 3784-03, Policy CS-CL-011 - Public Notice, and Policy CS-CL-010A – Sale and Other Disposition of Town-Owned Land, take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake proposes to declare surplus and dispose of the following municipal property:

Lands affected: The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the registered owner of the lands described as Part 10, Plan 30R-12946 . A portion of the aforementioned lands in the dimensions of approximately 1 metre by 150 metres is proposed to be declared surplus and sold to the adjacent owner.

Explanatory note: The sale of approximately 150 square metres of land to the adjacent owner is to permit the relocation of the existing curb and facilitate future development on the adjoining property known as Garrison Village Centre (See Map). The subject lands are located on the north-westerly side of the municipal property which fronts on Niagara Stone Road and Garrison Village Drive. Circulation to Town departments confirms no future needs for municipal purposes and it is therefore surplus.

Council will consider a motion to declare the property surplus on June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario.

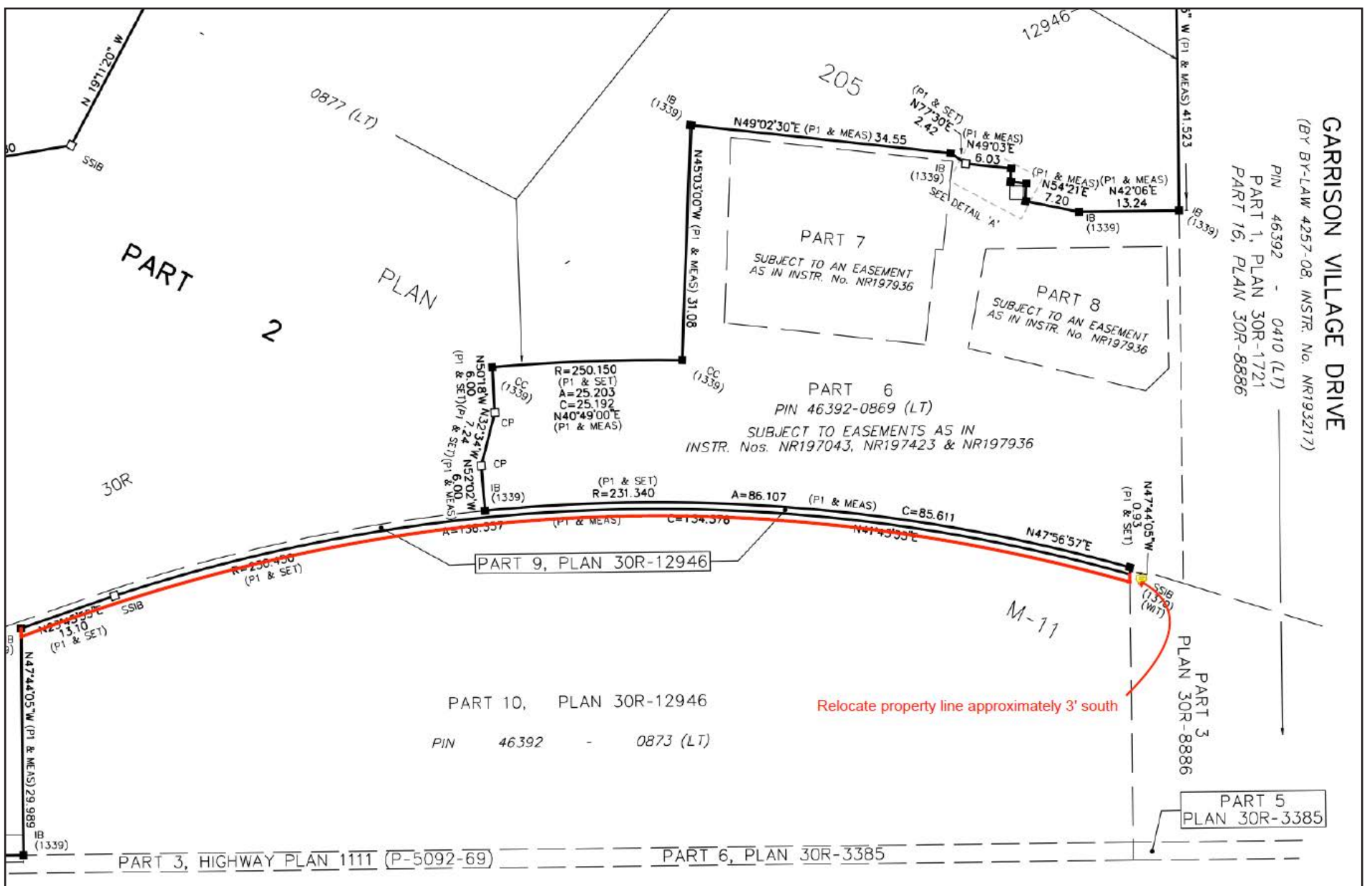
Anyone wishing to be heard regarding these matters should contact the Clerk's office or provide written comments before 12:00 p.m. (noon), June 17, 2024.

In the event that the matter is deferred, no further public notice will be given.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, this 6th day of June, 2024

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake





NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at **15618 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY, GRAND VICTORIAN (PART LOT 19)** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

15618 Niagara River Parkway is located near the Queenston urban area on the Niagara River Parkway. The Grand Victorian is located on a large estate lot and integrates picturesque effects to complement its architecture. The estate faces the Niagara River on the east. The residence has a moderate setback from Niagara River Parkway and is partially visible from the road due to the mature trees lining the side of the road. The access to the residence is through Niagara River Parkway. The estate is enclosed in a boundary wall comprised of hedges and mature trees.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as the Grand Victorian has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values.

The Grand Victorian has architectural value because it is a representative example of the Queen Anne Revival style architecture. The white stucco house features an irregular plan with protruding portions on elevations. The two and a half storey residence has a complex hipped and gable roof with overhanging eaves and cornice details, an asymmetrical façade, wrap-around verandah, double chimneys, fish scale shingles and wooden sidings. The complex structure also features pediments and shed dormer windows and varying sizes of rectangular window openings. The Queen Anne Revival house also features intricate woodwork in the form of spindle-work on the verandah, wooden columns, raised wooden railings, and wooden brackets.

