



Go inside the fort | Page 5

Angry residents storm out of town planning meeting

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

The town needs to give people more time to prepare to speak during a council meeting, some residents

say — but councillors and the lord mayor say they're simply following standard procedures.

Angry residents stormed out of a planning meeting Tuesday night after being told they could not

speak during the public delegations portion.

Following three public presentations on Tuesday evening, residents chimed in from the back of the room asking when they would have the chance to speak on

another planning project for which a public meeting was held in the fall.

The proposal for a hotel and condominium in Glendale sparked passionate responses last fall from Niagara-on-the-Lake

residents who live near the site on York Road and they were on hand hoping to speak up again.

“Apparently — and I know you're here to deal with that issue — this is not the opportunity. That

was at the public meeting and I believe you were at the public meeting,” Coun. Gary Burroughs told the residents, referring to a formal meeting held on the

Continued on Page 2

NOTL councillors vote to raise annual salary to \$20,000

Julia Sacco
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Coun. Wendy Cheropita is unhappy with how much Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors are earning and she has persuaded her colleagues to boost their annual stipend.

NOTL councillors have been among the lowest paid in Niagara Region, with a salary of \$16,208 annually, Cheropita told council last week.

She convinced colleagues to vote in favour of hiking their pay to \$20,000, a raise that will cost the town about \$30,000 a year.

The motion was approved by council after some debate.

Voting in favour were Couns. Tim Balasiuk, Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis, Sandra O'Connor, Erwin Wiens and Cheropita, while Couns. Adriana Vizzari and Nick Ruller voted against it. Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa didn't cast a vote.

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TAKING STALK

Customers line up as asparagus season kicks off



Nelson Thwaites of Thwaites Farms is neck deep in asparagus. The local producer opened sales of the first crop on May 3. RICHARD WRIGHT

Richard Wright | Local Journalism Initiative | The Lake Report

It was game-on at Thwaites Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, May 3 as the first farm-fresh produce of the season hit the stands with an expected frenzy.

The goods everyone was waiting for? Asparagus.

Doors opened at 10 a.m. at the Grantham Townline and Lakeshore Road location and by 11 a.m. all available stock of Grade

2 asparagus was sold out.

Grade 1 bunches, which are more favoured by the public, were still plentiful and moving fast. (You'll find Grade 1 stalks in grocery stores. Grade 2 are

just as tasty but have some minor imperfections.)

“As soon as the sun comes out and it feels a little bit warmer,

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Legion ceremonies to mark 80th anniversary of D-Day

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Almost 80 years have passed since Canadians took part in the Allied D-Day invasion of occupied

France on June 6, 1944.

Though the decades have come and gone, leaving those who were there as a smaller group with each passing year, the rest of us must never forget the past, says the head of the NOTL

branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

“We have noticed that subsequent generations have become less and less informed about these important events to the extent that some people in their 30s

and 40s don't realize what D-Day was,” says president Al Howse.

“We (the NOTL Legion) have taken a stance of education and the importance of it.”

Over a few days next

month, beginning June 6, Howse and his team of volunteers will attempt to keep the memory fresh by either hosting or participating in a small series of 80th anniversary

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Residents want **more time to prepare** for planning responses

Continued from Front Page

hotel project.

An open house on the proposal, slated for the north side of York Road east of Airport Road, was held last Oct. 17, while a public meeting was held Nov. 7.

Alexandria Attree, the town's administrative assistant, said a courtesy email was sent out on Thursday to alert residents of Tuesday's meeting and that if they wished to register to speak as a delegate, it had to be done no later than noon Monday.

"We were sent an email to come tonight and speak," said resident Lynn McDonough.

She was at the Nov. 7 planning meeting and shared her fury regarding the Glendale hotel plans.

McDonough said the development does not take the nearby residents into consideration and felt it would invade her privacy.

Another resident, who left the room before a reporter could get her name, explained that life got in the way of being able to reach the Monday noon deadline, but she was

under the impression that people would still be able to speak even if they hadn't registered as a delegation.

Burroughs, who chaired the meeting, said the email notice was clearly misinterpreted.

"This is a process problem: what can we do about it but listen to our residents?"

"We need to bring order back to the room," Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said.

Burroughs, however, made it clear that he wanted to hear from the residents.

"Thank you, lord mayor, for the direction. I'm trying to deal with our residents," Burroughs said.

