



Chess club planned | Page 17

Health coalition hopes to **block expansion** of private clinics

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Three voting stations will pop up in Niagara-on-the-Lake this month as part of an effort across the province

to stop the government from allowing private health care clinics to expand services.

The Ontario Health Coalition is leading a referendum against the provincial government's Bill 60, which passed on Monday.

The new provincial law, the Your Health Act, will allow third parties and for-profit corporations to operate private clinics.

Critics say they would have less public accountability and oversight than

public hospitals.

A government news release said the bill is supposed to reduce wait times for surgeries, procedures and diagnostic imaging by sending patients to private clinics.

Bill 60 replaces the Independent Health Facilities Act with the Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act of 2023 and amends 34 other acts.



Continued on Page 17



NOTL throws a **coronation** fête fit for a king

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Doreen Hounsham attended the second coronation celebration of her life on Saturday, trading Scotland for Simcoe Park.

After completing the one-kilometre walk organized by Queen Street's Scottish Loft from the post office to the park, Hounsham happily recalled watching Queen Elizabeth II's coronation as a child.

She shared a bible given to her in 1953 at school to commemorate the occasion.

"I've had this since I was 11 years old," she said.

Continued on Page 16

Hotel plan **'not compatible,'** residents say



Clockwise from top left: Allan Gordon, founding member of Preserve Our Special Town, wants the project rejected outright. Sara Premi, left, and planner David Riley presented the developer's plans for Parliament Oak to council on Tuesday night. Coun. Maria Mavridis takes in information. Lyle Hall and Judy McLeod were among almost 50 people who packed council chambers to voice their concerns. EVAN LOREE

Evan Loree | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

Almost 50 people turned out at Niagara-on-the-Lake town hall Tuesday night to voice concerns about a developer's plan to replace the old Parliament Oak school with a hotel.

Peter Lesdow, an architect representing developer Two Sisters Resorts Corp., shared early sketches for a four-storey hotel with 129 rooms plus banquet halls, a restaurant, bar and patio.

The architect has included 197 parking spaces, 189 of which will be underground.

The residents who came to council were not at all on board with the plan by developer Benny Marotta.

An architect who worked on the Queen's Landing hotel project called the Marotta proposal "a cancer."

"You can't have a tourist

Continued on Page 3

Positive signs in the revitalization of NOTL's Lailey Winery

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

One sign of the transformation underway at Lailey Winery is – literally – the sign that greets visitors on the driveway.

It has been refurbished, to restore the original font and look. That sign was among several things the owners from 2015 to 2021 had changed. Things the current owner Matt Faik Turkmen, is changing back.

Lailey was one of the earliest vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake, planted in the 1970s.

Donna and David Lailey sold it in 2015 and the new owners at that time switched focus from the fine wines

Lailey had become renowned for, to high volume sales of icewine and large group tours.

Turkmen bought the winery in the fall of 2021 and began the process of returning Lailey to its roots. The

last year has seen significant headway.

There's the new sign proudly hung where the driveway meets the Niagara Parkway; wooden posts are

Continued on Page 14





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Shorter is better for Mary Street condo, committee says



A sketch of the proposed condominiums on Mary Street. The town's urban design committee wants to see the height reduced, among other recommendations. SUPPLIED

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A new condominium proposed for Mary Street should not exceed municipal height restrictions, says the town's urban design committee.

The committee made 14 recommendations in total on the development, mostly on the height, traffic and landscaping of the planned building.

"It will stick out, it will look big, it will look massive," said committee member Chrys Kaloudis.

None of the committee members disagreed with her observation.

The condominium proposal for 223-227 Mary St. was brought to council Feb. 14 and called for a building more than 60 feet high.

Kaloudis, an interior designer, says she'd like to see the condominium built outside the area of Old Town.

"I would hope, in some way, you could restructure the height by taking a serious look at every single millimetre that you can take out of the height of that building," said committee member David Snelgrove.

One suggestion, made by committee member Mira Young, was for the builder to reduce the interior ceiling heights to make the condominium shorter.

In addition to recommending the developer build within the town's height restrictions, the committee suggested alterations to the driveway.

Allan Killin, a committee member and architect, suggested a single access point to the driveway, rather than the U-shaped entrance currently in the plans.

He argued this would be safer.

Snelgrove suggested the developer could have a one-way driveway with an entrance and exit.

Pointing out that there are already several road-facing parking lots on

Mary Street, Kaloudis suggested the developer could move the driveway to the other side of the building.

On the issue of landscaping, committee member Peter Neame said he's worried about the trees that will be added along the back of the lot to give the adjacent homes some privacy.

"The vegetation you put in needs to be of sufficient size to actually provide some privacy for the neighbours," he added.

Neame argued the proposed trees, "from day one," should be tall enough to screen the view of the condo residents into the backyards of their neighbours.

New town rules say residents can't speak to council on regional issues

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Anyone who wants to speak directly to Niagara-on-the-Lake's council will be playing by some slightly new rules from now on.

Residents will not be able to address council about issues that don't fall under the town's jurisdiction.

Except for some specific cases, this will include issues happening at the regional, provincial and federal levels.

The town has updated its procedural bylaw, which sets the ground rules for council meetings.

Council approved the changes April 25.

Town clerk Donna Delvecchio said the revisions are meant to help meetings run smoothly and to clarify the procedural bylaw's language.

General meetings of both the committee of the whole and council will now be held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., Delvecchio told council.

Planning meetings of the committee of the whole will continue to start at 6 p.m.

People who are unable to speak to council in the morning will be accom-



Residents can no longer voice concerns about regional issues during town council meetings. EVAN LOREE

modated at the evening meeting.

Staff also prepared a delegation policy to help instruct people on rules for appearing before council.

"The procedure bylaw is fairly vague when it speaks to delegation process," Delvecchio said in an earlier presentation.

The policy, called the "delegation protocol," is attached to the town's delegation application form on its website.

Residents who wish to speak about issues under regional jurisdiction, for example, will be directed to regional council, said

Delvecchio.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor pointed out some regional and provincial issues affect residents and she was worried the new rules would prevent addressing those concerns.

When it is unclear which level of government has jurisdiction, Delvecchio said the lord mayor and town clerk would determine together if issues were under the town's jurisdiction.

The bylaws say issues "beyond the jurisdiction of council" may be presented if the majority of council decides it "has to do with the welfare of citizens generally."

There will also be a three-person cap on the number of speakers who can speak about items not on the agenda, said Delvecchio.

There will be no such limit for speakers addressing items that are already on the official agenda, though, she added.

Further to this, the clerk said people who provided written comments to council on agenda items will not be allowed to speak on the same issues if they also present to council.

The town is also giving the chief administrator the power to call a special

meeting of council, something only the mayor could do previously, Delvecchio said.

NOTL will also be updating the language of the bylaw to make it consistent with modern use.

For example, the bylaw's reference to "within the council bar area" is now changed to "past the podium."

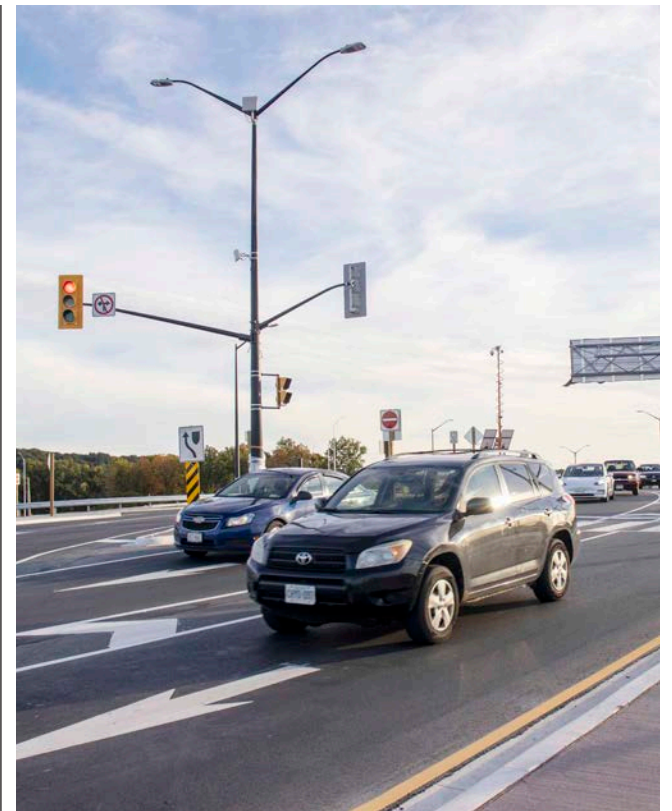
"No person other than a member of council and officials of the corporation shall, without the prior permission of the lord mayor, be allowed past the podium," says the updated bylaw.

This may have some impact on individuals, such as reporters, who wish to take pictures of people who are speaking to council.

Delvecchio said staff "could certainly accommodate" members of the media who wish to take photos, by allowing it before or after proceedings.

"It allows for less disruptions in the council proceedings and promotes greater professionalism," she said.

The bylaw could be updated yearly, but Delvecchio said she recommends an update every two years, minimum.



Closures are expected at the Glendale interchange during the next four to six weeks. FILE/SOMER SLOBODIAN

QEW paving work means lane closures near Glendale

Staff
The Lake Report

Drivers can expect delays for the next four to six weeks around the QEW-Glendale interchange.

Construction for milling and paving will be taking place from the Garden City Skyway to Highway 405.

Two of the three lanes on the QEW will be closed

nightly in both directions. When work is being done around the QEW/Glendale exit, the on- and off-ramps may need to be closed.

Road closures will periodically be needed on Hwy. 405 Toronto-bound at Stanley Avenue and Hwy. 405 Niagara-bound.

More information can be found at qew-glendale-interchange.ca/.



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A conceptual image of the proposed Parliament Oak hotel. SUPPLIED

Hotel proposal is ‘not compatible’ with Old Town neighbourhood, residents say

Continued from Front Page

property in the middle of a residential area,” Wayne Murray said. “It’s just poor planning.”

“I never imagined that anyone would consider dropping a cancer into our community,” he said.

The old school is surrounded on all sides by single-family homes.

Gage Street resident Judy McLeod emphasized, “This is not at all compatible with the low-rise, low-density adjacent residential neighbourhood.”

Many of the residents who spoke argued that a hotel would be a bad fit.

“Some things just don’t belong,” said Connie Tintinalli, a NOTL resident and member of the advocacy group Preserve Our Special Town.

In a report by SGL Planning and Design, the developer compared the proposal to other hotels in town, including Queen’s Landing, the Prince of Wales, Oban Inn, and Pillar and Post.

Tintinalli also compared the proposal to those four hotels but noted a few differences.

The Oban Inn was “similar in scale, massing and detail to the surrounding homes,” because it was originally built as a home and then converted to a hotel in 1895.

Queen’s Landing is

separated from residential homes and the Prince of Wales blends in with the surrounding residences, Tintinalli said.

As for Pillar and Post, it is adjacent to parks and gardens to the east and southwest, she said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens pointed out residents were up in arms over Queen’s Landing before it was built in 1990.

“It was the end of the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake as we know it,” Wiens said, describing the reactions of residents at the time.

Coun. Maria Mavridis said Queen Street, which is home mainly to commercial and retail enterprises, is surrounded by houses.

Residents were as concerned about traffic as they were about the compatibility of the building.

“This property will have serious parking problems and the town will respond to them by widening the streets and providing on-street parking,” Murray said.

Marilyn Bartlett pointed out the developer is proposing fewer parking spaces than what the town’s bylaw requires.

A parking review submitted to the town on behalf of the developer said the town normally would require 267 parking spaces.

The author of the report, Altaf Hussain, says this may

be an overestimation of the hotel’s parking needs since the restaurants and banquet halls primarily would be used by guests.

Resident Lyle Hall, who questioned the need for a hotel in the first place, said the developer’s assertion about parking was “nonsense.”

Hall also argued that between all the proposed and approved hotels now on the town’s books, as many as 484 new rooms could be coming to Old Town – not counting the 129 proposed by Marotta.

Old Town has 622 rooms already, he said.

Anne Street resident Nancy McCree shared a story about how her sister was killed in a hit-and-run when she was only 12.

She said she and her family have been trying to escape “rampant development” specifically because of the dangers posed by traffic.

She worries the children in the neighbourhood will be at greater risk to drivers if the hotel goes ahead.

“Our neighbourhood streets, even those with sidewalks, are becoming increasingly unsafe.”

McCree and fellow resident Hirem Baran both said the hotel’s workers would need to commute and there would not be sufficient space for them to park.

As well, hotels in town are already struggling to

find local workers and are starting to hire commuters, Baran said.

Some operators were even going to the government for seasonal workers, she said.

“These are minimum wage or low-wage jobs anyway. And they won’t be employing the local people.”

A few in the crowd suggested it would be better if the developer could build something for the town’s aging population.

Resident Irene Bader said she’d like to see an assisted living facility.

It would mean more living spaces and would provide jobs to nurses, personal support workers and other health care staff.

“Encouraging the development of an assisted living facility will go a long way in supporting our neighbours,” Bader said.

Her neighbour, Nancy Bongard, said she is going to need just such an arrangement.

“We desperately need an assisted living facility, much moreso than another hotel,” she said.

She added that an assisted living home would be instantly filled because there is a long list of aging residents looking to get into one.

Like others who appeared before council, Baran urged the town to reject Marotta’s plan “in its entirety.”

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Left: Some of William Brown's comrades strike a pose in Normandy. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA Right: William Brown's tombstone in the Bridgeville-sur-Laize Military Cemetery near Caen. COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Walking tour highlights key scenes from NOTL's rich Black history

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Olde Candy Shoppe on Queen Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake once housed a barbershop.