The Grand Victorian displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic value as seen in the pediments, cornice, wooden columns in verandah and the double brick chimneys. The pediment on the northeast corner of the building features fish scale shingles as well as wooden siding. The pediment also contains three windows with wooden surrounds. The scale of the double brick chimneys is very imposing on the structure. The chimneys feature corbelled cornice detail and plain panels on its sides.

15618 Niagara River Parkway has historical value as being the residence John Geale Dickson and being associated with the Dickson family. John Geale Dickson was the grandson of Honourable William Dickson and the son of Walter Hamilton Dickson. William Dickson was the cousin of Robert Hamilton and was in the trading business with him. He is also credited for the settlements of lands around Galt. John Geale Dickson himself was the founding father of the Niagara-on-the-Lake golf club. He encouraged the establishment of the Club. In 1881 he appointed his brother to be the captain. The Golf Club is one of the oldest in North America. The Grand Victorian is also associated as being the summer residence of Willis Kingsley Jackson. Jackson was a respected businessman from Buffalo and purchased the property as a summer home for his family. At this time the property was known as Riverscourt. Jackson was an officer and a member of the Niagara Golf Club along with the Dickson brothers.

The Grand Victorian is important in maintaining the character of the area. 15618 Niagara River Parkway is part of the 'Scenic Route' of Niagara River Parkway. The area majorly comprises of large estate lots and farmhouses with substantial setbacks from the road, with winding driveways and landscaped lawns with mature trees.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that embody the heritage value of the estate at 15618 Niagara River Parkway in Niagara-on-the-Lake include its:

- Two and a half storey Queen Anne Revival style residence
- Asymmetrical façade
- White exterior finish
- Protruding northeast and southeast corners
- Complex hipped and gable roof with gable ends and pediments
- Overhanging eaves with cornice and wooden brackets
- Wrap-around verandah
- Two pairs of double chimneys
- Fish scale shingles and wooden siding
- Shed dormer on south elevation
- Varying sizes of rectangular window openings
- Intricate woodwork in the form of spindle-work on verandah, wooden columns, and raised wooden railings
- Historical association with John Geale Dickson and Willis Kingsley Jackson
- Location along the Niagara River Parkway
- Moderate setback from the road

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to Grant Bivol, Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is July 5th 2024.

Queries

Any further queries should be directed to Sumra Zia, Heritage Planner at (905) 468-3266 ext. 327 or through email at sumra.zia@notl.com.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 6th day of June 2024

GRANT BIVOL, CLERK



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at 14 WESLEY AVENUE, LANSDOWNE VILLA (PLAN 73A LOT 162) as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

The subject property is located on 14 Wesley Avenue and is called the Lansdowne Villa. It is located in the urban area of Old Town in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The subject property is located at the end of Wesley Avenue at the cul-de-sac with One Mile Creek and the pond located towards the north. The East elevation of the subject property faces the creek and the heavily wooded area around the creek. The subject property is located within the area that was designed and developed as the Canadian Chautauqua.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as the Lansdowne Villa has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values.

Lansdowne Villa is a representative example of the Queen Anne Revival style. The two-storey rectangular plan residence has a complex gable roof with overhanging eaves, asymmetrical south elevation, verandah on facade, a square turret, and decorative shingles. The complex structure also features a protruding gable dormer window on east elevation featuring a flat arched opening with rounded corners. The Queen Anne Revival house also contains woodwork in the form of spindle work on the verandah, wooden posts, and wooden mullions on windows. The residence displays a high degree of artistic value through the use of unique materials. The various types of decorative shingles used throughout the residence blend seamlessly with the design of the residence. The usage of multiple types of shingles is unique to the residence and the region. The cedar shingles used as the roof material also provides artistic value. The cedar shingles have aged well with time and are well-matched with the other materials used in the residence.

Lansdowne Villa has historical importance as being a part of the Crookston that belonged to William and James Crooks. The brothers worked as merchants, farmers and also built ships. The subject property is also associated with the formation of the Canadian Chautauqua in Niagara. 14 Wesley Avenue has historical value as being the residence of the Peake family. The Lansdowne Villa was constructed by Lewis Peake in 1870 and was among the first houses to be built for the Canadian Chautauqua. Lewis Peake was the managing director of the Chautauqua and the secretary of the Niagara Assembly.

14 Wesley Avenue has the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of the Chautauqua movement. It also has the potential to yield information about the design principles that went into designing the Chautauqua neighborhood and the lifestyle and leisure activities of the people during that time period.

Lansdowne Villa is important in maintaining the character of the area. The playful Queen Anne Revival style of the subject property reflects the impact of the Chautauqua movement on the design of the cottages in the region. This is also reflected through the other dramatic residence styles found on Wesley Avenue. The subject property acts as a character supporting resource for the diminishing structures reflective of the Chautauqua. 14 Wesley Avenue is physically linked to its surroundings. The Lansdowne Villa is located on Lot 162 in the Chautauqua neighborhood. It maintains the original demarcation of the Lot and is a part of the radial design of the neighborhood.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that embody the heritage value of 14 Wesley Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake include its:

- Two storey Queen Anne Revival style residence
- Complex gable roof with overhanging eaves
- Cedar shingles on roof
- Decorative shingles on elevations
- Verandah on façade
- Square turret
- Protruding dormer on east elevation
- Pairs of rectangular window openings
- Wooden posts, spindle-work, and wooden mullions
- Location of Lansdowne Villa within Chautauqua neighborhood
- Location besides One Mile Creek

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to Grant Bivol, Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is July 5th 2024.