At one point during the discussion, Zalepa got up from his seat and left the room, returning moments later.

"We're listening to these people because they're getting mislead," Burroughs said, defending his actions to engage with the residents.

After being told there was no time for them to speak, McDonough made her feelings clear.

"This is our lives, OK? Our lives," she said. "We have a 10-storey building



Harald Wattrus said from his perspective, it seemed NOTL councillors were making it hard on residents to speak out against developments. JULIA SACCO

going in our backyard and you guys don't seem to care."

"You want us to vote for you. You don't want to listen to us."

The discussion was followed by a delegation from Harald Wattrus, son-in-law of the owners of 184 Queen St., regarding another hotel — this one, an 81-room project proposed by developer Rainer Hummel for 228 Queen St.

Wattrus began by asking for the clock to be stopped on his delegation so that he could ask the council a question.

He wanted to know how much notice was required

to be given to residents before a meeting, saying, "We just had the previous issue, which is my exact situation."

Wattrus accused the town of deliberately giving residents too little time to put together a presentation. He received the meeting documents last Thursday and had only five days to read the staff reports and prepare for the planning session.

And at the public meeting for the Queen Street project on Oct. 3, the high-interest development was the last item on the agenda, leaving his 89-year-old mother-in-law to speak at 9:30 p.m., he said.

"This appears to me, as an outsider, as a deliberate strategy to make it as difficult and inconvenient as possible for the general public to object to reserving applications," Wattrus said.

Hummel's 81-room hotel proposal was met with anger from some residents at the October meeting.

Marilyn Bartlett, a resident who watched Tuesday's meeting online, was also unable to meet the Monday noon deadline.

In an email to the town, Bartlett said the hotel plan "has significant adverse consequences for local residents, who surround it on three sides."

She and other citizens felt it was wrong that they had only five days to read and respond to the staff recommendation report for Tuesday's meeting.

Following Wattrus' statement, Zalepa reiterated that council was simply following its normal procedure.

"Every process that's followed for these meetings is a policy of council and a process that's followed every time," he said.

"To make a comment

disparaging to council about council's intentions is completely out of order and will be taken with objection," Zalepa added.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor said she agreed with Zalepa, but could empathize with residents at the same time.

"I do want to add that I know our procedures can be confusing to people who don't always have to deal with these kinds of things," she said.

She encouraged people to call the town, saying that staff are always happy to guide them through the process.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, who also found the remarks unacceptable, told The Lake Report that he feels three days is adequate time to prepare — especially considering some residents were present at the first meeting in late 2023.

"I received the report the same day that they received the report and I was prepared," he said.

He added that the "tantrum" thrown by residents was unacceptable. "These people had the same tantrum in October."

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Town **rejects** library neutrality group's bid to address council

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Members of a community group that want the town's integrity commissioner to investigate the circumstances around the firing of NOTL's chief librarian were taken aback Monday to learn they will not be allowed to address town council.

The group promoting library neutrality — the idea that libraries carry a wide range of material representing many viewpoints — was informed by the town clerk's department that their pitch to speak to council on May 14 doesn't meet the rules and policies for delegations.

While library board members are appointed by the municipal council, it is "an autonomous board that operates separate from town council," deputy clerk Shaunna Arenburg told the group via email.

"The decisions of the board are not approved nor defeated by council."

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa told The Lake Report he supports "the clerk's decision to follow the policy of council with respect to delegations."

Group members, who said they had consulted some councillors about how to ensure they could speak at council, were told to take the request to the library board instead.

Tony Powell, one of the members of the library neutrality group, said he was "flabbergasted" by the news.

"My first thought was that there was an attempt to thwart us, but thought that it would get sorted out," he said.

"Regardless of how this first round goes, we are not going away. This does not end the matter."

Powell said it's important for councillors to hear the presentation.

And although he feels it is "appropriate for the board to step down or be obliged to step down," realistically he wants council to order an investigation by the integ-



Andrew Porteus, left, and Tony Powell are two members of a group behind a petition calling on the NOTL Library Board to preserve library neutrality. FILE

rity commissioner "into this whole sorry matter."

The town's website notes that any member of the public also can file a complaint seeking an investigation by integrity commissioner Ted McDermott.

The group has compiled more than 750 names on an online petition protesting the NOTL Public Library board's firing of CEO and chief librarian Cathy Simpson after she wrote an opinion piece in The Lake Report in February marking Freedom to Read Week.