In the 1880s, a Black man by the name of Lewis Ross owned the barbershop and was a successful businessman in NOTL.

When the building burned down in a fire in 1886, Ross relocated across the street.

This and many other bits of Black history were shared during the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's "Voices of Freedom" tour led by Jan King-Watson on Friday.

It was the first in a month-long series of sold-out tours organized by the museum.

With highlights including Voices of Freedom Park, details on important figures like Black soldier Richard Pierpoint and Fannie Rowley, daughter of freedom seeker William Rowley, King-Watson's tour focused on the town's Black history.

"I really connect with Fannie Rowley," King-Watson said.

"I just think that she would have been such a powerhouse and an amazing woman."

The Fannie Rowley house on King Street was a highlight of the tour, as ticket holders took time to admire the architectural beauty of the pink structure facing

Simcoe Park. Many will remember it as one-time home to artist Trisha Romance's gallery.

The grave site of Rowley, who was the step-daughter of the barber Lewis Ross, is at St. Mark's cemetery. Her tombstone, which was visited on the tour, is next to that of her mother, Fanny Ross.

An important part of leading these walking tours for King-Watson is sharing these details with people who otherwise wouldn't know where to look.

"I get the opportunity to meet a lot of people who are (NOTLers) and also a lot of people who are coming from other places."

"As a Black person, I'm just highlighting now some of the things that were missed in the Black community," she said.

King-Watson began her tour by noting that Black history is just history and told The Lake Report she hopes one day her great-great-grandchildren can "open up a history book and everybody would be in there, not just the Brits and the Portuguese, the Spanish and the French. It would be all of us included."

The NOTL Museum's next sold-out tour this Friday in the Neighbourhood Walk series is "The Commons," led by Richard Merritt.



Jan King-Watson stopped at popular town locations including the Queen's Royal Park gazebo during the Voices of Freedom tour. The historical walk taught participants about Black history in Niagara-on-the-Lake. JULIA SACCO

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Pte. William Brown was killed by friendly fire

It's been a century since Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph was erected. Then, in 1926, the Township of Niagara unveiled its own memorial in Queenston. In recognition of those who fought and died in two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on the two cenotaphs. This is one in a series of stories documenting and remembering the sacrifices of those commemorated on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale
Special to The Lake Report

The men of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment had suffered heavy casualties since D-Day, June 6, 1944.

The regiment lost 50 men that day landing at the Nan Red Sector of Juno Beach.

In the days following, the Allies continued to expand the beachheads.

The city of Caen represented a major strategic obstacle to the British and Canadians. It took them almost a month to finally drive the enemy from the Caen area.

On July 4, participating in Operation Windsor in an attack to capture the Carpiquet Airfield, 5.6 kilometres from Caen, the

North Shore Regiment suffered 130 casualties.

The chaplain of the regiment described it as "the graveyard of the regiment."

The North Shore regiment continued to fight and lose men, reinforced several times with replacements sent from England. Among these reinforcements was Pte. William Edward Brown of St. Davids.

The oldest son of William Brown and Beatrice Spencer of Mervin, Sask., he was born on Jan. 16, 1920, and moved to St. Davids in 1939, working at the Welland Chemical Works.

He met Lillian Rose Fehr, also from Saskatchewan, and they married on June 17, 1940.

William and Lillian had two children prior to 1943 when William volunteered for active service in the Canadian Army. He enlisted on June 30, 1943, and immediately began training at various camps in Ontario.

He was considered fully trained by June 18, 1944, and was granted "embarkation leave" for a short period before shipping off for England. It was the last time he saw his family.

He landed in England on June 24 and was shipped to France on July 18 as a reinforcement for the North Shore Regiment, joining them in the field two days later.

Among other operations, a plan was drawn up for a lightning strike on German

defences south of Caen to capture the high ground north of Falaise and cut off the retreat of the German army.

The plan, code named Operation Totalize, was to form the army in columns led by tanks, followed by infantry troops in newly improvised armoured personnel carriers known as "kangaroos."

The way was to be prepared with bombardments by Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force heavy bombers. The idea was to bomb German defences to prepare the way for a rapid assault by columns of Allied tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

On the night of Aug. 7, phase 1 of Operation Totalize was launched with a bombardment of German defences on the flanks of a corridor along the Caen-Falaise Road by planes of the RAF.

This was followed by four columns of tanks and personnel carriers advancing in the dark, navigating by the dim light of searchlights bouncing off clouds.

This was followed by phase 2, in the early hours of Aug. 8, targeting the next line of German defences.

Again, it featured an advance of columns preceded by a bombardment of enemy defences by the U.S. Army Air Force. The North Shore Regiment was to advance in this phase 2 attack.

What happened next was truly tragic. Due to several factors, the Americans bombed short.

The first bombers dropped their loads too close to Allied lines and subsequent bombers dropped their bombs on seeing the explosions of earlier bombers.

This was known as "bomb creep" with several heavy bombs hitting Canadians and Poles waiting to advance toward the enemy.

The North Shore Regiment was caught in this "friendly fire" while its convoy was moving through Faubourg de Vancelles.

More than 70 men of the regiment were wounded. Thirty were killed that day. Among them was Pte. William Brown.

His death left Lillian to raise their two young boys and it was a struggle.

In May 1945, she received a government cheque with the balance of William's bank account – \$32.28 – and a month later she received a War Service Gratuity of \$117.21. She went on to rebuild her life, eventually remarrying.

William Brown was initially buried in the Mondeville Temporary Canadian Military Cemetery.

His remains were re-interred after the war in the Bridgeville-sur-Laize Military Cemetery, halfway between Caen and Falaise. He is commemorated on the cenotaph in Queenston.



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Got an old **two-wheeler**?

Bikes for Farmworkers hosts used bike drive Saturday

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

If you've got a used bicycle sitting around and don't know what to do with it, you're in luck: there's a group in town that could take it off your hands.

Bikes for Farmworkers is hosting a used bike drive in Virgil this Saturday, May 13.

"Our goal is to get enough bikes to see us through the rest of the summer," said Bikes for Farmworkers leader Ken Eden.

He said they usually have a bike drive around this time of year because this is when they start to get low.

"This is usually a good time to have it and it sets us up for a while after that," he said.

The used bike drive will happen at 1665 Four Mile Creek Rd. from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Bikes for Farmworkers is a volunteer-run organization part of the gateway community church outreach program.



Volunteer Gary Kapac repairs a bike at the Bikes for Farmworkers workshop on Tuesday. The group is hosting a bike drive Saturday to drum up more donations. SOMER SLOBODIAN

The organization repairs and sells used adult bicycles to seasonal farm workers.

It was founded by Terry Weiner and Mark Gaudet in 2015. Eden joined in 2017.

The bikes are sold for a flat rate of \$20. If the bikes can't be fixed, volunteers use what they can as extra parts.

Since reopening in March for the season, the space has been busy and many farmworkers have brought in bikes for repair, Eden said.

The shop has sold nearly 150 bikes already this year.

That includes some of the bikes bought throughout the winter by workers who arrived earlier than normal, said Eden.

Last season they sold 425 bikes total, he said.

If they don't get enough bikes this weekend, Eden said he may have to look at hosting another bike blitz in the fall.

Bikes for Farmworkers is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Four Mile Creek Road location.

'Back to normal' for 58th annual Virgil Stampede

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

This year it's back and promising to be better than ever.

The 58th annual Virgil Stampede, running May 20 to 22, is returning to normal in the wake of three years of COVID cancellations and restrictions, says Richard Wall, president of the Virgil Business Association.

"Lots of things that we missed last year are back on track, like the nickel sale. We have a full slate of entertainment like we've always had."

"We recognize that there were certainly some challenges last year with the ride company having some rides that they (were missing parts for) and staffing shortages. All of those things that people experienced to some degree," he said.

With diligent work



NOTL's popular Virgil Stampede will return May 20 to 22. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

between ride and security companies, as well as adding even more entertainment elements, Wall said the Stampede's return will be one to remember.

"It's enhanced from what it was prior to COVID."

Other familiar favourites making a comeback include London Reptiles and

free pony rides for kids.

Those who want to get in on the action early can purchase ride bracelets in-person at Phil's Independent in Virgil or new this year, online via the Stampede's website.

Early-bird ride bracelets are \$35 and include admission to the grounds, which

is \$5 daily except Sunday, when it is free.

The Stampede runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday, May 22.

For more information, see the newly updated website at virgilstampede.ca.

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Battle of Atlantic remembered



The Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara Region remembered the Battle of the Atlantic on Sunday, 78 years after its end. Despite rainy conditions a crowd still drew to the Navy Hall to witness the service. JULIA SACCO

Editorial

A suite approach to housing affordability

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The times they are a-changin’.

The famous vagabond poet from Hibbing, Minn., wrote those words in a much different context some 60 years ago.

But Bob Dylan’s musings are as true now here in Doug Ford’s Ontario as they were in the United States in the tumultuous 1960s.

We don’t agree with a great many of the ideas and programs espoused by our premier – nor with his omnibus Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act.

Change is not necessarily a bad thing, but that mammoth piece of legislation as a matter of convenience revolutionizes rules around too many things.

Its effect on conservation areas, many of the wetlands that we take for granted (until they’re gone) and tweaks

to heritage designation rules are just some areas in which we hope the government somehow comes to its senses and realizes that not everything everywhere all at once needs to be meddled with in the name of so-called progress.

One small thing, however, that Ford’s Progressive Conservatives appear to have gotten right in the legislation is allowing homeowners to add secondary suites and accessory dwelling units “as of right” on their properties.

No longer do you need a zoning change to make it happen. All you need is a building permit.

At this point, it is unclear how popular that idea will turn out to be or how many people in communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake will opt to add an upstairs apartment or similar suite on their properties.

But if people wish, they

can have a total of up to three units on any lot where residential uses are permitted.

The three units can be within the existing residential structure or could be something like a basement suite or laneway or garden home.

It’s not carte blanche, but the provincial changes override municipal official plans and zoning bylaws. This all means, in effect, the Town of NOTL can’t stop you from doing it, if you so choose, and if you meet the requirements to qualify for a building permit.

There are some rules and restrictions, but far fewer than there used to be. And the idea, conceptually at least, seems to embody the goal of making more affordable places to live available in existing communities.

That is something that is needed, as anyone who has

ever tried to find a suitable rental space in a market like NOTL knows.

Housing advocate Scott Robinson, a NOTL native, has been vocal about the need for the Town of NOTL to actively encourage this approach – while making sure it discourages people from converting them into short-term rentals.

Obviously, that would defeat the whole goal of adding to the permanent housing supply.

And chief administrator Marnie Cluckie has said the municipality will align its own policies to meet the provincial legislation requirements.

That’s good news and we look forward to someday seeing more affordable, attainable secondary units in some corners of our wee town.

It’s a small step in the right direction because, yes, the times have changed.

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Cyclists enjoy a tour along a rural road in Limburg, Netherlands. Cars are not allowed to drive in the bike lanes. ED GUEVARA

Dutch traffic innovations **make life safer** for all

Dear editor:

Everyone knew that the world was flat and it was blasphemy to imply otherwise, until everyone knew the world was round and it was crazy to imply otherwise.

So, too, with roundabouts and other traffic pattern changes.

We all know what we know to be true until we learn something new and realize that in our ignorance we were depriving ourselves of a better life.

The letter includes references to traffic pattern changes that have not been proposed in Canada.

Although I was born and raised here, since then I've lived in four countries and visited many more. And the thing that stands out within the first day of arriving anywhere new are their roads and traffic patterns.

Like here, when the Netherlands first started implementing roundabouts they were met with significant resistance, especially from older drivers.

The Dutch government, being confident with its master plan, proceeded despite public grumblings and years later you now hear those same people grumbling in their cars when they are forced to wait at a traffic light rather than zipping through a turbo roundabout.

That's right, if you think

the simple roundabouts here are difficult to get used to, just wait until you encounter a turbo roundabout.

Among other things Dutch driving school teaches you that the enemy to gas mileage (and productivity) is stopping.

You can slow down but just keep moving (good advice for life in general). And if you have ever driven a manual-transmission car or a Dutch city-fiets (city bike) you know how slow and difficult it is to get going from a stop.

It is all about maintaining momentum.

Too much momentum becomes dangerous when going through town areas highly trafficked by pedestrians or where bikes share the road with cars.

Signs are just signs and they don't physically slow anyone down – although the sad/smiley face next to the speed limit sign motivates me to make it smile.

And the sign warning that I'm entering a speed camera zone definitely provides incentive to slow down (Google "camera speeding ticket Netherlands cost" to understand Dutch speeding tax/tickets).

That is where creative road planning comes in.

Smaller-diameter roundabouts with large artwork or planters in the middle force you to look when go-

ing through the intersection and enable you to easily stop at zebra stripes for pedestrians crossing as you enter and exit.

Zig-zag entries into town, combined with speed humps and rumble strips, make it impossible to notice the speed limit has changed and help you realize if you are in town or have left town.

Raised four-way intersections (think speed hump across the whole intersection), force you to slow down, otherwise no one will need to worry about you racing through town because your car will be too badly damaged to continue.

And finally, my personal favourite, barriers in the middle of your lane when in town.

These large concrete planters or similar barriers physically end your lane for a short section requiring you to wait for on-coming traffic to clear so that you can go past. They also create parking spots.

When the road narrows equally in both lanes, the Dutch have signs with red and white arrows indicating who goes first (white) and who goes when the way is clear (red).

It all comes down to safety. And you see it in the simplest activities.

The Dutch wear a bike helmet when riding a road bike or mountain bike

because they are at risk of falling and injuring themselves, but they often don't wear a helmet when riding a city-fiets because you simply can't fall off those bikes head first and you don't have to worry about being hit by a car because the roads are much safer.