Queries

Any further queries should be directed to Sumra Zia, Heritage Planner at (905) 468-3266 ext. 327 or through email at sumra.zia@notl.com.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 6th day of June 2024

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A flipping mess

A large gravel tractor-trailer truck flipped over on Four Mile Creek Road near Federkow Lane in St. Davids just after 2 p.m. on Wednesday, dumping its load and snarling traffic. Niagara Regional Police said the male driver of the truck was taken to hospital for treatment of minor injuries. Later, a second truck was pressed into service and the gravel was loaded onto it. Cause of the rollover is under investigation. DOW WRIGHT



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Donald Combe is the sexton for the St. Mark's cemetery in NOTL and has been overseeing the planting of trees in the church's arboretum since 1996. The church celebrated the 100th tree planted on May 23. RICHARD WRIGHT

St. Mark's Church's cemetery tree garden hits milestone

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

Members of St. Mark's Anglican Church congregation, the church's cemetery board and the public gathered on the forest-like grounds of the more than 230-year-old parish to herald in a milestone born out of wood and foliage.

"We are celebrating the fact that we have planted 100 mature trees," said St. Mark's sexton, Donald Combe.

Beginning in 1996, the house of worship began a project to remove and replace fallen, diseased and old trees.

They reached the 100 new-tree plateau earlier this year.

"I think that is a considerable achievement because these are mature trees that we are planting, not little twigs," Combe said at the May 23 ceremony.

The ultimate goal, he added, is to swap out the old trees with new ones that are indigenous to the area.

"We were losing trees and so we had to do something if we wanted to maintain the look of the cemetery and what has now become an arboretum."

Among the 100 that have been planted are at least 50 different varieties, including oaks, maples, beech, magnolias, gumwood and metasequoia, to name just a few.

Many of the trees are memorials, purchased and

donated by family members of those who rest in the cemetery.

In all, there are now just under 250 trees in the cemetery with the oldest dating back to even before St. Mark's was founded in 1792.

"This is the oldest cemetery in the province," said Combe. "The first burial here is 1782."

All the trees are planted under the supervision of the church, which has partnered with arborists from the area to ensure that the transplants are done properly and to provide ongoing care.

"This has all happened because many people have fed into it," he said.

wright@niagaranow.com

Shaw Festival's portable night club returns

Staff
The Lake Report

The Spiegelent returns to the Shaw Festival grounds for another summer of anything-goes experiences.

A portable nightclub famous throughout the Weimar Republic, the Spiegelents, or “mirror tents,” were notable for their beauty, adorned with intricately crafted hardwood, stained glass and mirrors to stunning effect — however, few remain in service today.

The Shaw's Spiegelent, originally built in 1922 and brought over from Belgium for the 2023 season, has since become the festival's home for unique performances.

This year, the Spiegelent's season features four one-of-a-kind shows, created exclusively for Shaw Festival audiences.

Prioritizing laughs, improvisation and audience participation, “The Shaw Variety Show” and “The Roll of Shaw” kick off the Spiegelent's 2024 playbill with a bang.

“Kabarett,” “Footlights” and “Cotton Club” engage the power of song and music to whisk audiences back in time to the cabarets of Weimar era-Germany, mid-century Broadway revues and hot nights in Harlem jazz clubs.



The Shaw Festival's Spiegelent returns this year with five special shows. MICHAEL COOPER

The Spiegelent 2024 season features:

The Shaw Variety Show
May 17 – Oct. 6

Light the music and play the lights! Kristopher Bowman hosts an evening where no-holds-barred hilarity ensues! See the Shaw Ensemble in a whole new light – showing off their hidden talents, creative projects and, of course, flexing their improv skills. Unplanned, unrehearsed, and most importantly, unforgettable.

The Roll of Shaw
May 30 – Sept. 28

Bernard Shaw meets Dungeons and Dragons in a unique performance designed to bring the magic

of Shaw to fans new and old alike. Roll the dice and come be a part of this one-of-a-kind adventure where the audience helps decide which way the story goes and how it ends.

Kabarett

June 14 – Oct. 12

Come hear the music play! Enjoy a night in old Berlin, experiencing the music of Germany's Weimar Era in an intimate cabaret-style setting. Sponsored by James F. Brown.

Footlights

July 6, Aug. 3 and 24, Sept. 21 and 27, Oct. 5

Join members of the Ensemble as they ease down 42nd Street during the Golden Age of Broadway

and celebrate beloved shows and songs of the era.

Cotton Club

July 17 – Oct. 11

Sizzling songs from Harlem's Jazz Age. New York summers may be hot, but these toe-tapping numbers are even hotter! Beat the heat with a cold drink and enjoy the sounds of summer in the city.

Other styles of musical performances will take place in the Spiegelent as well, including coffee concerts, speakeasies, “What's In Your Songbook” and gospel choir.

All performances are recommended for audience members 12 years and older.



This week's riddle is “Jeopardy!” style.
Category: MYTHOLOGY

Come sail away on this Greek river of myth whose name means “hateful.”

Last issue:

Category: WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

Clue: In 2012's “The Amazing Spider-Man,” this actor gets unmasked by NYPD captain Denis Leary.

Answer: Who is Andrew Garfield?

Answered first by: Lynda Collet

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Sue Rautenberg, Mike Gander, Jane Morris, Jim Dandy, Wade Durling, Tami Lepp, Pam Dowling, Nancy Rocca, Bob Wheatley, Elaine Landray, Marla Percy, Val King, Lynn Brownlow, Tuija Johansson, Daniel Smith

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

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St. Davids boxer falls short in Olympic quest

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

For one athlete, elation and joy, a dream fulfilled.

For another, heartache and disappointment as a dream was dashed.

On Sunday, three rounds, nine minutes of bobbing, weaving, punching and counter-punching in a boxing ring in Bangkok would decide the Olympic future of two elite athletes.

For Niagara-on-the-Lake's Mckenzie Wright, it was not to be.

After two sensational bouts in which she dominated her opponents, Wright, 34, came up against a tough, ambidextrous opponent in Mexico's Fatima Herrera in the 50-kilogram weight class.

The St. Davids resident and recent Niagara College nursing grad lost a unanimous decision, ending her dream of representing Canada in this summer's Paris Olympics.

It was the three-time Canadian champion's last shot at qualifying for the 2024 Games. With the win, Herrera punched her ticket to Paris.