The petition says the library failed "to follow its own policies for protecting library neutrality and viewpoint diversity, and its attempts to ban books or change policies to restrict access to information."

Simpson cited viewpoints of the U.S.-based Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR), which has been labelled by some as a tool of the far right in the United States.

FAIR executive director Monica Harris refuted those claims and said accusations of the group being far right are misinformed.

A second group, the Association of Library Professionals, has also come to Simpson's defence. She has declined to comment on the situation.

Powell said libraries "should be a bastion of free expression and a forum for various viewpoints."

As well, they need to "aspire to neutrality and collect materials that may be unpopular and even of-

fensive to some members of the community."

In a written response to questions from The Lake Report, town clerk Grant Bivol said, "The decision to deny the delegation request was made in accordance with council's delegation policy, which specifies that agenda delegations must pertain to matters within council's statutory jurisdiction."

That policy, contained on Schedule A of the town's procedural bylaw, outlines two kinds of delegations: an agenda delegation and a non-agenda delegation.

The library group noted its application was for the latter and the policy appears to have no restrictions about council jurisdiction related to non-agenda delegations.

The town was asked for clarification on that aspect but none was received by deadline.

"The appointment and oversight of a library's CEO falls under the authority of the public library board," Bivol stated.

"The CEO is an employee of the board, not the municipality, and reports solely to the board."

"Consequently, the request did not meet council's delegation criteria."

Jeff Sykes, another member of the library neutrality group, said, "Results of what the library board does and how it performs lies directly on the shoulders of the town council. They have appointed this board and funded close to a million dollars to operate it."

"Council needs to oversee its budget, expenditures and conduct on behalf of the taxpayer. To silence (almost) 800 signatures of residents because of fear of controversy shows a lack of courage and integrity," he said.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she is in favour of council hearing from the group, which she called "passionate" and "polite, not aggressive."

"They're not asking for Cathy's job to be reinstated or something extreme. They just want to make sure that council is aware of how residents feel about this. And I think that's important," she said in an interview Tuesday.

With the amount of support the group has garnered, "You cannot deny them. Residents ultimately pay for library costs," she said.

"And her severance is going to be covered by the residents. So, I think they have every right to be able to be heard."

The clerk's delegation denial can be overturned by a two-thirds vote of councillors present at a meeting and on Wednesday afternoon Cheropita was canvassing her colleagues to see if there were enough votes to support such a move.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was concerned about personnel matters being debated in public and noted the Public Library Act governs libraries, not town council.

As for supporting a vote to allow the delegation to speak to council, O'Connor said she'd have to think about it.

"I'm not sure. I can't say off the top of my head because I haven't looked at all the pros and cons of that. And I hate to say something off the top of my head, because that's a really tricky issue."

"I am in favour of public engagement and letting everybody know, and transparency," she said in an interview Wednesday. But potentially dealing with a personnel issue publicly concerned her.

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Virgil Stampede ramps up security

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

After last year's Virgil Stampede ended in fisticuffs and a police presence on the final evening, this year's edition over the Victoria Day long weekend will see some changes to security protocols, but an event organizer says it will still offer fun for the whole family.

Guests will not be allowed to bring backpacks inside the fairgrounds and other bags will still be subject to security checks.

"This is just to make sure everyone is safe," said Marcia Penner. "In today's climate, we don't want to take any chances."

The final night of last year's Stampede was marred by a number of fights among teenagers with some NOTL residents reporting on Facebook the use of pepper spray, a knife being dropped and even a mention of a gun.

Niagara Regional Police determined that no gun was actually seen or displayed.

"Every year the bigger



The popular Virgil Stampede returns May 18 to 20. FILE

kids come in and try to test the waters," said Penner. "So we are just trying to nip that in the bud."

Existing security measures such as no alcohol or drugs allowed on site are already in effect.

This year again there will be pre-event wristband sales for \$35 if purchased before the weekend. Sales are open now. If purchased at the gate, they will cost \$45.

The bracelets are good from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and can be bought online via the Stampede's website at virgilstampede.ca or at

Your Independent Grocer in Virgil.

The Stampede got its start as a neighbourhood-driven, fireworks-only exhibition almost 60 years ago.

In 1968, rides were added and the next year it became a two-day event.

Now, it is a three-day fair, culminating with Victoria Day fireworks on Monday.