Now, if we could just get the highly reflective material that the Dutch use for painting the lanes on the road, then we would really be making a difference here in highway safety, too.

The point is that every community has something to learn from another. No one has all the right answers and there will always be something better out there.

Each community has something it does really well and should certainly be confident in its solution – for that one thing. For everything else people should continue to work to improve things so that what they do really well changes over time.

There is much more out there to know and understand; change is hard especially if you are not in control of that change.

But if you are receptive, change is also good and easy when you don't have to do the work to make the change, but merely embrace it.

C.J. Beaudoin
NOTL



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Our vernacular built heritage – the **Hall & Parlour Folk House**



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

I make no bones about the fact that, when it comes to architectural design, my preference lies with the discipline of the “high” styles.

Bluntly, meeting the formalized requirements and established parameters of a particular style will, almost certainly, result in a superior finished product.

This compliance does not limit creativity. On the contrary, I have found that some of the finest designs result from being creative within the constraints of a style.

Yes, it is more challenging... but challenge produces excellence.

That said, the majority of houses which have been built in North America were not designed in accordance with the defined criteria of a specific style.

These dwellings fall into the broad category of “vernacular.”

Generally speaking, vernacular architecture might be described as any building based on local needs, using the types of construction materials available at the time, employing talents

and traditions of local builders and craftsmen and may borrow elements from one or more of the formal styles.

Now historically, this definition would have also included the fact that the building design was not developed by an architect.

However, in the current commoditized residential building industry, jobs for many architects have devolved to producing designs that are easy to build and yield maximum returns, formal style be damned.

In addition, the past 20 years have seen a trend amongst younger architects of ignoring a significant portion of their formal training and producing designs that can be called, at best, questionable.

In short, the output from both of the aforementioned groups of architects must be classified as vernacular.

But this week, we will not pursue today’s state of affairs.

Instead, let’s go back into NOTL’s past to find examples of our shared vernacular built heritage.

From the founding of the town, there is one constant thread running through all intervening years: agriculture as the town’s economic backbone.

Certainly, there have been other economic influences that impacted the town’s development for a period of time, but it was those who settled the land, tilled the soil and raised the crops that consistently provided Niagara-on-the-Lake with its core viability.



An example of an updated Hall & Parlour Folk House in NOTL. BRIAN MARSHALL

In the 19th century, when farmers worked their land with horses and back-breaking labour, the typical acreage owned by a single family was not huge, nor was the house they lived in.

Most settlers needed to build a home that was utilitarian and functional. They required houses that would serve their short-term need for shelter but which could later be expanded as time and money permitted.

To address this, settlers drew on the traditional British form of the “hall and parlour” folk house.

In its simplest expression, the hall and parlour house was a single-storey, one-room-deep, side-gabled

building that was comprised of two rooms divided by a centre hall.

However, it was much more common to see the one-and-a-half-storey build that provided an undivided sleeping loft, shared by both parents and children, in the upper half-storey space.

If settlers’ pockets were deeper and allowed the family to hire help for the build while they were clearing and working the land, they might have built a full two storeys with the upper floor divided to mirror the main floor or doubled the depth to make it two rooms deep.

These houses of the first half of the 1800s were typically timber-framed (think

of the timber structuring of an old barn) with the exterior sheathed in locally-produced clapboard.

The interior walls would initially be planked with the intent of applying horse-hair plaster as soon as their finances would permit.

Perhaps the best thing about the basic one-and-a-half or two-storey hall and parlour footprint was it was easy to expand.

One could install dormers to open up the half-storey space, add a single-storey shed roofed addition parallel to the back of the house to create a broken saltbox form or construct a full height addition, most commonly in an “L,” “T” or “I” form off

the back wall.

This, effectively, doubles or triples the total square footage of the house.

And, as time passed and new architectural styles were introduced, the advent and popularity of the Gothic Revival style, expressed in what has come to be known as the Ontario Gothic form, was incorporated in many of these hall and parlour houses.

A front-facing centred gable dormer was set flush with the facade of each home, effectively making them indistinguishable from later Gothic builds.

Niagara-on-the-Lake is blessed to have several surviving examples of hall and parlour houses that still exhibit the original form, although they may have had the typical additions and/or alterations.

Several can be found on Concession 2 and Line 9, with the most original to as-built condition located at house number 1132: a home currently in a sad state of repair and likely destined for demolition in the very near future.

While this folk house expression may have been a rural-weighted phenomenon, Old Town was not exempt from the build form.

Take a look at 167 Regent St. as an example of the two-storey expression.

And next week, we’ll dig into this further.

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



Chamber **missed opportunity** to celebrate coronation

Dear editor:

I did — did you, celebrate the coronation, that is?

How disappointed myself and many others are that our local Chamber of Commerce did nothing to celebrate King Charles III.

The main street of NOTL is closed for the Icewine Festival, Peach Festival and White Effect Dinner.

Why could they not have had a tea party? It could have lined the main street with flags flying and the sound of laughter and enjoyment to celebrate the new King.

The chamber missed an opportunity to bring people to our beautiful town. A



small donation could have been collected from people who attended and proceeds used to cover the costs, with the rest going to the NOTL Royal Canadian Legion.

The royals are not everyone’s cup of tea, but for those who would have liked to celebrate — and there were many of us — a big opportunity was missed.

Simon Bentall
The Scottish Loft
NOTL

Once ‘architectural blasphemy,’ house now **earns accolades**

Dear editor:

When I read Brian Marshall’s comments (“Real-life examples of ‘sympathetic design,’” April 13) about the Queen Anne home I built over 20 years ago at 116 Gate St., I was reminded of Cervantes’ observation to trust time, as it often brings sweet endings to bitter hardships.

At the time it was described as “architectural blasphemy” and one which the building inspector quipped generated so many complaints that he could have hired a full-time secretary to handle the calls.

I would never have imagined that the house would now be considered a “design



Architecture columnist Brian Marshall said this home is an example of a contextually appropriate infill. SUPPLIED

in sympathy” with the community.

Tourists always seemed to feel this as well.

There are many, many truly appealing homes in the town, and according to the number of photos they took of 116 Gate, this must

have been one of them.

They were most often fooled by its age, commenting that it was in wonderful condition for a century-old structure. They sometimes walked through the front door without knocking, thinking that it was a B&B.

Sometimes, we heard commotions on the front porch as wedding parties took pictures on it. And every night about 10 when I heard the carriage horses “clip-clop” by the house, I would think “How much better could it be than to live in this community?”

And I often thanked Al Derbyshire, who lived at the corner of Prideaux and Gate, for his charitable goodwill.

When I first met him I suggested that as the owner of 116 Gate, he might not want to speak to me. His response was simple and sincere, “John, we’re all friends here.”

John Asher
Loretto, Ont.



A historic photo of the Rand Estate. SUPPLIED/NOTL MUSEUM

Who will pay to maintain Rand's heritage features?

Dear editor:

I would like to remark on one concern that appeared to have been brushed over at the special council meeting held at the community centre to deal with the latest requests from Solmar.

This is the question of who is going to maintain all of the preserved heritage features after the development has been sold off and the developer moves on.

It is SORE's position that because of the significant cultural value of the site that all the heritage features should be restored and preserved by the developer even though age and neglect has already taken its toll.

If that is the case then maintaining them after they are restored becomes extremely important.

To the question "Who will maintain the heritage features after the units are sold off?" that was posed by a councillor, a Solmar

representative responded by saying the condo corporation would take over the maintenance of the heritage features as well as all the other common areas.

The councillor seemed to be satisfied with that answer and asked no further questions.

Having been on a condo board in Toronto for 18 years and also having worked for a developer, I was not satisfied with that answer and alarm bells went off for me.

I would be asking: "If these features are so important in terms of cultural heritage, then will the developer write into the condo documents that there be a continuing legal obligation on the condo board to maintain the heritage features to a certain standard and shouldn't the town want to make sure that there is?"

I say this because this is an example of how develop-

ers wipe their hands of key features that they use to sell their projects in the first place and then the condo board is stuck with the additional expense of trying to maintain them.

The greater the ratio is of additional features to the number of properties that will be sharing the expense, the higher will be the expense per owner until it is no longer economically viable.

(That could be one reason that Solmar is trying to squeeze so many units onto the site and will not support SORE's plan, which is less dense).

Then what happens? Either the condo board has to start cutting corners on the maintenance of the special features or it has to start using them to generate additional funds.

To me it seems like a bit of a conundrum and I don't know how to solve it but I

urge the town not to shrug it off. Address it now because maintenance fees are a huge issue.

Naturally, the developer will use the restored heritage features to pitch the project but developers usually underestimate their maintenance fees to buyers. By the time the new owners realize just how much it will actually cost them to maintain those features the developer will be out of the picture.

The quality of the condo board and the owners becomes crucially important.

In this case, all these heritage features will be openly accessible to the rest of the community but only the new owners will be paying to maintain them.

They will ask themselves "Is that fundamentally fair?" In my experience that will become an issue.

Jackie Bonic
NOTL

Garden tour cancellation was a group decision

Dear editor:

I am writing to clarify an article published on May 4, "Cindy Grant steps back from volunteer roles," linking the primary reason for the cancellation of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society 2023 garden tour to my busy schedule and volunteer commitments.

As a member of the 10-person board of directors and eight-person garden tour committee, I want to assure your readers

that this is absolutely not the case.

Our previous successful garden tours have always been the result of the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers from the NOTL Horticultural Society membership.

The decision to cancel the 2023 garden tour was made by our committee and board after careful consideration and discussion. It was not based on the availability of any one individual.

We celebrated a successful 30th-year anniversary tour in 2022 and felt it was time to regroup and focus on a number of other important projects.

The board and horticultural society are committed to fostering an interest in gardening and bringing the community together through a variety of events and programs.

We are already working on plans for next year's garden tour and look forward to sharing the beauty and

wonder of our local gardens with the community again.

In regard to the other NOTL groups and organizations that I am associated with, I reiterate that I remain committed to each of them on an on-going basis. My volunteer work is important to me and is central to my value of giving back to the community that has been particularly good to me.

Cindy Grant
President
NOTL Horticultural Society

Wiens handled controversial council meeting properly

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to letters from former Coun. Allan Bisback and resident Jean O'Malley in your April 27 edition about the special council meeting about Randwood, held at the community centre.

Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens, a former police officer, is well-schooled in the decorum and ethical canons of courtroom proceedings and meetings of this kind.

As part of his former professional training, he would be skilled at reading a room (the crowd) and was simply exercising certain cautionary guidelines to those in attendance lest the meeting evolved into a free-for-all.

Yes, in every crowd there can be a few grandstanding, attention-seekers intent on disrupting and distracting from the proceedings.

Accordingly, Wiens sensed and measured the opposing contentious atmosphere and his instructions to the audience were appropriate in the circumstances.

I suspect the complaints about his guidance represented a small minority, the majority wishing they would just stay silent and focus instead on the presenters' detailed opposing points of view.

This was a well-organized and structured meeting. All parties were suitably represented by a slate of presenters, including professional architects and legal counsel.

It was not supposed to be a sports bar atmosphere with cheering and clapping for winners and losers.

It had more of a corporate shareholder atmosphere. Think also of court proceedings, where unruly, disruptive attendees are ejected from the proceedings.

Mr. Bisback, a former council member, is out of order suggesting Wiens should undertake management and communications training.

It is Mr. Bisback and the few disrespectful attendees who should undertake such a course of study.

Samuel Young
NOTL

Thanks to councillor for honest insights into social anxiety

Dear editor:

I appreciate The Lake Report reprinting the column that originally appeared on Coun. Maria Mavridis' public blog, ("Councillor's social anxiety led to recess at special Randwood council meeting," May 4).

It was a refreshing article. Thank you, Maria, for making the difficult decision of being open and honest about your social anxiety.

You led by example when you chose to have compassion and defend Deputy

Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens, who was faced with a challenging situation the evening of the special council meeting.

You highlighted the sacrifice that individuals make when they step up to represent their community and run for public office. As you noted, they have the right to do their job in an environment of respect.

Community leaders everywhere could take a lesson from you.

Well done!
Cindi LoForti Lepp
NOTL

Council's list of unacceptable reactions was inappropriate

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding The Lake Report's headline on my letter in the April 27 edition, ("Didn't like being told to respect council decorum").

It wasn't that I objected to council demanding decorum, it was the fact that councillors felt the need to give a list of what, in their view, were potentially unacceptable reactions from the audience.

It is unusual to expect an audience to suppress an inward groan or a show of

appreciation as a natural reaction to a discussion that has been so keenly followed by many residents in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I thought it inappropriate that council felt it necessary to imply we were in need of an explanation of decorum, even before the meeting had begun.

In point of fact, the audience was being instructed to be totally muted and devoid of emotion. Not sure I would call that decorum.

Jean O'Malley
NOTL

Marotta family gives **\$1.5 million** to Gillian's Place

Sisters hope donation to women's shelter will encourage others to 'give back' to community

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The ongoing surge in demand at a Niagara domestic violence shelter prompted a NOTL developer's family to step in and help the centre expand its services.

Last week at Gillian's Place, Niagara-on-the-Lake's Angela Marotta and Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli announced their \$1.5 million donation to the shelter's new campaign to add more beds and more programs to help those experiencing abuse.

"As community leaders, we should all come together to help and protect those at their most vulnerable point," Marotta said in an interview with The Lake Report.

The money will go toward the new three-storey, 9,000-square-foot Marotta Family Centre for Violence Prevention and Outreach Support.

The Marotta centre will be an expansion of the current Gillian's Place facility on Gibson Place in St. Catharines.

The centre is part of a bigger project called the Build a Safer Future campaign.

So far, Gillian's Place has raised more than \$5 million toward its \$8 million goal.