Boxer Mckenzie Wright in her corner after her final attempt to qualify for the Paris 2024 Summer Games. She lost to Mexico's Fatima Herrera. OLYMPICS.COM

Wright came oh-so-close to qualifying, several times.

Two months ago in Italy she was edged out in a somewhat controversial decision and last fall, despite winning a Pan American Games bronze medal, she fell just short of making the team for Paris.

But she gave it her all, delaying her nursing career, training several days a week and paying her own way to Thailand and other international venues to represent her country on the world stage.

At home in St. Davids, proud parents Dow and

Judy Wright were able to watch the livestream broadcast of all her bouts, including the heart-wrenching final one.

"The past couple of years have been quite a ride for Mckenzie and ourselves," they told The Lake Report. "Lots of highs, a few lows and incredible achievement."

"Mckenzie has been so fortunate to have had such a great network of friends, teammates and coaches that have contributed so much to her success," they added.

"But most of that success boils down to her dedica-

tion, hard work and sheer force of will. No one has worked harder to achieve their goals."

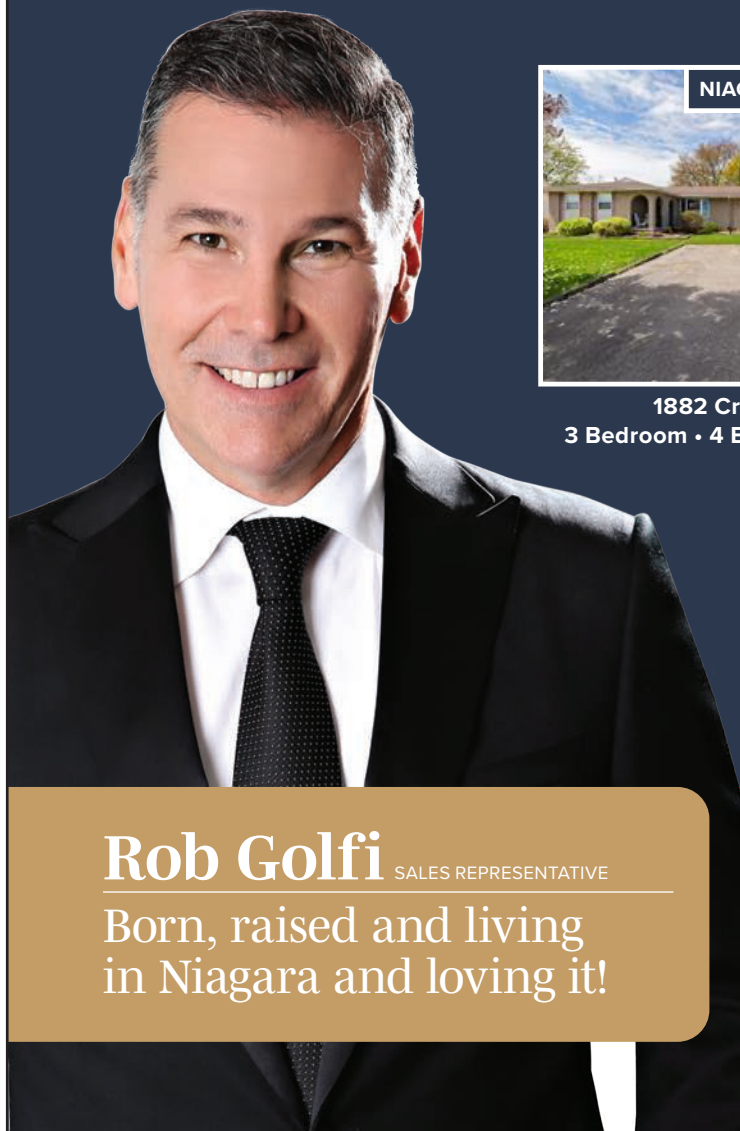
Her parents said they are grateful "for the incredible interest, support and energy that our family and friends have provided along the way."

"Sometimes it feels like the entire town has been invested in Mckenzie's story in some way or another and we appreciate that support as well."

"But most of all we are immensely proud of Mckenzie to lay it out there and chase the dream."

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



PHOTO GALLERY
See more pictures at niaganow.com

Peyton Leigh competed in the Olympic trials in Toronto, qualifying for the World Junior Open Water Team. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Leigh sisters are star swimmers

Continued from Front Page

University swim team have been working to improve their swim times and strength, with more consistent and on-land training.

“You can definitely see the improvement in us all getting stronger,” the 16-year-old told The Lake Report.

Peyton also participated in the Canadian Open along with her team and placed second in the 1,500-metre freestyle and third in the 800-metre freestyle.

During this year’s Olympic trials in Toronto, she went in hoping to qualify for the Pan Pacific Canadian Junior Team.

She ended up qualifying for the World Junior Open Water Team.

But she and her coach decided it wasn’t the best idea “since I’ve never swam in open water before,” she said.

In the coming year, Peyton said she and her coach plan to try out open water swimming to potentially make it a goal for the future.

“My coach has been discussing potentially swimming open water in the summer just so I can see if I like it or not,” she said.

“Because sending me off to Italy and having me swim seven-and-a-half kilometres without knowing if I like it or not yet is intense.”

She added that overall she was happy with how trials went, coming in third overall and second in the junior category for the 1,500-metre freestyle and

making a new best time in the 800-metre freestyle.

But Peyton is not the only super swimmer in the family with 13-year-old Georgia getting her start at around eight years old and not stopping since.

At five-foot-eight, Georgia is already taller than her five-foot-five sister and has similar aspirations.

In April, Georgia qualified for the Ontario Youth-Junior Championship for the 400-metre freestyle, with a time of 4:59.53.

The girls’ success is due to a lot of hard work, dedication and the help of coaches Isaac Seabrook and Dave Ling.

Like her sister, Georgia spends a lot of time in the water during the week.

Peyton clocks in about 18 hours in the pool every

week, along with three hours of weight training, she said.

Georgia said her schedule is “slightly different,” due to being younger, but she still spends three mornings and three nights in the pool along with weight training twice a week.