While it no longer has a horse show, growth over the years has turned it into a local and regional mainstay featuring food, music, skill competitions, family

comedy and carnival shows, pony rides and the highly anticipated nickel sale raffle among other attractions.

"It is a great event," said Penner.

"People have been coming for years. It brings the community together, and not just this community, it's all over. There are thousands of people who come. People come from as far as Hamilton."

Organized by the Virgil Business Association, every year the proceeds are returned to the community.

The first cheque was cut in 1967 with a donation to the Centennial Arena project, which officially opened the next year during the Stampede.

Since 1968, Penner said the fair has poured \$2 million back into the community.

• *The Virgil Stampede will run this year from Saturday, May 18 through Monday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It ends Monday evening with the fireworks display at 9:30.*

wright@niaganow.com

Tickets to polo on Commons on sale next week

Staff
The Lake Report

The sport of kings will make its return to the Commons this September in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with tickets for the Niagara Polo event going on sale Tuesday.

The team behind the biennial charity game, which is presented by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, announced that this year's matches will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, with tickets on sale May 14.

Already, there's been excitement and fervor from many in town and beyond hoping to snag a ticket or a spot in the Rotary Club lounge.

"We've had tons of phone calls and emails just about it," said Amy Klassen, the museum's director of finance. "It's really great to see the community excitement around it."

The feeling is mutual, she



Niagara Polo returns to the Commons on Sept. 14.

said. Niagara Polo is held every two years and made its return in 2022 after a four-year pause due to the pandemic. It is a major fundraiser for the museum.

Hundreds flocked to the historic Commons that year, with 300 seats filled in the sold-out VIP tent and 360 people seated in the Rotary lounge, plus many other general admission spectators who brought chairs and blankets to sit on at the sidelines.

"We're really excited about it. It's one of our

favourite things to do here," Klassen said. "It's not something that you see in a lot of communities or a lot of towns."

The action runs from noon to 4 p.m., with players from the Toronto Polo Club and their noble steeds taking part in two four-chukker games on the Commons.

At half-time between the two matches, spectators will get to take part in the traditional divot stomp, receiving a glass of bubbly and then stomping on the grassy field to flatten the clumps of turf churned up by the horses' hooves.

This year, a new band will also be out on the field to deliver a half-time performance.

Other activities happening on the field throughout the afternoon will include pony rides for the children, a silent auction during half-time, a competition for the best fancy hat (with two \$100 prizes up for grabs)

and a showcase of vintage and performance cars.

Early-bird general admission tickets are \$20 each, with the price rising to \$25 on Aug. 20.

For seating in the Rotary lounge, one table for six guests is \$300, with 60 tables available this year.

Guests in the Rotary lounge are asked to bring their own picnic lunch or can purchase food from the field-side vendors (as can all attendees). Wine will be available to pre-order.

Over at the field-side marquee, there's the VIP dining area, where guests can share an elegant table of eight and will be served a gourmet lunch with local wines and craft beer provided.

Those interested in reserving a VIP table are asked to contact Klassen at aklassen@nhsm.ca or by calling 905-468-3912.

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FLORAL & GARDEN



Friends of Fort George president Tony Chisholm and his dog Lake outside Fort Mississauga. The historical site will have a rare public opening May 24, where people can have a glass of wine and see the renovated interior. RICHARD WRIGHT

Historical tour of Fort Mississauga offers a rare indoor glimpse

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

For one day later this month, the Friends of Fort George will unofficially become the Friends of Fort Mississauga in order to bring back to life one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's premier historical sites.

On Friday, May 24, the public will get a one-time pass to go inside the more than 200-year-old structure located near the mouth of the Niagara River and surrounded by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

President of the Friends of Fort George Tony Chisholm said the fort was built to replace the original Fort

George that U.S. troops burned to the ground in the War of 1812.

"Although it was built — started anyways — in 1814, it really wasn't finished until the 1820s," he said.

It is a simple square building made mostly of brick and enclosed by a moat-like berm.

Left derelict since its last incarnation as a Second World War training site for Canadian soldiers, in recent years Parks Canada has restored it.

"Very few people are aware of what was accomplished there," said Chisholm.

"So, we have been bugging Parks Canada for about a year saying, 'If you're fin-

ished (with the restoration), let us have an event there and show people around.'"