The two sisters said the donation to Gillian's Place has been in the works for more than a year.

"We do what feels right



Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli, Angela Marotta, centre, stand with Graeme Dargavel, director of development and communications for Gillian's Place, and executive director Nicole Regehr. The sign they hold shows a design for the future home of the Marotta Family Centre for Violence Prevention & Outreach Support. SOMER SLOBODIAN

for us as a family and for the community," said Marotta.

It comes on the heels of a \$10-million pledge by the family to the campaign to build the new South Niagara Hospital.

"We've achieved many successes in our business endeavours and because of that, we have a responsibility to give back," said Marotta.

Gillian's Place is an organization working to end gender-based violence against women, children, Two-Spirit, genderqueer, trans and non-binary people across Niagara.

Last year, the shelter served more than 3,200 people last year, and sheltered 322 adults and children.

However, the facility had to redirect 430 people last year because of capacity limits.

Executive director Nicole Regehr said even before the pandemic, Gillian's Place was witnessing a yearly rise in the demand for its services – but since then, she said, the situation has gotten worse.

"The prevalence of gender-based violence has increased to drastic and distressing proportions worldwide," she said.

In the shelter's last fiscal year, Regehr said they were at or above capacity 46 per cent of the time.

The shelter currently had 34 beds.

"We were forced to direct over 50 per cent of survivors who reached out to us for help to less suitable services," she said.

The Marotta family donation is the largest Gillian's Place has ever received in its 45 years of service, said Regehr.

Marotta and Marotta-Paolicelli are the sisters behind the Two Sisters Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Their father,

Benny Marotta, is a major, often controversial, developer.

Two Sisters Vineyards supports Gillian's Place annually by donating a portion of its Margo rosé sales.

The sisters hope their donation will encourage others to donate to the shelter.

"Being women and mothers ourselves, they are the most vulnerable, so we're here to support," said Marotta.

The \$8-million Gillian's Place campaign will roll out in two phases that will take about a year and a half to complete.

"What started about a

year and a half ago as an idea for a small internal renovation to create more space for our programming has grown into quite a bolder vision," said Regehr.

Renovations inside the shelter will be part of the first phase.

The renovations have already begun and will add more resources, bedrooms, bathrooms, living spaces, a life skills programming room and counselling spaces.

"The areas renovated in phase one are contingent on facility expansion and phase two," said Regehr.

The second phase will be the construction of the new centre which will add 10 beds.

This will bring the number of beds at Gillian's Place to 44.

The new centre will provide private and separate bedrooms for all residents, new counselling spaces and expanded areas for services.

It will be home to many of the shelter's existing programs as well as a new wellness space for its employees, a community meeting room and reception area and new security updates.

There will also be a pet shelter, an outdoor dog run and a prayer and meditation space.

"We are so excited to be able to move forward here and come to a place where we're able to offer the kind of service that our clients deserve," said Regehr.

Learn more about the new campaign at Gilliansplace.com/saferfutures.

Town kicks in **\$12,500** to help pay for Canada Day celebrations

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Two months ahead of Canada Day, community groups hosting celebration events will get \$12,500 of support from the municipality.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's council approved two grants for the Rotary Club and Friends of Fort George for its planned festivities this July 1.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa brought the two groups' requests to council April 24, and councillors spent almost half an hour discussing the grant requests.

Council gave The Friends



of Fort George \$10,000, after they asked for \$15,000 to cover the cost of fireworks and \$1,000 for cake.

Coun. Nick Ruller, seeing the town gave \$10,000 before the pandemic suggested they give the community group what they gave two years ago and make the remainder eligible for the town's discretionary grant

program.

In addition to \$10,000 for fireworks, council also granted \$1,000 for cake.

The Rotary Club requested \$5,000 for its annual barbecue but council only gave it \$1,500 after Coun. Maria Mavridis pointed out that's what they spent in previous years.

Mavridis shared her concerns, later telling The Lake Report council had to make a decision on the request quickly but was uncomfortable granting the full request.

The town is using money in its discretionary funding program to support the two groups, reintroduced in this year's budget.

"We cannot make this happen in 2023 without the town's financial support," Rotary Club president Greg Fedoryn said in an email to the town, referring to the Canada Day barbecue.

However, a couple of councillors were reluctant to give out the money, since there is no committee yet to oversee the funding.

"We're not ready to make decisions because we don't have our discretionary committee in place," said Coun. Sandra O'Connor.

Zalepa pointed out the town began budget talks late this year because of the 2022 election.

As a result, he said, the discretionary spending pro-

gram came back on board before council could set up a committee.

"We haven't had the luxury of pulling the committee together to do that kind of work," he said.

Concerned about cancelled celebrations, Zalepa said Canada Day is "very important in our community," and "the only way" for celebrations to go ahead is to bring these requests before council and get approval.

"Either you do that, or you don't, and it's your decision," he said.

Alongside council's approval of funding for the Friends of Fort George and the Rotary Club, it request-

ed an update from staff on the creation of a discretionary funding committee.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, who championed the decision to bring back discretionary funding this year, said he's worried residents have yet to get the memo that the program is back.

"All those groups that could use a helping hand, we're now responding to on a one-off basis, which is totally wrong," he said.

Town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said staff is setting up spending guidelines for the future committee.

Freeborn said a staff report on forming the committee should be ready later in May.

The Battle of Fort George

When U.S. declared war and attacked Upper Canada

This year marks the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George. This is the first in a three-part series about the battle and how, for a time, what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake was controlled by the Americans.

Amanda Gamble
Friends of Fort George

Between 1796 and 1802, Fort George was constructed on the western shores of the Niagara River to counter the imposing Fort Niagara just across the water.

Fort Niagara had been turned over to the newly formed republic of the United States during peace negotiations at the end of the Revolutionary War.

Although Fort George was built as a field fortification, whose main purpose was to protect the British trade route along the Niagara River, it played a major role throughout the War of 1812.

It became the headquarters for the centre division of the British Army in Upper Canada (Ontario) and housed a large contingent of British regulars within its walls.

On June 18, 1812, U.S. President James Madison declared war on Great Britain.

The Americans planned a three-pronged attack



This is the only interior image from the 1800s the Friends of Fort George has that depicts the interior of the fort. It was painted circa 1805 by surgeon Edward Walsh, who was stationed there. SUPPLIED

against Upper Canada: the first would be along the Detroit frontier, the second would be along the Niagara frontier and the third attack would be at Montreal.

However, the Americans found Upper Canada better defended than anticipated and their attempt to capture the Detroit frontier failed in August 1812.

In October 1812, the Americans tried to cross again, this time along the shores of the Niagara River at Queenston, but were repelled by the British and their allies.

Over the winter of 1812, the Americans prepared a new plan of attack, which included targeting Kingston, York (the provincial capital) and Niagara.

On April 27, 1813, the Americans launched an amphibious attack on York (Toronto), known as the Battle of York. The Americans were successful in landing and capturing the town, but as the British retreated they blew up the powder magazine at Fort York.

The explosion was so powerful that it rattled the

windows at Fort Niagara and a massive mushroom cloud was clearly visible from Niagara.

Within two days, news had spread to the British at Fort George that Fort York was now in American hands.

The British knew that an attack on the Niagara Frontier was imminent, but

they didn't know where the assault would take place, or when.

Additionally, there was a big problem for the British stationed along the Niagara Frontier: many of their cannons had been relocated in the fall of 1812 and a new supply was on its way from England.

Unfortunately, those new cannons were still at Fort York when the Americans invaded.

Under these circumstances, the best British Gen. John Vincent could do was spread out his men along the Niagara Frontier and establish small batteries that could monitor the opposite shores for any movement.

And so the British and their allies waited in anticipation ... but they wouldn't have to wait long before the Americans made their move.

Next: The American bombardment of Fort George and the ensuing battle.

The Friends of Fort George is a non-profit, charitable organization that works with Parks Canada for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of Niagara's national historic sites. Special events commemorating the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Fort George will include a special re-enactment weekend on July 15 and 16.

Museum lecture examines **medical profession** and women's 'hysteria'

Barbara Worthly
Special to The Lake Report

In the age of Hippocrates, had Shawna Butts, assistant curator for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, visited a male physician with any kind of abdominal "condition," she would have been told it was caused by the "animal within an animal."

Her uterus was a beast inside of her and she was at the mercy of its whims. And throughout modern history, doctors continued to blame women's pain on errant behaviours, mental weakness or even a "wandering womb."

"Women's health has been dominated by myths, mysteries and wacky treatments for centuries," said Butts. "And the result has been a system of misdiagnosis, mistreatment and dehuman-



A woman attended by a physician, receiving the blessing of the Madonna del Parto. Oil painting by R. Pistoni. Historically, doctors treated women's pain as a sign of mental illness. IMAGE COURTESY WELLCOME LIBRARY

izing of the female experience."

No wonder, then, that women became hysterical.

"When men saw a doctor, they would receive

a careful and somewhat professional diagnosis," said Butts, "whereas women's illnesses were often described as 'hysteria,' and always under-researched."

Worse, to counter some of those mysteries, women were experimented upon and physically deformed by "well-meaning" doctors.

Much of that so-called

research was forced upon enslaved or uneducated women and continues into the 21st century.

Government-funded eugenics programs were an explicit part of U.S. policy well into the 20th century, aimed at Black, Indigenous, poor and immigrant communities.

And the forced hysterectomies on women in U.S. detention centres, as recently as 2020, produced a flood of comparisons to Nazi Germany.

Many of these issues will be highlighted in the upcoming lecture at the museum, "Historically Hysterical: A Look at Women's Health and Health Care," on Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission for members is free, guests are \$10. Call the museum to reserve your seat: 905-468-3912.

International Museum Day 2023 also falls on May 18 and admission to the NOTL Museum is free for the entire day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, as of May 1, the museum is operating on its summer schedule, open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The current exhibit, "All Along the Waterfront," closes on May 22.

Already held over by popular demand, the exhibit examines the long and complex relationship this town has enjoyed with the Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

The museum's next exhibit, "Bound and Determined," opening June 2, highlights Niagara's Black history and enslavement in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For more information, go to notlmuseum.ca.



IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
200 JOHN STREET EAST AND 588 CHARLOTTE STREET (RAND ESTATE)
IN THE TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF COUNCIL DECISION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, at their meeting on April 24, 2023, provided a decision on Applications under sections 33 and 34 of the Ontario Heritage Act for alterations, demolition and removal of heritage attributes on the properties at 200 John Street East (File No. HER-015-2022) and 588 Charlotte Street (File No. HER-16-2022). This serves as notice of Council decision as required under section 34(4.2).

At its meeting on April 24, 2023, Council resolved the following:

Whereas the two previous Councils of Niagara-on-the-Lake both approved motions to protect the buildings and designed landscape of the Rand Estate; and

Whereas this Council wishes to reinforce the previous decisions of Council regarding heritage protection at the Rand Estate;

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Municipal Heritage Committee and all recommendations in report CDS-23-077 be approved, except for recommendations permitting removal/demolition of designated heritage attributes (specifically items 1.1.13, 1.1.22 and 1.2.1), and that such permit applications under the Ontario Heritage Act be denied:

Note items 1.1.13, 1.1.22 and 1.2.1 have been amended per Council's resolution below.

1.1 With respect to the Heritage Permit Application for 200 John Street East (File No. HER-015-2022), it is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1.1 The proposal to remove mature trees and plantings and construct a road and pedestrian pathway through the panhandle at 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.2 The removal of the White Ash, identified as Tree #5 in Appendix D, drawing L-900A within the Wallace HIA Addendum, be approved, subject to the following condition:
 - 1.1.2.1 Prior to the removal of the tree, a report is prepared by a qualified engineer, at the applicant's cost, demonstrating that any potential impacts to the boundary wall will be mitigated prior to removal of the tree or its root system to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.1.3 The proposal to remove healthy trees along the boundary wall on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.4 The proposal to remove and widen the boundary wall opening and remove the brick pillars at the entrance to 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.5 The proposal to construct a new Axial Walkway on 200 John Street East with new alignment and the proposed commemoration plans for sunken gardens be refused;
- 1.1.6 The Peony Garden adjacent to the Tea House on 200 John Street East be restored in-situ, that mowing of the area ceases immediately, and that the original (existing) plants be provided ongoing maintenance, and the opportunity to recover in order to encourage the plant's vitality and ability to grow on;
- 1.1.7 The proposal to remove the extant circular Mound Garden on 200 John Street East and construct a new mound garden in a new location be refused;
- 1.1.8 That the existing Mound Garden be retained, and the Austrian Pine Trees circling the mound be restored;
- 1.1.9 The proposed restoration of the Swimming Pool Garden according to the original Dunnington-Grubb drawings be approved;
- 1.1.10 The proposal to remove any portion of the Dunnington-Grubb designed Swimming Pool Garden on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.11 The proposed use of Corten Steel plaques and their locations as proposed in the Commemoration Plan for the Swimming Pool Garden at 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.12 The proposed restoration of the Tea House, in-situ, at 200 John Street East is approved, subject to the following condition:
 - 1.1.12.1 Prior to restoration, a Documentation Report and Restoration Plan for the structure and its context, prepared by a qualified professional member of CAHP at the applicant's cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.1.13 The proposed removal of the concrete swimming pool structure on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.14 The proposed removal of the footings from the original pergola in the Dunnington-Grubb designed Swimming Pool Garden at 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.15 The construction of a contemporary pergola design at 200 John Street East be refused;

Continued on the next page



- 1.1.16 The proposal to relocate the Bath Pavilion on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.17 The proposed removal of trees within the arboretum-like landscape on 200 John Street East, adjacent to the Bath Pavilion, be refused;
- 1.1.18 Any development within the former orchard area on 200 John Street East includes landscape enhancements through the planting of suitable fruit-bearing tree species;
- 1.1.19 The proposed restoration of the Whistle Stop structure on 200 John Street East and the reuse of the salvageable wood brackets be approved, subject to the following condition:
 - 1.1.19.1 Prior to restoration, a detailed Restoration Plan, prepared by a professional member of CAHP, at the applicant's cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.1.20 The installation of interpretive signage within the Whistle Stop setting be approved, subject to the following condition:
 - 1.1.20.1 Prior to installation, a detailed Commemoration Plan for the area and a Landscape Restoration & Management Plan for the surrounding naturalized area, prepared by a professional member of CAHP at the applicant's cost, be submitted to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.1.21 The removal of healthy and viable trees within the naturalized area surrounding the Whistle Stop on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.22 The proposed demolition of the Calvin Rand Summer House on 200 John Street East be refused;
- 1.1.23 The proposal to demolish the Carriage House on 200 John Street East be refused;
 - 1.1.23.1 In light of the unique attributes that the Carriage House exhibits, which demonstrate the disruptive change in transportation from horse and buggy to the automobile on this former hobby farm, the Municipal Heritage Committee specifically endorses the recommendation to deny demolition of the Coach House;
- 1.1.24 The proposed removal and transplanting of the Rose of Sharon hedge and Oriental Cedar hedge northeast of the Carriage House on 200 John Street East be refused; and
- 1.1.25 An archaeological assessment be completed for the entire property at the applicant's expense, and that no demolition, grading or other soil disturbances shall take place on the subject property prior to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism confirming to the Town that all archaeological resources concerns have met licensing and resource conservation requirements and that a copy of all archaeological assessment reports and Ministry Compliance Letters are submitted to the Town, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services.