Peyton thanked Dr. Greg Gilby from Sports Chiropractic & Performance Centre who helped her along the way while dealing with minor injuries.

A little bit of genetics may come into play in the girls’ talents as well.

“I was a swimming instructor for 15 years,” said their mom, Christi Leigh.

Swimming is a thing of the past for her, though, adding that she opts to “stay dry” nowadays.

juliasacco@niaganow.com

Town seeks new inductees for Sports Wall of Fame

Staff
The Lake Report

The town is looking for new additions to its Sports Wall of Fame.

Its calling on residents to submit nominations for both local athletes who’ve made outstanding achievements in their endeavours, as well as trainers, coaches, officials or executive members who have dedicated significant time to enhancing the town’s sporting community.

“Community sports play a vital role in bringing people together, promoting physical activity, and fostering a sense of unity and pride in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said in a media release.

“The annual Sports Wall of Fame ceremony demon-



Pictured here is Monty Slingerland being inducted into the town’s Sports Wall of Fame last August, for his contributions to lacrosse. FILE PHOTO/EVAN LOREE

strates our support for community sports and council’s commitment to maintaining a vibrant, more connected community.”

Nominations can be submitted in two categories:

Athlete: Must be or have been outstanding in their athletic endeavour.

Builder: Trainers, coaches, officials, or executive members who have dedicated significant time to enhancing the Niagara-on-the-Lake sporting community.

Nominations are due by June 21 and can be made on the town’s website, NOTL.

com, under “Recreation & Events” and then “Community Initiatives & Events,” as well as at the town’s administration building at 1593 Four Mile Creek Rd. or the community centre at 14 Anderson Lane.


A committee of residents and town staff will review all submissions and select two individuals to be honoured on the Sports Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

An August ceremony will take place to recognize and celebrate the new inductees.


The town looks forward to honouring outstanding members of our community.

For those interested in joining the Sports Wall of Fame committee, contact Cheryl Lootsma at cheryl.lootsma@notl.com.

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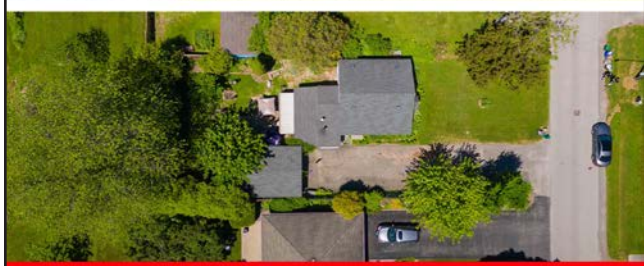
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Hot putter helps Yolanda Henry to stellar round

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Yolanda Henry's putter was on fire last Tuesday in the 18-hole women's league at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

The former women's club champion carded an 87 to win low gross, had a low net score of 69 and needed only 26 putts in her round.

Diana Dimmer and Louise Robitaille, another former club champ, were two shots behind at 89.

Ginny Green had the second-lowest net score, with 72.

Dimmer also was closest to the pin on #4 and Sonja Schindeler was closest on #9.

Also last week, members of the women's nine-hole league competed for the Captain's Cup.

It is a low-net competition that uses unlimited handicaps to determine the winner.

Lynette Sanders was the victor with a net score of 33.



Yolanda Henry shot 87 last Tuesday in the NOTL 18-hole women's league and only needed 26 putts to do it.
FILE PHOTO/ DAVE VAN DE LAAR

Charlotte Kainola sank the longest putt on #2 and Suzanne Watson drained the longest putt on #8.

Meanwhile, left-hander Devon Neudorf shot a 1-under 35 last week to take win low gross honours in the Thursday men's league.

Max Horning had the best Stableford score with 23 points.

Other winners were: Joe Mulholland (closest to the

150 marker on #1), Larry Heim (longest putt #2), John Liotta (longest drive #3), and Larry Mantle James (#4) and Grigjanis-Meusel (#9) were closest to the pin.

Tom Eltoft cashed in on the skins game. His birdie on #1 earned a gross skin and a net eagle skin. Anthony Sanfelice did the same thanks to a birdie on #4.

Other net skins: Max

Horning (#2 and #9), Quinton Spagnol (#3), Stephen Warboys (#5) and John Grimstead (#6).

The previous week, another lefty, Jim McMacken shot even-par 36 to win low gross. Ted Wiens won the Stableford scoring with 22 points.

Other winners were: Mike Henry (closest to 150 #1), Dave Gagne (longest putt #2), Zach Luis (longest drive #3), Robert Yamamoto (#4) Adam Cutler (#9) were closest to pin.

Birdies won gross skins for: Patrick Craig (#1), Neudorf (#2), Mark Derbyshire (#3) and Wiens (#9).

Net skins winners were: Peter Danakas (#1), Noel Morris (#2), Luis (#3) and Stuart Young (#8).

In last Tuesday's WOOFs league, McMacken led all players with an even-par 36. Randy Busbridge was low net with 35.

Ted Carmichael's birdie on #4 won the hidden hole and Alan Robb was closest to the pin on #4.



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Migrant workers' annual cricket match set to go

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

Call it the Stanley Cup of local cricket — it's being played right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 9.

The Niagara Clippers will take on the Vineland Lions at Veterans Memorial Park in a winner-take-all contest that has been happening here on the second Sunday of June for more than 25 years between rival teams of migrant workers.

Hosted by the Caribbean Workers Outreach Program, it is viewed by players and organizers alike as a friendly social activity that still brings out the competitive spirit in everyone involved.

"It is very competitive," said Donna Brown, a project co-ordinator with the outreach program.

"You will hear shouting from the sidelines and everyone supporting their team or their best player. They pay very close attention to what is going on. Very serious," she adds.



Batsman Germain Johnson eyes up a pitch during the Niagara Clippers practice June 4 at Veterans Memorial Park. The team, made up of migrant workers, will play against Vineland on Sunday, June 9. RICHARD WRIGHT

to become an international powerhouse.