Parks Canada agreed to the proposal so Chisholm and his team set to work on making it a reality.

He is quite certain there is an appetite for a showing like this.

"There is a lot of curiosity in this town," Chisholm said.

"Anyone who wants to can go to Fort George and get a tour, but you can't do that for Fort Mississauga. It is just sort of sitting there as this beautiful old structure that represents a big part of the history of this town."

Along with tours of the fort's interior, attendees will also be able to learn more

about the site and what life was like there, thanks to a number of information booths set up around the exterior.

A portion of the program will also be set aside to acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of the area.

Tickets will be sold for two separate one-hour viewing times on May 24 at 6 and 7 p.m. A rain date has been set for May 31.

"Because the entrance is so small, only a certain number of people are allowed in the building at a time," said Chisholm.

Tickets are available via the Friends of Fort George website at friendsoffort-george.square.site.

wright@niagaranow.com

St. Davids Leos to hold dog wash at Pet Valu

Staff
The Lake Report

It's bath time and all for a good cause.

Members of the St. Davids Leos will hold a dog wash at Pet Valu in Virgil this Saturday, May 11.

You can bring in your canine for a bath from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The cost is \$20.

Appointments are recommended, said Leos spokes-

person Bradd Anderson. Call Pet Valu at 905-468-9555 to reserve a time.

"If someone wishes to make a donation in addition to the wash, that would be wonderful," Anderson said.

Proceeds from the day will go toward the Leos' Walk for Dog Guides, which will be held at St. Davids Lions Park on Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m. until about 1 p.m.

Anderson noted the club has a web page for anyone wishing to support the walk. Find the page online at walkfordogguides.com/fundraisers/StDavidsDistrictLEOclub.

Members of the Leos, ages 12 to 18, also raise money for charitable community causes. Recently they donated \$1,000 to the Newark Neighbours food bank.



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NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at **463 KING STREET, BEST HOUSE (PLAN 86 PART LOT 281 RP 30R8012 PART 2)** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

The subject property is known as the Best House. 463 King Street is located in the urban area of Old Town. The subject property is located across Butler's Barracks which is a National Historic Site of Canada. Property adjacent to the subject property towards the north at 433 King Street is a Part IV designated property in the Municipal Heritage Register. The subject property is located at the intersection of King Street and Mary Street. The residence has a substantial setback from King Street and Mary Street and is visible from the road.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property known as the Best House has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values. 463 King Street is a representative example of Gothic Revival architecture which was built on picturesque taste and revived mediaeval Gothic forms. The structure is a two-storey brick construction with some stone and wood details. The façade of the subject property is symmetrical and contains three bays. The side elevations of the building are balanced and contain symmetrical elements. Typical of Gothic Revival structures the roof of the structure is gable with overhanging eaves, moulded frieze and features a centre gable on the façade. The openings in the structure are segmentally arched with radiating brick voussoirs, carved keystones, wooden lug sills and wooden frames. The windows themselves are two over two windows. The main entryway to the subject property is simple and contains segmentally arched transom and sidelights. The subject property also features protruding bay windows on the north and south elevations. The bay windows have a mansard roof with overhanging eaves.

Best House is associated with being the residence of the mayor of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Thomas Frederick Best. Thomas Best constructed the residence in 1885. Thomas Best was a successful businessman and a popular local politician. He served several terms as councilman and as mayor from 1897 to 1901 and in 1912. He also constructed the canning factory adjacent to the subject property, which is now known as the Pillar & Post Inn. The subject property is historically associated as being owned by various important persons in the Town as Lot 281. It was owned by Joseph Edwards, who was the Town's warden, first postmaster and the first Justice of Peace and by James Whitten who was a local carpenter and a merchant. James Whitten is believed to have worked on multiple historic properties in the Town.

Best House supports the historical character of the area. King Street streetscape majorly consists of commercial properties that are two to three storeys high with large to moderate setback from the road. Most of the building are historic structures that are lined with mature trees. The area also consists of various designated sites that includes the Butler's Barracks which is a National Historic

Site, and 433 King Street and 46 Mary Street which are Part IV designated properties on the Municipal Heritage Register.