1.2 With respect to the Heritage Permit Application for 588 Charlotte Street (File No. HER-016-2022), it is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.2.1 The proposed demolition of the main residence (former stables and barn) on 588 Charlotte Street be refused;
- 1.2.2 Any materials that can be salvaged from the main residence (former stables and barn) on 588 Charlotte Street, such as the cupola, weathervane, horse stall doors, wood half glass door and wood panelling, be re-used on the subject properties, as recommended within the Commemoration Plan, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.2.3 The proposal to relocate the one-storey outbuilding be approved, subject to the following condition to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services:
 - 1.2.3.1 Prior to the relocation within a Community Garden Park setting on 588 Charlotte Street:
 - i. a Temporary Protection Plan, prepared by an Ontario licensed P. Eng. at the applicant's cost, detailing the specifications for its relocation; and
 - ii. a Restoration Plan prepared by a professional member of CAHP with specialization in buildings for its rehabilitation and final proposed location at the applicant's cost;
- 1.2.4 The proposal to demolish the two smaller sheds on 588 Charlotte Street be refused; and
- 1.2.5 An archaeological assessment be completed for the entire property at the applicant's expense, and that no demolition, grading or other soil disturbances shall take place on the subject property prior to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism confirming to the Town that all archaeological resources concerns have met licensing and resource conservation requirements and that a copy of all archaeological assessment reports and Ministry Compliance Letters are submitted to the Town, to the satisfaction of the Director of Community and Development Services;
- 1.2.6 The proposal to remove and widen the boundary wall opening and remove the red brick pillars at the entrance to 588 Charlotte Street be refused; and
- 1.2.7 The proposal to remove healthy trees along the boundary wall on 588 Charlotte Street be refused.

The owner of the subject properties may appeal Council's decision by giving notice of appeal as required in the Ontario Heritage Act to the Ontario Land Tribunal and the Town Clerk within 30 days of the day the owner received notice of Council's decision.

Inquiries related to these Applications can be directed to the Clerk's Department at clerks@notl.com. Further information on the Heritage Permit Applications can be found at the following link: www.jointheconversationnotl.org/rand-estate.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 11th day of May 2023.

Shaunna Arenburg, (A) Town Clerk

Lailey wines starting to make an appearance on the shelves

Continued from Front Page

being installed in the vineyard to replace the metal posts put in by the interim owners; and 23 new wines were released, some to critical acclaim.

Turkmen merged Stonebridge Vineyards with Lailey when he purchased the winery. Many of the wines released this past year are under the Stonebridge label, made with grapes from his vineyard at Line 5 and Concession 5.

One of those, the Stonebridge 2019 Chardonnay Reserve East, won a gold medal at the Chardonnay du Monde wine competition held in Burgundy, France this spring.

The internationally acclaimed team of Ann Sperling and her business partner and husband Peter Gamble have been working with Turkmen for several years now, both in the vineyards and the cellar.

"It's nice to be recognized. There are a lot of Chardonnay entries, so for Niagara to rise up to that level and to get a gold medal is a really special recognition," said Sperling, adding, "we knew this Chardonnay was a special one, but it's nice to have that affirmed."

Wine expert David Lawrason credits Sperling and Gamble for the win.

"To me, the quality is based on the detail that's gone into the viticulture and the winemaking that Ann and Peter have brought to this. So, knowing who's who's behind it, I'm not surprised."

Stonebridge Vineyards produce low-yield, but high-quality grapes.

"The soils that we're working on are clay, so



they're very fine particles and high in mineral content, but they're meagre when it comes to things that promote bigger," said Sperling.

"If you have a bigger vine and more vigour you can support a higher volume of grapes, but you're not necessarily getting that concentration of flavour. So, by working with lower yield, we're putting more intensity into the grapes that we harvest and, in turn, into the wine."

That also means the price is higher for these wines. The Stonebridge 2019 Chardonnay Reserve East retails for \$78, while other wines under the label range from \$42 to \$110.

Lawrason, who is the vice-president of wine at Wine Align, provided this assessment.

"Certainly to the naked eye they're expensive. However, my judgment is more about whether the quality

inside the bottle is up to the price level," he said.

"They're definitely entering the market at the high end. To do that, the quality has to be top notch. And from what I've tasted so far, I don't have a huge problem with the value to price to quality ratio of their wines. Overall, I think they're doing what they need to do to sell at that price."

"It's a separate market they're after. I think it creates an updraft of quality. People start to expect some really good stuff from Niagara, which is great," he added.

From Sperling's perspective, the Stonebridge and Lailey vineyards are very different.

"At the Stonebridge vineyard we know that we can produce super high-quality grapes, year in and year out. Whereas at the Lailey vineyard, where it's a bit cooler throughout the growing sea-

son, we know that we can produce wines with a lot of finesse and fruitiness. It's a nice differentiation between the two properties."

"When we reach the point where we say both vineyards are producing to their potential, because of the soil structure, etc., Lailey wines, to compare, will be less expensive, easily approachable, more fun, more joyful," said Turkmen.

The vineyard at Lailey is key to the transformation.

"The vineyard had been neglected and it's an old vineyard, and old vineyards have a life cycle. So, sometimes it means taking care of the vines and sometimes it means replacing certain blocks with new vines," said Turkmen.

Stocking the store shelves with Lailey vineyard wines will take time.

"When we bought the winery, there was no wine inventory from the past

Lailey Winery proprietor Matt Faik Turkmen beside the award-winning Stonebridge Chardonnay. Turkmen merged Stonebridge Vineyards with Lailey when he purchased the NOTL winery in the fall of 2021. DON REYNOLDS

Wine critic Lawrason is a fan.

"I tasted the Lailey Zweigelt. I think it's tremendous. It's really well made from some original vines. I think they've got a real treasure there and there's not a lot of it, but it's really good."

Turkmen noted, "When you have people like Ann and Peter around, sometimes you say 'OK, I want something still top notch, what can we make?' One of the answers was to make an orange wine with the Vidal grapes and that turned out to be wonderful."

"The orange wine that we made from the Vidal is really lovely. I wanted to make it specific to Lailey. The aromatics that come from that property are really lovely and very different from on the other side of the NOTL area," said Sperling.

That 2021 Lailey Skin Fermented Vidal was scored 91 points by Wine Align critics and retails for \$33.

"We're really in a good position now to make presentations to the critics and enter competitions with wines that are ready to be judged," Sperling said.

"We've gotten comfortable in the facilities and we have a good team to talk about the wines and to really represent the wines well. Visitors are coming through the door, so we're making the effort to let the world know that we're ready," she said.

Turkmen said they're getting positive feedback from customers.

"I hope it's going to be a good year. We're seeing more visitors from the U.S., which is good news. I think we will have a better year than last year," he said with a smile.

except a couple of icewines dating back to 2015, which are wonderful. No question about that. But literally nothing else. So we need four to five years to put good Lailey wines back on the shelves," said Turkmen.

"Lailey was known for its Bordeaux varieties and Chardonnay, which will take some time to put back."

In the meantime, there are a few new Lailey wines making an earlier appearance.

"Some of the reds allowed us to make wonderful rosés and sparklings," said Turkmen. "And we were lucky that the Zweigelt vines gave us something."

"Zweigelt is not a common variety, but it's been on the Lailey property for probably 30 years. And they had a cult following for that wine. It's a lighter-bodied red wine," explained Sperling.


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Jeska Eedens is excited to open the doors to Taurus Terrazzo Homewares after a year of preparations. JULIA SACCO

St. Davids homewares shop rises from ashes of major Hernder Estate Winery fire

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

After two years of difficulty, including losing all her work in a destructive fire, a St. Davids businesswoman is ready for a new start.

Jeska Eedens, the owner of Taurus Terrazzo Homewares, has opened her own store and studio space in the community.

Eedens, a flight attendant once who coached women's varsity lacrosse at the University of Toronto, started her business in 2021.

She creates and sells handmade sustainable goods, including coasters, trays, vases, plant pots and more.

She began making these creations during

the COVID-19 pandemic after she stopped coaching lacrosse and needed a new way to express her creativity.

"That was my creative outlet: I would draw up rosters, make up drills and find uniforms. That had been my career. During the pandemic, obviously that all shut down," she said.

Eedens said she started experimenting with eco resin in her garage and eventually began selling her creations so that she could continue to make more.

Thus, Taurus Terrazzo was born.

"I had spent three months making inventory for stores I was going to go to and drop things off to," she said.

Eedens was looking to expand into a new studio space when most of her

creations, plus some cash and other valuables, were lost in a major fire at the Hernder Estate Winery in March 2022.

"My mom had a plant she got on their wedding day that was on fire," she said.

None of her losses were covered by insurance.

"I never really considered closing down, though. I was just like, 'OK what's next? Maybe I can use this for a rebrand. What can I do?'"

Early last summer, she found a potential space for a storefront on 1397 York Rd., next to Junction Coffee Bar.

"It was empty, no walls, nothing," said Eedens. "I could do whatever I want because it's a fresh, new build."

Inspired by the success of one of her market booths,

she aimed to recreate the vision on a larger scale.

"People were walking in my 10-by-10-foot space and saying, 'I love this,' 'This is my aesthetic,' 'Do you have a store? I feel like I'm walking into a boutique.' So I wondered if I could do it on a slightly larger scale," she said.

The grand opening of Taurus Terrazzo Homewares was this past Saturday.

Aside from selling her handmade goods, as well as other curated items, Eedens will run regular creative workshops in the studio space.

"They're going to kind of be a regular fixture and we can also do private events if people want to bring their friends and do it," she said.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: AT THE ORGAN

It precedes "bean" in something you may enjoy and precedes "stone" in something you very much would not.

Last issue:

Category: OUR LEAD SINGER

Clue: Before Maroon 5, his high school band called Kara's Flowers appeared in an episode of "Beverly Hills 90210."

Answer: Who is colicky?

Answered first by: Jane Morris

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Bob Wheatley, Susan Dewar, Jim Dandy, Howard Jones, Wade Durling, Al Brockway, Pam Dowling, Claudia Grimwood, Marjory Walker, Elaine Landray,

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

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com, with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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NOTL throws a coronation fête fit for a king



Doreen Hounsham has kept her bible received in honour of Queen Elizabeth's coronation in quite good shape for the past 70 years. JULIA SACCO

Continued from Front Page

Diane O'Donoghue, vice president of the Legion, was also at Simcoe Park on May 6 to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, along with other Legion members, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, NOTLers and visitors alike.

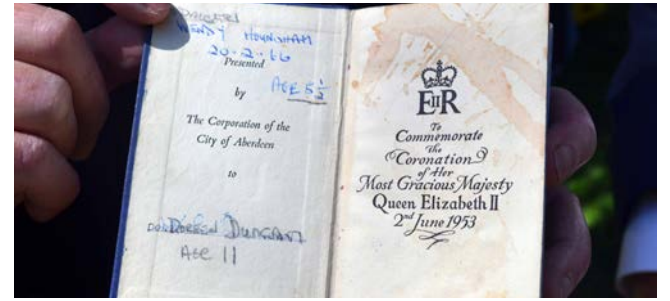
O'Donoghue took a look at Hounsham's 70-year-old book: "She still has it in great shape," she said.

O'Donoghue said she was happy someone took charge to recognize this important day in history – in this case, it was Simon Bentall, Scottish Loft's owner.

"We're a very British town, it would be wrong if we didn't do anything," she said.

Bentall took matters into his own hands when he noticed the town had no plans scheduled for the coronation.

"I had only two weeks to put it all together, so I'm happy with how it turned out," he said.



The bible Doreen Hounsham received in honour of Queen Elizabeth's coronation 70 years ago. JULIA SACCO

Other attendees who couldn't make it to Westminster Abbey for the coronation found Niagara-on-the-Lake came in a close second for royal festivities.

"I just love British culture," said Amanda Robillard, a volunteer from VR PRO Racing.

"I actually Googled royal dresses," said her coworker Amy Pollard, who came in a gown rivalling royalty.

For some, the coronation was a controversial celebration for NOTL, with many critics of the monarchy choosing not to engage.