Here in Niagara, with thousands of temporary workers from the Caribbean arriving each year to work in the agriculture sector, and with help from this annual contest, exposure to the game has increased.

"In the past couple of years we have had over 300 people come out and attend this event," said Brown.

Both teams, she adds, spend considerable physical and vocal energy preparing for the contest.

"There is a saying here when we are promoting the game that the Clippers are going to clip the hair off the Lions. We have been chirping this for a couple of weeks now."

Tryouts for the Clippers were held June 3 and 4 in NOTL with over a dozen showing up with the hopes of making the roster, which normally consists of 11 players.

Game time is set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 9.

Game introduced by the British

While not well-known in Canada, cricket has an intense following in the Caribbean.

It was first introduced to that region of the world

by the British in the early 1800s.

The West Indies cricket team, known as the Westies and made up of players from mainly English-speaking countries in the Caribbean, evolved over the years



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The Lake Report

Have some fun



Across

- 1. Cavalry soldier (7)
- 5. Sawbones (7)
- 9. Middle Eastern bread (5)
- 10. Game show player (9)
- 11. How bidding goes in bridge (9)
- 12. Topic (5)
- 13. Unintended discharge of a fluid (7)
- 15. Green-eyed (7)
- 17. Live together (7)
- 19. Offensive (7)
- 21. Money bag (5)
- 23. Where dolly mixture can be bought (5,4)
- 25. E.g. the DUKW (9)
- 26. Harvests (5)
- 27. Convent (7)
- 28. Packed (7)

Down

- 1. Average (7)
- 2. Bone manipulator (9)
- 3. Long flat piece of timber (5)
- 4. Contemptible person (7)
- 5. Genuine (7)
- 6. Kinsfolk (9)
- 7. Best of a group (5)
- 8. Chats (7)
- 14. Lake Windermere town (9)
- 16. Picked up accidentally (9)
- 17. Skipper (7)
- 18. Bear witness (7)
- 19. Maritime (7)
- 20. Laid open to view (7)
- 22. Mature (5)
- 24. Trunk of the human body (5)

Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11										12				
13				14				15				16		
17						18		19						20
21		22				23				24				
25										26				
27								28						

Last issue's answers

1	I	J	A	E	E	G	Y	B									
9	G	R	A	N	D	S	L	A	M	A	R	O	M	A			
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	1						6	8
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The true **beauty** of a garden isn't hard to observe



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
Columnist

You may have picked up on it over the last few years of writing this column, but I just love to garden.

I love every part of it (though, maybe not so much the weeds).

Every aspect from the planning of a garden, to working the soil, to planting and tending to its needs.

To me it is more than a job or a hobby — it is a way of life.

I grew up on a farm, where my family of eight had a very large vegetable garden that would feed us through to the following spring, when the whole process would start over again.

From as young as I can

remember, I could be found out playing in the dirt — sorry, soil ... dirt is what you sweep up or what is found under your nails. Even uncovering an earthworm was like an adventure.

I seemed to gravitate to gardening at an early age, and that love has never left me.

I love to observe the minute details, whether it is in an intricate flower or watching the way an unsuspecting insect travels from plant to plant.

There is a whole different way of life happening right under our noses.

I can easily get lost in thought when I am in the garden.

One of my favourite garden quotes is by H. Fred Dale, author of "Fred Dale's Garden Book": "My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view."

As much as I know about gardening, I find that the plants are always there reminding me that there is so much more to learn.



Raindrops on roses ... and gardens — those are a few of columnist Joanne Young's favourite things.

You may have one idea of what is best for the plant, but the plant knows better and isn't shy to show you who's boss. Most of the things I have learned have been through trial and error.

Even though the garden can be a frustrating place at times and seems like an overwhelming amount of work, hopefully you can take some time this summer to take in the beauty that surrounds you.

Whether your garden consists of a couple pots on a balcony or an acre of property, you need to take time to soak in its beauty.

That may involve looking closer at a flower and leaning into its perfume. It may be watching a bee as it hovers at each flower along its travels or watching a large yellow and black swallowtail butterfly float effortlessly through the blue skies.

There is always some-

thing to observe in a garden.

Audrey Hepburn, who, alongside being an actress and humanitarian, was a lover of gardens and nature, once said, "To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow." It really is.

There is something about a garden that gives you hope. It makes you look forward to tomorrow and to going out for a stroll first thing in the morning to see what has changed from the day before.

Gardens have a way of growing your patience. Nothing in a garden happens overnight and there are no instant results.

It takes time for a garden to start to mature and become what you once dreamed it would be. But that is the beauty of a garden; its not always about the end result, but about the process of arriving at that destination.

Here is another quote, this time from garden writer David Hobson: "I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience,

for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow."

I love to capture a garden's beauty on with my camera. Sometimes the photos show even more details than my eyes took in and once again I am amazed by nature.

Even though the flowers in our gardens are usually planted there for our enjoyment, they all serve different purposes in nature.

Each flower is formed in different ways to attract different insects or birds. Everything in the garden works in harmony with nature, whether we are aware of it or not.

The garden is so much more than just a collection of plants. It is truly a place of wonderment.

In the words of poet Alfred Austin: "The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."

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

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EXPLORING HISTORY
WITH NOTL MUSEUM

June 4, 1907: Janet Carnochan Day



Every year on June 4, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum celebrates Janet Carnochan Day. Who is Janet Carnochan, you ask? She was a local powerhouse of a woman who worked as a teacher for 45 years. She taught in Brantford, Kingston, Peterborough and, of course, Niagara. She took up the post of principal at the age of 32 for the Niagara Public School in 1872 (quite the scandal at the time) and later moved up to be the vice-principal of the local high school. She was also the first president of the Niagara Historical Society, which started in 1895, and was integral to the building of the museum on Castlereagh Street. This photograph shows Carnochan on the steps of the museum's Memorial Hall building. Memorial Hall is one of the longstanding testaments to her local contributions to heritage and preservation. With her fundraising efforts, it opened on June 4, 1907 — making it the first museum building built in Ontario for the sole purpose of being a museum. Well done to Janet and the early residents of Niagara who saw the importance of preserving our heritage. It is to her credit that our museum still holds many national treasures. Every year on June 4 admission to the museum is free, in memory of Janet Carnochan.