"One person online said I'm not going to buy (the coronation merchandise) and

I know some people don't like Charles, so that's okay," said Bentall.

"Even if you don't like Charles, you've got to give him a fair shot," he added.

Those who did choose to participate stated their reasoning with pride.

"It's a day in history," said resident Bob Woodley.

"And I had a crush on Prince Charles growing up," added his wife Sharon.

To follow Saturday's walk, many attendees chose to listen to the ringing of the bells at St. Mark's Anglican Church on Sunday, May 10, featuring the musical stylings of Bernadette Secco.

June 10 is LemonAid Day and a chance to help kids go to camp

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

When life gives you lemons ... make lemonade.

And that's exactly what families will be doing in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 10.

NOTL council was full of smiles when Caroline Polgrabia, president of Family and Children's Services Niagara, visited town hall to unveil plans for the second annual Mountainview LemonAid Day.

It's a community-driven fundraiser that raises money for kids in need so they can go to summer camp.

The June 10 fundraiser is jointly organized by Family and Children's Services Niagara and Mountainview Building Group.

People can register with their friends and families for the fundraiser at Family and Children's Services' website.

Each registered group will get a stand, two baseball hats and four children's T-shirts with the LemonAid logo on them.

The organizers also provide pitchers, cups and lemonade concentrate.

"We didn't want families to have to do anything. They could just go, run



Caroline Polgrabia asks an enthusiastic council to designate May 10 as LemonAid Day. EVAN LOREE

the stand and have fun," Polgrabia said.

Coun. Maria Mavridis said last year's fundraiser was "well put together."

"We're looking forward to doing it again this year," said Coun. Adriana Vizzari, who signed up for the event last year.

Polgrabia said it was the kids who did all the work. "They went out, they ran their stands and they raised \$85,000 – clear – to send other kids to camp."

"Last year we were able

to support over 400 children across the region," she told council.

"This year we're hoping to go even bigger."

Polgrabia said there were 100 stands across the region last year, with eight in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Council voted unanimously to declare June 10 Mountainview LemonAid Day in town.

"I think it's going to be a good year. I think it's going to be a tradition, for sure," Polgrabia said.



Inaugural Road Rally aims to raise \$20,000 for Red Roof Retreat

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Retired business executive Jon Taylor always likes to have a charitable event to get behind and this year he's leading Red Roof Retreat's inaugural Road Rally in September.

With 25 spots at \$500 per team of four, Taylor says the Sept. 16 fundraiser is a surefire way to raise some serious money for an important cause.

"Between corporate sponsors and team entries, we're hoping to raise maybe \$20,000 for Red Roof, which would be great for an inaugural event."

The rally will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and breakfast catered by the Pie Plate, followed by the main

scavenger hunt at locations around NOTL at 10 a.m. A closing lunch will follow.

"Basically the challenge is these cars will go in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake solving 25 clues. Each of these clues is solved by sending a photo back to our scorers," said Taylor.

Cars will have staggered start times, leaving every two minutes from Red Roof's Ranch, on Concession 6, starting at 10 a.m.

Teams will have two hours to complete the challenge.

Winners will be rewarded with a trophy and bragging rights.

Taylor urges NOTLers and sponsors to come out and join the fun, given all that Red Roof does in providing recreational and

respite services to children, youth and young adults with special needs and their families.

"It's just a remarkable organization with just the kindest people who are looking after people and families in our region," Taylor said.

"And that's one of the things that's really important to me. The money we raise doesn't just go to some national organization. It goes right here to the people who need it," he said.

He's hoping the rally will catch on and become an annual event every September.

To register a car for the Road Rally, go to redroofretreat.com/roadrally.

Your move: NOTL man wants to set up chess club

Katie Ryan
Special to The Lake Report

David Sherman remembers playing his first chess match with his friend Morton in Sherman's house when he was about 40 years old — about 20 years ago.

For a long time after, he didn't pay much attention to the game. He certainly wasn't the Queen's Gambit.

It wasn't until six months ago when his son Matthew Sherman wanted to play with him that his interest was piqued.

From there, Sherman's interest in the game grew, so much that now he's working on starting a chess club in town.

Sherman, who recently moved to NOTL, is a semi-retired businessman. He works part-time at the trading company DS Advanced Enterprises Ltd, which he started and used to run as CEO.

"I still work a little, but I still have a lot of free time. I like to work because it keeps my brain occupied," said Sherman.

This past winter, while he was staying in Florida, a neighbour in his community approached him after learning he liked to play chess.



David Sherman wants to share his love of chess with his family and friends by starting a new chess club. KATIE RYAN

"She wanted to play together, we had hour and a half games. When I moved to NOTL, I asked all of my tennis buddies who played chess, and none of them did," he said.

"I'm trying to make some friends and maintain playing twice a week," said Sherman. "I don't know if I'm good or bad. But we'll find out soon enough."

Sheman started to study

chess carefully and learned all of the different openings three to four months ago.

He also played a few matches against his computer to increase his skills and level as well as reading different books on chess.

Niagara Falls and St. Catharines have chess programs but can be too much of a commute for some players living in NOTL, he said.

"The closest chess club was in St. Catharines and I didn't feel like driving there, so I figured we should have one here, why not?"

Sherman said chess is an enjoyable pastime for the brain.

"It also teaches you about how to make well-thought-out decisions in life," he said, adding that when people make bad moves in life, someone else can take

advantage of the move to better themselves, much like in chess.

"You have to look not at the move, but at your opponent's next three or four moves," said Sherman.

Sherman says he has a long road ahead of him when it comes to learning about chess, but is looking forward to practicing more.

"I only play recreationally, but I think I've improved,"

said Sherman.

He added that the level each player is at is crucial.

"You have to meet the players to decide what level you're at to have equal games," said Sherman.

"If play someone who's a beginner, I might, since I'm intermediate, beat them quickly since they're not thinking the chess way yet."

Sherman taught his son how to play chess, and he even went on to play in junior chess tournaments.

The program will take place at the NOTL Community Centre once a week during the afternoon. Specific days and times are still being finalized.

"The club will have open meetings at the Community Centre until we establish enough of a membership," added Sherman.

The chess club is looking for at least 12 members to join before the club can begin regular meetings.

The membership fee will be \$25, which will help pay for the room rentals at the Community Centre, refreshments, and new chess sets for members.

Anyone interested can email NOTLchessclub@gmail.com for information on how to apply.

Voting booths will be set up for people to voice opposition

Continued from Front Page

Members of the health coalition say they are against privatization, arguing it could cause problems in an already fragile health care system.

"When you start reading this bill, and if you look at all the criticisms with regards to it, it's just so full of holes," said Sue Hotte, chair of the Niagara Health Coalition.

The coalition is setting up voting stations in town and across the region on May 26 and 27 to try and prevent the province from enacting the bill, the next step required after a bill is passed.

If there's enough of a public outcry about the bill, Hotte said, the province could "stall and not do anything."

According to an analysis done by the Ontario Health Coalition, Bill 60 could give third parties and for-profit corporations power in issuing licenses to private clinics with limited accountability requirements.



Sue Hotte, president of the Niagara Health Coalition, is urging people to vote on May 26 and 27 during a provincewide referendum to stop Bill 60. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Ontario has a number of independent health facilities that are licensed under the Independent Health Facilities Act, first passed in 1990 and last amended in October 2021.

In this act, the director overseeing private clinics must be an employee of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and cannot be a third party.

Since the director is considered a public servant, they follow conflict of interests rules, disclose financial information and follow freedom of information regulations, states the

coalition analysis.

However, under Bill 60, it states a director "may be an individual or another entity," compared to the old act, which states the health minister "shall appoint an employee of the ministry to be the director of independent health facilities."

The coalition's analysis states that this means the director can be a third party or for-profit corporation, neither of which have to abide by public servant rules.

The issuance of a licence for a health care clinic, Bill 60 reads, is discretion-

ary, and a director "is not required to issue a licence to any person" and "may prefer any application over other applications."

"There is nothing in Bill 60 to stop corruption among the director(s)," the coalition's analysis reads.

During May 8's debate in provincial parliament on Bill 60, MPP Adil Shamji brought up concerns from critics about establishing conflict-of-interest rules for directors who issue licenses.

In response, MPP Robin Martin said the act "actually expands oversight and patient protections," listing some provisions included in the bill.

For example, health care centres will be required to have a process for responding to patient complaints and providers will not be allowed to refuse to provide patients with an insured service if they choose not to pay.

Another issue, Hotte said, is private clinics will take away much-needed staff from public hospitals at a time when the public health

systems are facing shortages, understaffing, burnout and underfunding.

"Hospitals get funded for the number of operations that they do," she said.

If surgeons decide to leave and work in private clinics, this could affect the amount of funding public hospitals will get for operations, she said.

"At the end of the day, Bill 60, which is supposed to speed up operations, it isn't," she said.

"You've got the same people doing it, but what it will do is take funding away and those really important, highly trained human resources," she added.

She said she's also worried private clinics will try and sell unnecessary procedures and tests to clients.

Premier Doug Ford's government states the bill would follow the Canada Health Act and ensure people "receive insured services using their OHIP card, never their credit card."

Hotte said that's true, but there's nothing stopping the clinics from making money

by charging registration fees.

"We're really against the privatization of hospital services," she said.

"What we need to do is make sure that we have a fully funded one-tier public health system that's available to everyone," she added.

Hotte said she hopes the referendum can get one million votes across Ontario.

Early voting will be available at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre on May 23.

On May 26 and 27, people can vote at the old Court House on Queen Street.

And on May 27, votes can be cast at Sparky's Park on Tanbark Road in St. Davids.

All voting locations will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As well, anyone can vote online at PublicHospitalVote.ca.

Hotte said all votes will be counted and sent to the Ontario Health Coalition by midnight on May 28 with the results announced on May 30.



Niagara-on-the-Lake hockey player Kaleb Dietsch poses with Ottawa 67's coach Dave Cameron last weekend at the team's 2023 development camp. ROSSY PASTERNAK

Dietsch meets coaches during Ottawa 67's development camp

Niagara-on-the-Lake native Kaleb Dietsch got to meet some of the Ottawa 67's coaching staff and other draft picks at the club's 2023 development camp.

The defenceman from the Southern Tier Admirals U16 AAA team was chosen 46th overall by Ottawa in the Ontario Hockey League's junior draft two weekends ago.

A club spokesperson said that after a welcome dinner on Friday night, the lanky 6-foot-2 defender participated in fitness testing, on-ice development sessions and some intrasquad games.

Dietsch, 16, started his hockey career with the NOTL Minor Hockey Association.

He plans to spend the summer getting stronger and developing his skills in hopes of competing for a roster spot with the 67's when training camp is held late this summer.

Watson tops men's league with even-par 36

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Reigning club champion Ricky Watson was in fine early-season form last week, shooting an even-par 36 to lead all competitors in Thursday men's league competition at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

Ken Porter took first spot in modified Stableford scoring (by retrogression), netting 19 points on the day.

Other men's day winners were: Paul Dickson (closest to the 150 marker on #1),

Drew Porter (longest putt #2), James O'Connor (closest to the pin #4),

Ross Smith (longest drive #5), Jim McMacken (longest putt #6) and Watson (closest to the pin #9).

Net skins went to: Jeff Jacques (#1 net eagle), Don Stewart (#3 double eagle), Glen Murray (#6 eagle) and Joe Interisano (#9 birdie).

Gross skins winners were Murray for his birdie on #6 and Joe Doria for a birdie on #3.

Tuesday was "Hit the Fairway on #4" day for the club's 9 hole women's league.

Rewarded for being on the fairway short of the green on the par-3 hole were Margot Hickson, Deborah

Williams, Linda Williams, Sharron Allen, Carole Matheson, Bonnie Lamourie, Barb Werner, Janice McMacken and Susan McCann.

Low net winners on the day were Cathy Saytar, plus Linda and Deborah Williams, McMackes and Hickson.

Low gross winners were Deborah Williams, Maureen Dickson, Suzanne Watson, Susan Horne and Saytar.

Draw winner was Maureen Taylor who rolled in a par putt from 30 feet off the green on #8.

In the 18 hole women's

league Tuesday, Martha Cruikshank shot low gross with 93, followed by Carrol Baker and Cathy Murray (97), May Chang (103), and Judy Mantle and Ginny Green (104).

Murray also had best net score (76), ahead of Cheryl Yamamoto (77), Cruikshank (78), and Ria Rosenberg, Baker and Chang (81).

Top putters on the day were: Lisa Allen with 32, followed by Marie Ellison, Gayle Tanner, Patty Garriock, Rosenberg and Cruikshank, all with 34.

Closest to the pin sharpshooters were Murray on #4 and Sue Sherk on #9.



Ricky Watson, the 2022 men's open champ, was low gross winner with an even-par 36 last week. FILE/RON PLANCHE

U19 Rangers basketball team still undefeated in league play

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

After going 6-0 in their Ontario Basketball Association division, the Niagara Rangers U19 men's team was moved up one tier to face some stiffer competition.

That's where head coach Jonathon Thorpe, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, had wanted them to start the season and after their first two games in Pool C, it looks like that's where the Rangers belonged. They're 2-0 in their new division.

The team, comprised of players from NOTL, St.

Catharines and Niagara Falls, remains undefeated in league play and has competed well in tournaments, winning one in Barrie two weeks ago.

Playing Sunday at Crestwood Preparatory College in North York, the Rangers relied on 30 points from Chad Thorpe to roll to an 86-77 win over the South Simcoe Sonics.

Dylan Durllov helped out the cause with 12 points while Ben Johnson and Carter Stoutenberg contributed 11 each.

"This was a really hard-fought, physical game," Coach Thorpe said,

helped out by "some tough

interior defence from Kai Schatz, Josh Smith, Carter Stoutenberg and Ben Johnson."