Tragedy of the Foam **remembered**, for all the right reasons



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Late in the afternoon on July 13, we will be remembering the tragic drowning deaths of seven young men at the mouth of the Niagara River.

In 1874, a long time ago, they were sailing on a yacht called the Foam, from the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto to the Saturday Night Hops at the Queen's Royal Hotel here in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Young ladies were waiting to dance with the lads and witnessed the tragedy just offshore.

As Tim Taylor wrote in a series published in The Lake Report in 2021, much of Niagara-on-the-Lake's history finds its

way into this story.

"From a vantage point on the spacious verandah of the fashionable Queen's Royal Hotel, Elizabeth and Dee Dee Chittenden awaited the arrival of these suitable dance partners," he wrote.

"The two girls were the teenage daughters of a Southern plantation owner who had moved to our town after the American Civil War."

The Foam was a 30-foot centreboard sloop with low freeboard and the seven-man crew that fateful night were all from prominent Toronto business and banking families.

Noted local author, the late Jean Baker, wrote a short vignette capturing the drama of the tragic events on that warm summer night in July 1874.

"Under darkening skies and failing light, heavy winds pounded the yacht as she approached the treacherous shoal, about three miles offshore where the strong current of the Niagara River merged with the lake waters in a roiling maelstrom," Baker wrote.



The Royal Canadian Yacht Club plot at St. Mark's cemetery is undergoing a major restoration by Alan Ernest and his team from Carlisle. ROSS ROBINSON

"Sudden turbulence gripped the vessel, causing her to shudder on the bar as a rogue wave from the stern engulfed the cabin and cockpit, sinking the Foam, her four tons of iron ballast pulling her down to a watery grave."

Soon after the tragedy, the Royal Canadian Yacht Club purchased a 36-foot-by-25-foot plot and surrounded it with a low wrought iron fence in the St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery.

The seven bodies were expeditiously buried. The central six-foot-tall limestone monument is now cracked and largely unread-

able, yet still reminiscent of its former grandeur.

Seven small headstones, each named for one of the Foam's seven lost sailors, were placed in front of the monument, seemingly standing at attention.

Why were they all interred in NOTL instead of in family plots back in Toronto?

The story has been forgotten for too long. Some years ago, repairs were made to the plot, but nature has taken its toll and it was time for a major upgrade.

The Royal Canadian Yacht Club has completed an ambitious fundraising effort and Al Ernest from

Dundas, Ont., has started work to respectfully restore the headstones and monument.

For all the right reasons, a respectful and dynamic memorial event is being organized for Saturday, July 13 here in our town.

All are welcome to attend, learn, remember and pay respects.

The Royal Canadian Yacht Club and NOTL Sailing Club members will be walking from the base of Melville Street to the gazebo in Queen's Royal Park, following bagpiper Morgan Stanford.

To respect the deceased, everyone is being encouraged to wear nautical blazers.

After a brief ceremony at the gazebo, including a speech by world Shark champion Josh Wiwcharyk describing how the waters over the Niagara bar can so quickly become treacherous, even for larger yachts, we will be piped to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club plot at the St. Mark's Anglican Church cemetery.

Before we leave the gazebo, local singer Aaron

Berger will sing "The Bankers Boys."

If a scheduling conflict can be resolved, the church sexton will speak about the history of the yacht club's plot here in NOTL and Rev. Leighton Lee will deliver a prayer of rededication for the seven lost souls.

St. Mark's chimer Bernadette Secco will toll the main bell seven times, with the names of the deceased sailors read aloud.

Then, as we walk back to the NOTL Sailing Club, she has arranged a "hit parade of nautical funeral chiming music" to provide ambience through the trees.

The story of the Foam tragedy has languished too long, and this cemetery plot upgrade and attendant activities are an opportunity for NOTLers to become familiar with this piece of history and pay respects.

This major historical event from our town's past should be remembered.

Please dust off your blazers and take part on Saturday, July 13. Follow the piper from the base of Melville Street, leaving at 4:30 p.m.



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A night of musical magic under the stars

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The Lake Report

Excitement is building among patrons and music lovers as the “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” gala at Jackson-Triggs Estate Winery on July 14 approaches, marking the culmination of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra’s landmark 75th Diamond Anniversary Season.

In addition to the musical performance, the evening will feature an “Explore Your Senses Dinner” with five gourmet stations perfectly paired with exquisite wines, to enhance the culinary experience. Those coming to the concert only are encouraged to arrive early and participate in the auctions and wine tasting flight/charcuterie boxes, which are available to purchase while perusing the auction items available.

Dinner begins at 5 p.m., followed by the auctions at 6:30 p.m. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the Dinner & Concert are \$225 + HST; Concert



Nikki Chooi and Jay Dref will be at Jackson-Triggs for the “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” gala on July 14. Tickets at niagarasymphony.com. SUPPLIED

only tickets are \$75 + HST. Purchase your tickets at niagarasymphony.com.

Inspired by Shakespeare’s play, the “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” gala provides a rich tapestry for an evening of musical delight. NSO Music Director **Bradley Thachuk** leads the NSO in selections from Mendelssohn’s enchanting score, which

has long been associated with the play. Singing sensation, **Jay Dref** will sing from *Les Misérables* and *The Phantom of the Opera* and internationally acclaimed violinist, **Nikki Chooi**, will perform Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 in G-minor.

For the past three years, **Jay Dref** has joined global recording artist and world’s

best-selling soprano, Sarah Brightman on her critically acclaimed *A Christmas Symphony* tour and in 2022 at the iconic Venetian Las Vegas during Ms. Brightman’s incredible *A Starlight Symphony* tour.


Nikki Chooi has established himself as an artist of rare versatility. Described as “expressive, enchanting, and transcendent,” he has

appeared as soloist with orchestras across Canada and internationally and has been featured at many international festivals.