In their second game Sunday, the Niagara squad routed Belleville 71-46, with the sharp-shooting Thorpe notching 28 points and Stoutenberg adding 11.

"This game was really a dominating performance from start to finish," the coach said.

"Some excellent defensive play caused a lot of turnovers, which resulted in many fastbreak opportunities."

This weekend the Rangers hit the road and travel

to Belleville for their last four games of the regular season.

They face the Oxford Attack at noon on Saturday and then have a rematch with South Simcoe at 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. they tip off against the Kingston Impact, followed by a 4:30 game versus Eurostep.

"We then have two weeks off where I will try to get a couple of exhibition games," Thorpe said.

After that Niagara will be competing in the Ontario Basketball Association championship tournament June 2-4.



Coach Jonathon Thorpe credited tough team defence, led by Kai Schatz, Josh Smith, Carter Stoutenberg and Ben Johnson, for helping Niagara to an 86-77 win over South Simcoe. DAVE VAN DE LAAR



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Hugely popular Thwaites Farms asparagus is back on the menu

Photos by Somer Slobodian | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

More than 200 people arrived at Thwaites Farms on Tuesday to buy bundles of fresh asparagus. The asparagus is grown at another Thwaites farm in the Simcoe area and shipped to Niagara-on-the-Lake nightly. Seasonal farmworkers could be seen working hard in the production facility checking, bundling and boxing the asparagus. Paul Menz, top left, would take the asparagus from the conveyor belt and put it in the box while his co-worker and manager, Lebert Dawson, top right, oversaw the operation and assembled more boxes. The booth is at 1984 Townline Rd. and is open from Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the end of June.



2023 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE INTERIM SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE MAY 17, 2023

Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 5468-22



Payment Options:

- **By mail or post-dated cheque** to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil ON, L0S1T0)
- **In-person** to the Town Administration Building (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
- Via drop box at the Town Administration Building, front and side entrance (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil ON, L0S1T0)
- **Electronically** from a bank account using the 19-digit roll number
 - If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, the account will be credited only after the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow ten (10) business days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, payment must be received by the Town by the due date of May 17, 2023. Penalties may not be waived.

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. If you have not received your tax notice, please call the Finance Division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.

To save time and potential late fees, pay your taxes through a Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan, online or through telephone banking. Property owners can also request to receive their property tax bills and notices from the Town by email through an eSend service. For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, please visit notl.com or call 905-468-3266.

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Cleanup crew leaves NOTL beach a little bit brighter

Evan Loree
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Bicycles, brake discs, car parts, lawn chairs and oil drums: Over the years, Tim Balasiuk said he's found some odd stuff in Lake Ontario.

The NOTL town councillor owns Paddle Niagara and spends most of the tourist season out on the water.

"No one really sees the garbage as much as I do, being down here every day all summer long," Balasiuk said.

After a blindingly bright sunny Saturday at Queen's Royal Park, he and a team of volunteers managed to clean up 3,288 pieces of trash from NOTL's beachfront.

This year, 39 volunteers took part in the Love Your Lakes cleanup.

Altogether, they gathered 46 kilograms of trash – about as heavy as a large



Left: Tim Balasiuk says there are train cars full of plastic pellets like these in Niagara's lakes and rivers. Right: The staff at A Greener Future at work tallying the trash their volunteers are picking up off the beach. EVAN LOREE

English mastiff.

Balasiuk was there on May 6 as the creator of the Love Your Lakes, which he founded over a decade ago.

He started the cleanup effort in 2012 with a few friends.

Together, they were pulling floating debris out of the water while out kayaking or stand-up paddling.

It wasn't until Balasiuk met Rochelle Byrne, founder of A Greener Future, that he started focusing more on microplastics.

Byrne was at the beach Saturday morning with five workers, all of whom were counting the items being collected by volunteers.

Byrne said what washes ashore is just a small frac-



tion compared to what sinks to the bottom.

"We collect a lot, but it's not nearly comparable to what's out there," she said.

Microplastics come from plastics that break down in the water and form smaller pieces, which wildlife can mistake for food, she said.

Byrne said the team is often on the hunt for little

plastic pellets used in manufacturing.

They only collected 12 this time, but Byrne said they are found throughout the Great Lakes and their connecting rivers.

Of all the trash they picked up, Byrne said 803 pieces were plastic lids – the most of any single item they found.

Following that, the next major pollutants were from construction (536 pieces), lighters (428), plastic bottles (333) and plastic cups (222).

Byrne said she's found some gross stuff in the water.


"We're finding things like tampon applicators, condoms, syringes – like – compact toilet paper. That all washes up on the shore," she said.

This is because sewage treatment plants will occasionally overflow into the lakes and rivers during large rain storms and snow melts, she said.

Despite the amount of litter in the lakes, Byrne said beach cleanups give her a sense of accomplishment.

"I found when I went out and did a litter cleanup, you could see the results instantly," Byrne said.

To her, she said it is a tangible difference she can make in the community.



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Rock club pitches kids' education centre at Queenston Quarry

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Nearly all of the limestone here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including that used in the construction of the old courthouse and the Brock Monument, was sourced right from the quarry of Queenston.

Dating back 400 million years, the quarry has a rich history of providing the Niagara region with limestone.

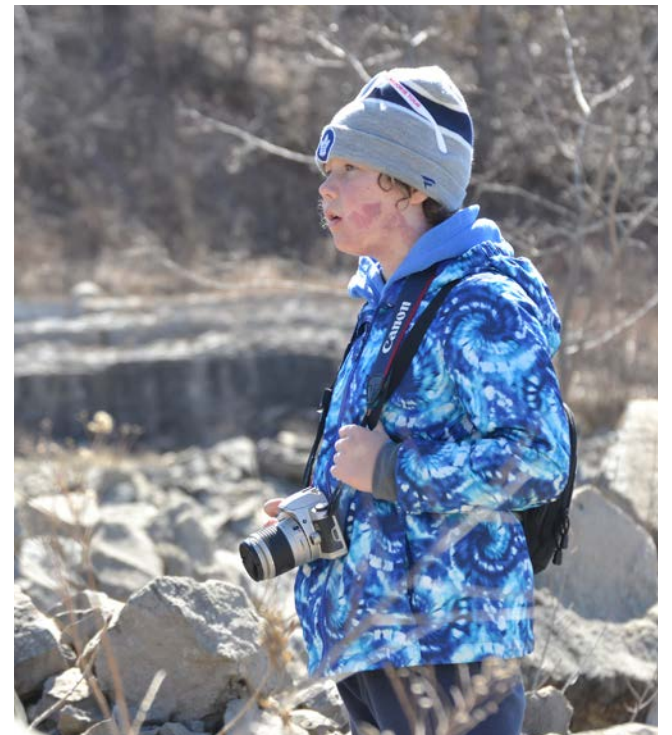
Now, it is in the process of a rebirth.

From the time the Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company took possession of the quarry in 2006, company president Frank Racioppo says site rehabilitation has been in the works.

"Our environmental horticultural and design team are working (on) the plan for the entire site," he told The Lake Report.

Members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kid's Rock Club visited the quarry this winter to explore its history and grab some of their own limestone and shale to take home.

With the success of the exploration in mind, Francesca Sorrenti, the club's leader, spoke with Racioppo about the possibility of including a children's learning space at the quarry, similar to something at the Ontario Science Centre.



Aspen Ziraldo brought a camera to capture moments from the rock club's trip to the Queenston Quarry. JULIA SACCO

It could be an open-air space without any structure, Sorrenti said.

"Other than just describing it as a learning opportunity, we haven't gone into much further detail than that," said Racioppo.

Despite it being in its beginning stages, Sorrenti and Racioppo said they feel excited about the potential opportunity.

"Possibly, there would be an opportunity to have an actual building, or gathering building, built for the purposes of actual com-

munity gathering," Sorrenti said.

Until things get approved to move forward, Sorrenti said, she will need a committee of people who also see the value in the proposed education space.

"I need help from people who have the same vision, and I need to see if there are people who are willing to donate and start this new project," she said.

Those interested can reach Sorrenti by email at cocoandclayforkids@gmail.com.

Enjoy our town's character – and all its characters



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

Our wee town shows well and, for a variety of reasons, it is highly ranked as a primo place to visit.

The vineyards and wineries, the mighty Niagara River, Lake Ontario nearby, famous and awesome Niagara Falls, the Shaw Festival, the list goes on and on.

And, with some 110 million people living within a nine-hour drive, the tourism market is huge.

We provide most of the amenities that visitors want and need. Accommodation, eateries, historical factoids, theatre and culture, a safe environment, and friendly residents eager to welcome strangers.

So, people arrive here for an hour or a few days. Our main street shows well, with the uniquely located cenotaph and the historic Court House. And the landscaping is almost indescribable during the warmer months.



Hailey Rumsey and her mom Sue with their chocolate lab Bauer with their Toronto Maple Leafs decorations. SOMER SLOBODIAN

I have loved living here for 28 years and the changes have been subtle but substantial.

The tourists walking on Queen Street get younger each year. Last weekend, warm as it was, brought many young people pushing baby carriages, speaking many different languages.

All were delighting in what we take for granted.

So many cutey-patooty babies to smile at. Multi-generational groups, with many grandparents having a wonderful day out with family.

It's lucky the visitors are younger, as they at least have a fighting chance of

figuring out our parking meters.

It almost seems to be a cunning ploy to make it confusing and frustrating, to provide targets for our determined and conscientious parking enforcement officers.

Don't have the Honk Mobile app? (Seriously, that's what it's called.) Then go to a local shop or the Chamber of Commerce office and hope they have change to feed the parking meter.

Each week, I read all the area newspapers. An independent and honest press is essential in a free and democratic society. And our NOTL is certainly a target-

rich environment for controversial issues and stories.

We are still trying to build the totally-paid-for "welcome garden" and wall at the corner of Queen and Mississauga.

A generous citizen donated the necessary funds some three years ago. But perhaps someone can tell me why the good folks at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts weren't recruited to help with the planning and construction of this project?

They have the expert instructors and students, and the proper stone is apparently available at a very fair price.

But I digress.

At that corner, the bump out continues to cause anxiety and uncertainty. Confusing signage and the three-way stop signs all contribute to uncertainty, especially for bicycle riders and speeding cyclists in their Spandex gear.

Just wait until the garden and wall are completed. Visitors will want to stop and take pictures. They better be nimble on their feet – and extra cautious.

The many traffic signs at that corner neglect to direct visitors to historic Chautauqua, which is just the type of local neighbourhood that travellers seek out. And how

about a sign to help tourists find Ryerson Park and the lovely sunsets?

Weather permitting, a picnic with some local Niagara wines is just what the doctor ordered in our challenging world. Bring a blanket and folding chairs. Meet a NOT-Ler or two. Or three.

Let me ramble back downtown now for some ice cream from Cows or Dairy Queen, a la Yana or Devesh? Or gelato at Nina's or Alia's, or Il Gelato di Carlotta, among others. Perhaps a locally made gourmet popsicle.

Make it a mini Road Trip, Road Trip out to Stewart Road to Niagara's own famous Avondale Dairy Bar. Such great ice cream at this local institution and so many hard working young Niagarans. When did you last enjoy their banana split?

Spring is here and the Leafs are struggling in the second round of the play-offs. Such is life.

Take a walk down to Queen's Royal Park for world-class views. And trust me, there is a Canadian flag flying down there. Hurry on down, before the trees totally hide our famous Maple Leaf flag. (I know, I know, "Let it go, Ross.")

We are just so fortunate, eh?

Enjoy our town and its character. And characters.

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A royal mishap

In honour of the King's coronation on May 6, we present an image from our Royal Family collection. Unfortunately we do not have any photographs of the current King here in NOTL. However, we do have one of a former Prince of Wales and later King George V (1910-1936), our dear Charles' great-grandfather, during his stay at the former Queen's Royal Hotel in 1901. At the time they were known as the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. In this photograph, members of the entourage with the royal couple (seated centre), are looking a bit perturbed while waiting on the hotel's verandah. In anticipation of the royal visit, the hotel had installed a new acetylene gas plant in order to light the rooms. Unfortunately, while the royals were visiting, the gas leaked, forcing the royal party to sit on the verandah until 3 a.m.



The circle of life

After catching a huge Ontario lake trout, a magnificent bald eagle enjoys an early-morning along the path near the west end of the NOTL Golf Club. ASHLEY KEIR



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Notice of Public Information Centre No. 2 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Biosolids Management Master Plan Update

Niagara Region completed a Biosolids Management Master Plan in 2010 to ensure a long-term, environmentally sustainable, reliable and cost effective biosolids management program for Niagara Region and its citizens. This update will identify and develop a strategy for meeting Niagara’s biosolids treatment needs through to 2051, in a manner that is transparent, sustainable, reliable, environmentally-friendly, cost-effective and flexible.

The Biosolids Management Master Plan will be developed to:

- Meet the unique needs of Niagara Region and its customers, including treatment requirements, land uses and users, and environmental features
- Meet future needs associated with population growth, new regulations, climate resiliency, and energy efficiency
- Provide greater flexibility and reliability for biosolids management, both in the short term (within five years) and long term (to 2051)
- Improve biosolids marketability
- Address community expectations regarding level of service, odour, air/noise, water quality, protection of the environment and aesthetics

Through this study, alternative strategies for managing biosolids were developed and evaluated, considering environmental and socio-cultural impacts along with technical feasibility and cost. The objective of Public Information Centre No. 2 is to present our preliminary evaluation results and receive feedback on preferred strategies.

The Process

The Study follows the master planning process as established by the Municipal Engineer’s



Association Class Environmental Assessment process for Master Plans, which is an approved Ontario Environmental Assessment process. The Biosolids Management Master Plan Update will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Class Environmental Assessment process. Public and stakeholder input will be sought throughout the process and a Biosolids Management Master Plan Update Report will be prepared and filed for public review.

Get Involved

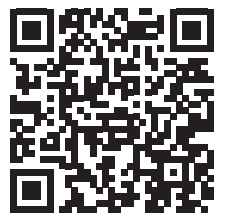
Public feedback is an important part of the process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region’s website. You can learn about the project, preliminary recommendations, and how you can have your voice heard.

Public Information Centre No. 2 Details

Public Information Centre 2 will be made available on the project website beginning Wednesday, May 17, 2023. This will be followed with a two-week period to submit comments to the Project Team.

You can access the project website using the link below or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.

niagararegion.ca/projects/biosolids-master-plan



If you have questions, comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact:

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If you require any accommodations in order to participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the **Accessibility Advisory Coordinator** at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.





Some scientists think there was **more than one** Big Bang



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
 Columnist

The story of the Big Bang we're familiar with runs something like this:

For reasons unknown, and as yet enigmatic, incredibly tiny, dense, quantal energy field inflated in a trillionth, of a trillionth, of a trillionth of the first second, beginning 13.8 billion years ago to form a vast universe, in which the energy, and soon a mist of newly formed particles, were quantally distributed, according to Werner Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

That's an intimidating sentence, but so was the Big Bang.

For the first few hundred thousand years following the Big Bang, the universe was a very hot plasma soup of highly energized, charged

particles, unable to form stable atoms and jam-packed with vast numbers of high-energy photons trapped in the ionized soup, unable to escape.

However, 385,000 years after the Big Bang, the universe expanded and cooled enough for protons and electrons to form stable atoms – hydrogen, helium, and a tiny bit of lithium – and allow those photons to escape.

The expanding universe stretched the wavelengths of the photons into the radio-frequency range, detectable on Earth 13.4 billion years later as the cosmic microwave background.

As theoretically postulated, the radiation and the temperature of the universe were found to be randomly distributed according to the original quantal energy field and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

That's the Big Bang in a nutshell as we understand it today. However, there's a problem: current hypotheses offer no explanation for the origins of dark matter.

The latter is gravitationally active but doesn't interact with the electromagnetic



spectrum, hence, dark.

Dark matter is six times more common than ordinary matter – the stuff that we can see.

Hence, dark matter plays an outsized role in gravitationally shaping gaseous clouds of hydrogen and helium into what became the earliest stars and galaxies in the universe.

For that reason, some theoretical physicists suggest there must have been another Big Bang moment, this time to form dark matter.

Such a theoretical "Dark Bang" moment probably

occurred soon after the universe had cooled enough for light quanta to escape.

One way to prove whether there was a second bang would be to look for gravitational waves – ripples in space-time, created in this instance by a possible Dark Bang several hundred thousand years following the original Big Bang, which generated ordinary matter.

Detecting such faint waves is beyond the capabilities of current-generation gravitational wave detectors.

The latter have been very successful in detecting

cosmic events such as collisions between two black holes, between two neutron stars and between a black hole and a neutron star.

Even so, the ripples are of the order of a fraction of a proton in length measured over a four-kilometre laser beam course. Very faint signals indeed.

For the achievement of designing the first gravitational wave detectors and proof they worked, a Nobel Prize in physics was awarded in 2017.

It's another lesson in how science works.

First, in this case, evi-

dence there wasn't enough ordinary matter in the universe to account for the trajectories and formation of stars and galaxies, followed by other indirect evidence for dark matter and a frustrating lack of direct evidence for dark matter particles in particle accelerator studies – so far.

This new hypothesis is intended to tell us when and how dark matter might have been generated.

Resolving this issue will require super sensitive gravitational wave detectors and perhaps in the interim, further studies in the upgraded Hadron particle accelerator in Switzerland, which hopefully might reveal something about the nature of such gravitationally active, but dark, matter.

That's the kind of question and challenge that theoretical and experimental physicists dream and feast on..

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

Keep an eye out for **mid-spring beauties** blooming at home



GROWING TOGETHER

Joanne Young
 Columnist

I must make a confession: as soon as the spring starts to blossom, my driving skills come into question.

I am forever turning my head this way and that, trying to get a glimpse of everything in bloom. I don't want to miss a single flower.

So, if you see someone driving erratically, be patient, it might just be me. We live in such a beautiful area with so much to see.

Here is a look at just a few noteworthy trees and shrubs either in bloom presently or blooming over the next couple of weeks.

It is hard not to notice all the gorgeous pink flowering Magnolia trees bloom-



Mount airy fothergilla, left, and yellow magnolias are plants to look for in the middle of spring. JOANNE YOUNG

ing over the last couple of weeks. Over the past few years, I have found the Magnolias really standing out to me are the lesser-known yellow flowering varieties.

Some of the cultivars that can be found at garden centres are: 'Elizabeth,' 'Yellow Bird,' and 'Butterflies.' Most yellow flowering cultivars are a cross between the native Cucumber Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) and *Magnolia denudata* making the yellow varieties hardy to zone 4.

The native Redbud trees

(*Cercis canadensis*) are just starting to open up. The genus name comes from the Greek word *kerkis* meaning "weaver's shuttle," in reference to the seed pod's shape.

It is often found as a multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that grows up to 20 to 30 inches tall with a slightly larger spread. It is particularly noted for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers that bloom profusely on bare branches in mid-spring before the foliage emerges.

There are many cultivars



such as a burgundy leaf variety named 'Forest Pansy,' also a white flowering one and various weeping forms as well. It grows best as an understory tree, meaning under the canopy of a larger growing tree.

One of my favourite flowering shrubs is Fothergilla, sometimes called the 'bottlebrush shrub' due to its unique fragrant, white, spikey flowers in mid-spring.

Fothergilla is in the Hamamelidaceae (Witchazel) family. This dwarf shrub is one that isn't well

known but should be used a lot more in landscapes.

Its slow-growing habit makes it a very low-maintenance plant with very little pruning required. The most commonly sold cultivar is 'Mount Airy' (*Fothergilla gardenii* 'Mount Airy'). It will slowly reach a height of three to five inches and is cold hardy to zone 5. It flowers best in full sun but will tolerate a bit of shade.

Not only is it a wonderful spring bloomer, but its fall colours – yellows, oranges and reds – are

also spectacular. It's a sure winner in any garden.

Another mid to late-spring flowering shrub that is not well known is *Deutzia*. One cultivar of particular interest is Chardonnay Pearls' *Deutzia* (*Deutzia gracilis* 'Chardonnay Pearls').

Deutzia is best known for its masses of small frilly white flowers from late May to early June. The cultivar 'Chardonnay Pearls' offers the same white flowers with the addition of lime/yellow foliage.

The flowers will last for about two to three weeks. Then, you have the added bonus of the yellow foliage that will provide colour for the rest of the season.

Deutzia does best in full sun, six or more hours plus, for best flower production and to retain leaf colour but can tolerate a light shade.

So, on your next trip to the garden centre, while looking for something a bit different, make sure to check these plants out..

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

Obituaries

Richard Data



DATA, Richard Walter

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Richard Walter Data on May 3rd, 2023, in his 76th year, after a brief illness. Richard (Dick) lived for his family, and he will forever be missed by his loving wife, Helen, of 44 years. Dick and Helen lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the majority of their life together before recently moving to Dundas to be closer to their family. Dick was an adoring father to his two daughters Stephanie (Marcus) and Theresa. He will be remembered by his grandchildren Samuel and Everett as a fun loving grandfather who enjoyed throwing a baseball around and eating ice cream at every opportunity. He will be sadly missed by his sister Dianna (Michael) and brother Ben (Gail) and many nephews and nieces.

For many years Dick enjoyed working at Ontario Power Generation as a draftsman. Throughout his life he loved playing baseball and hockey, being in his garage, gardening, fixing cars and relaxing with a Guinness.

Cremation has taken place and a funeral service will be held at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 58 Sydenham Street, Dundas, on May 17th at 11 am, with a reception to follow at Circle of Life Cremation and Burial Centre, 100 King Street East, Dundas, ON (additional parking at the Air Force Club).

Condolences, memories, and photos may be left at www.circleoflifecbc.com

Margo Gray



GRAY, (Morton) Margo, ON - 1937-2023

Gray, Margo - Passed away peacefully at Upper Canada Lodge, surrounded by her family on May 8, 2023, in her 86th year. Beloved wife to Tom for over 64 years. Loving mother to Rick (Teresa), Holly (Rob). Caring grandmother of Taylor (Ryan), Ryan (Morgan), Heather (Brandon), Kevan, Bryan (Claire), cherished great grandmother to Zoey. Survived by sisters-in-law Betty and Joyce and many nephews and nieces.

Margo loved all her fur babies, including her current granddogs, Ellie, Theo, Penny and Luna. Predeceased by siblings Bruce (Nelia), Bill (June), Lois (Maurice), brothers-in-law Keith and Dan.

Margo worked for Dan-Nel Coach Lines where she drove a school bus for 20 plus years and made some wonderful friends. Margo was very involved with St. George's Homer Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and received the Order of Niagara for her exceptional services to the Church. She was a member of the Eastern Star and volunteered for many organizations such as The Canadian Cancer Society. She also volunteered at the Tuck Shop at Upper Canada Lodge where she helped all of her grandchildren obtain their

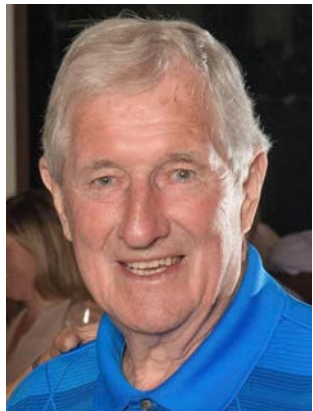
community hours for high school. Margo's love for children was so evident by driving school bus and spending time with her grandchildren. Margo received recognition for her volunteerism towards seniors from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2005 and was always willing to help when someone or an organization needed assistance.

Margo had a passion for baking, everyone that knew her, loved her apple pies. She loved baking cookies with her grandchildren. Margo and Tom were great partners in everything they did, from raising their children, caring for ducks, saving turtles and working together in their greenhouses. Margo and Tom travelled in their Airstream for 10 plus years, exploring Canada and many Southern US States. Thank you to Dr. Durocher and Denise Murphy and her team at Upper Canada Lodge for the wonderful care they provided to Margo.

Visitation will take place at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, NOTL, ON from 1- 5 p.m. on Sunday May 14, 2023. Service to be held at St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron Street, NOTL, ON on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 11 a.m. A private interment to take place at a later time. Memorial donations made to either the Canadian Cancer Society or the Alzheimer Society would be greatly appreciated.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

John Thomson



THOMSON, John Ballantyne - October 22, 1934-May 6, 2023. Beloved husband to Jessie (2015) for 62 years and Elena for the past 6 years. Devoted and much loved father to Janice, John (Sue) and Jim; proud Papa to Andrew (Tania), Lindsey (Chris), Megan, Kaitlyn and James. Great grandfather to Carter and Lincoln. Step-father to Marcelo (Ellen) and step-grandfather to Mathew, Robert, Cecilia and Michael. John experienced life to the fullest, sharing his life stories, integrity and strong sense of humour every day. Golf was certainly one of his passions, but providing a positive, nurturing environment for the family was always the #1 priority.

Cremation has taken place. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2:30 p.m., at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Simcoe Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by a reception in the Kirk Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice Niagara or St Andrew's Church would be appreciated.

Memories, condolences & photos can be shared online at www.morganfuneral.com



From left, NOTL Farmworkers Hub volunteers Brenda Bromley, Julia Buxton-Cox, Rosemary Gray, Vivienne Lipman and Emily Fieguth. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Farmworkers Hub in the running to win \$2,000

Somer Slobodian
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The NOTL Farmworkers Hub is one of three charities in the running to receive \$2,000 from a Niagara Falls business supporting charities across the region.

The organization supporting agricultural workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake is up against two other groups to receive this donation from Evans Heating & Cooling.

"We're really honoured to have been chosen to be in this top three," said Julia Buxton-Cox, founder of the Farmworkers Hub.

Buxton-Cox said one of the hub's volunteers nominated the group.

The hub, which operates out of Cornerstone Church in Virgil, provides clothing, food and household items to seasonal migrant workers who travel to Niagara for employment in greenhouses, vineyards and orchards.

If the Farmworkers Hub wins the \$2,000 cheque, Buxton-Cox said she plans to use the money to pay the hub's monthly rent to the church.

"For us, it means two more months that we can stay open to serve the community that we serve of migrant workers," she said.

This is part of the business' annual "Evans Cares" initiative, which started in 2021.

Participants vote online for which organization should receive the donation,

with the one receiving the most "likes" getting the top spot.

"It's just a way for us to kind of give back a little bit to the community," said Jason Gautier, owner of Evans Heating & Cooling.

"And as well, (to) try to get some well-deserved exposure for some of these organizations," he added.

Voting ends this year on May 31. Second and third-place winners will get \$750 and \$500, respectively.

The hub, No One Goes Hungry Niagara and Youth Unlimited St. Catharines are the three nominees racing to the finish line.

"The three charities are all very deserving," Buxton-Cox said.

Alongside providing seasonal workers with essential items, the Farmworkers Hub also provides a social space for them to use on Sundays where they can relax, eat, or play pool, foosball or ping pong.

Buxton-Cox said they're averaging 120 to 150 workers every week.

Not only is Buxton-Cox grateful to be nominated, but she also said she's grateful for the awareness this will create around migrant workers' needs.

If people "believe in us and what we do, we would ask them to vote for us," she said.

To vote, go to evansheatingandcooling.ca/cares, scroll down and click the "like" button under the charities logo. Users can only vote once.

FISH FRY

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