Beyond the allure of the theme and the magic of the evening, the gala serves a crucial purpose: supporting the Niagara Symphony Orchestra. As a cornerstone of Niagara’s cultural community, the NSO plays a vital


role in bringing world-class music to the region.

Whether you are a long-time supporter of the NSO or a newcomer to the symphony, this event offers a chance to be a part of something truly special. It is a night where dreams come alive, and the magic of a midsummer night is brought to life through the universal language of music.



niagara symphony orchestra

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A Midsummer Night’s Dream Gala



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Tickets: Dinner & Concert: \$225 + HST
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The Lake Report

THE NEW Classical 96.3 fm



Normandy invasion **remembered** in NOTL

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake will be the site for a pair of events on June 6 and 7, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy by Allied forces during the Second World War.

In the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, five sections of an 80-kilometre stretch of coastal France in Normandy were stormed by the Allied Forces of Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

Each beach was given a

code name by the Allies: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword and Juno. The opposition was an occupying German army.

The Canadians were given the task of clearing Juno, playing a huge role in the liberation of France, which was the first step of an all-out European invasion that led to the defeat of Germany and to the end of the war.

Using a Canadian flag that it purchased and flew over Juno Beach last September, the NOTL branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will raise those colours in the community on June 6.

Branch president Al Howse says starting at noon, a small contingent of members will march the flag a few steps from the front of the old Court House onto the Queen Street median, where the cenotaph is located.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to participate.

“It will be a small ceremony,” said Howse. “The whole thing should take about 10 minutes.”

Songs of the D-Day era On Friday, June 7, St. Mark’s Anglican Church will be the setting of an event produced by local

amateur historians that will recount the horrors and importance of D-Day through music and spoken word.

Each segment will be orated by classically trained Hollywood actor James Mainprize, now a resident of NOTL, and will feature the songs of Vera Lynn, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and other musical acts of the 1940s.

Soloist Melissa-Marie Shriner and pianist Michael Bloss will provide the musical accompaniment.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are available through the church office.



Ian Russell is chair of the St. Mark’s Anglican Church Juno Beach concert committee. RICHARD WRIGHT

Obituaries



Peter Earle

EARLE, Peter James
February 4, 1950 - June 4, 2024

I passed the morning of June 4 looking out onto Lake Ontario and the Niagara River ... that familiar scene with Fort Niagara as backdrop. The sights and smells of Niagara-on-the-Lake late Spring very much apparent. The sense of history everywhere. A lifelong connection.

I...
Loved life.
Lived life.
Left life
...best I could, and moved into memory.

Extending love and deep appreciation to family for their support and understanding through life and most particularly, the difficult last months.

To friends and associates who played important roles through the years in a life filled with positives, thank you!
The final chapter: coping and managing illness.

The healthcare delivered was of the highest quality. Certainly professional, but more importantly with a sensitivity critical to personal wellbeing.

The ALS Clinic McMaster University Hospital, Hotel Dieu Shaver, St. Catharines, and Upper Canada Lodge, Niagara-on-the-Lake — deepest respect and gratitude for a job well done.

On June 12, an Evensong service will be held at St. Mark’s, Niagara-on-the-Lake from 5-6 p.m. followed by “Last Round” reception at NOTL Golf Club 6-8 p.m.

As a parting gesture, guests will hoist a last glass. Please join in if you are able.
Donations to a charity of choice.

Beverley B. Garrett



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Beverley Garrett (nee Jones) on Monday, June 3, 2024 in Summerside, PEI. at the age of 88. Beloved wife of the late Lionel Garrett (May 29, 2013). Devoted mother of Ted Garrett (Pam), Jim Garrett (Alice), and Randy Garrett (Cathy). Proud grandmother of Meagan (Ryan), Leah (Nathan), Jeremy (Rachelle), Lindsey (Brant), and Tiffany. Great grandmother to Charlotte, Felicity, Rodney, Brayden, Alden, and Hunter, plus several step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren. Predeceased by her parents Jack and Elsie Jones, grandson Liam Garrett, sister Donna Kucan and brother-in-laws Mike Kucan, Doug Garrett, Richard Hall and sisters-in-law Marie Hall, Dorothy Garrett and Chris Garrett.

After raising their three sons Beverley and Lionel traveled extensively with their sailboat and Airstream trailer. They spent many winters on the sailboat in the Bahamas and summers in Georgian Bay. With their trailer they traveled throughout Mexico, to Alaska, Newfoundland and everywhere in-between. They made lasting friends where ever they traveled.

Beverley was involved with the Legion Branch 124 Ladies Auxiliary, St. Mark’s Anglican Church Alter Guild and Cherry Festival making pies. She supported her husband and children in all they did.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Mark’s Anglican Church, 41 Byron St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 11 a.m. Immediately followed by a Celebration of Life in the Parish Hall. Cremation has taken place. For those who wish, may make a memorial donation to either the Alzheimer Society or Heart & Stroke.

Marie Homans



HOMANS, Marie (nee Pulsford)
February 22, 1926 – May 27, 2024


It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marie Kathleen Homans, aged 98 years, at the Agape Hospice, Calgary, Alberta, on May 27, 2024. Marie fought to keep her independence as long as she could, but succumbed to and passed away of natural causes.

Marie is survived her daughter, Tracy Trimming and her son Glen Homans (Debbie), her daughter in law Diane Varacalli (the late Gary), her surrogate daughters Cindy Hobman (the late Rob) and Syme Jago (Adrian), her grandchildren, Glen Hobman (Laura), Jeff Hobman, Michael Homans (Laura), Stephanie Sicluna (Chris), Sydney Trimming and Sam Trimming, her great grandchildren, Alexis & Cassie Hobman, Adriana Homans & Matthew Sicluna, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and very dear friends.

The first celebration of Marie’s life will be held on June 10, 2024, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., at Leyden’s Funeral Home (304 - 18th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB), in the Reception Center. The second celebration of Marie’s life will be held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, later this year. Details will follow.

If you so desire, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family by visiting Leydens.com.


Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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

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