463 King Street is also functionally linked to its surroundings as being part of the Pillar and Post Inn. The building adjacent to the subject property was also constructed by Thomas Best as a canning factory and was later converted to the Pillar and Post Inn. The Pillar and Post Inn also have designated gardens towards the south of the subject property.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that embody the heritage value of the estate at 463 King Street include its:

- Two storeys Gothic revival style structure
- Red brick construction
- Symmetrical three-bay façade
- Gable roof with centre gable on façade
- Overhanging eaves and moulded frieze
- Segmentally arched openings with two over two windows
- Radiating brick voussoirs, carved stone keystone and wooden lug sill
- Protruding bay windows
- Main entryway with wooden panel doors, segmentally arched transom and sidelights
- Location along the King Street
- Setback from the road
- Location opposite to Butler's Barracks and adjacent to 433 King Street
- Historical connection to Pillar and Post Inn

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to the Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is **June 9th 2024**.

Queries

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

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 9th day of May 2024

GRANT BIVOL, CLERK



Al Howse, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124, with the encased Canadian flag that was sponsored by the Legion and flown over the Juno Beach Centre in France last September. The flag will be taken out of its case and flown over the town's cenotaph June 6 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. RICHARD WRIGHT

Legion seeking Second World War vets

Continued from Front Page

sary events that will educate and commemorate.

"We have a Canadian flag that was flown at Juno Beach Centre (in Normandy, France) from Sept. 4 to 17 last year," he said.

"We donated money to the centre to get that flag and also donated to the centre's interpretation work. With the town's (NOTL) permission, we will fly that flag over the town's cenotaph on June 6."

On Friday, June 7, the Legion will then support a free public concert at St. Mark's Church, where 1944-era music will be played.

'Canada has always punched above its weight'

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

The opposition was an occupying German army, led by the tyrannical and maniacal Adolph Hitler.

Each beach was given a code name: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Sword and Juno.

Canada, not even 80 years old as a country and with a standing army of less than 5,000 men when war broke out, was given the arduous task of clearing Juno Beach.

The beach, like the others at Normandy, was part of a German defence line known as the Atlantic Wall.

It featured incredibly strong reinforced steel and concrete defences with massive artillery emplacements that housed the biggest guns of the time.

It ran from southern France all the way through coastal Europe to Scanda-

via. By 1944, the Germans believed the wall was impregnable and more than enough to throw any invaders back into the sea.

Just five years earlier, armies of the Third Reich had indeed proven to the world that they were no slouches. Behind its strength and military ingenuity, it set aside France's armies with a form of warfare that broke all the rules of then-known tactics.

Called Blitzkrieg, or Lightning War, it was made possible due to the mechanization of the modern war machine.

Where horse drawn artillery, primarily land-based offences and trench warfare defences were still on the minds of France's First World War veterans, the German attack was led by tanks, mobile personnel vehicles and a massive offensive-minded air force known as the Luftwaffe, which could rain hell from above.

It took just six weeks for the French to capitulate and fall under German rule.

Alone in its fight against Hitler's hell-bent mission of German redemption and world domination, a counter invasion of France by England to liberate its ally simply was not possible. Germany was too strong, and England — after four years of fending off Luftwaffe attacks on its own soil and losing thousands of airmen and inventory thanks to a suicide-like bombing campaign over Europe — was stretched to its limits in soldiers, equipment and sweat.

Then Japan attacked the United States at Hawaii's Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, 1941.

This catapulted the Americans into a fighting stance. They had previ-

ously provided machines, guns and other supplies to England for its fight, but staunchly remained neutral to the war "over there."

Backed by their industrial and manufacturing might, the Americans entered the war. The plans for an invasion of Europe — D-Day — began almost immediately.

However, with the need to open up a two-front war — Japan in the Pacific as the other front — it would take some time and proper planning for an invasion of France.

That time came on D-Day

Canada, as one of the Commonwealth or imperial servants of England, was thrust into the front lines and now, with a standing army of over 700,000 men, braced itself for the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare.

More than 14,000 Canadians took part in the invasion, in one form or another. The country suffered more than 1,000 casualties at Juno Beach with 340 killed in action.

People like Howse, whose father arrived in England after D-Day as a member of the Canadian military but still saw action in Belgium and Holland, and who himself was a member of the Canadian military for almost 30 years, feel the proverbial call to action every year on June 6.

His pride in the Canadian contribution — which would help liberate France, the rest of Europe and defeat the Nazis — is palpable. For him, it's like it happened yesterday and that's a kind of remembrance he wants everyone in this community and country to heed.

"The importance of the (Juno Beach) flag being

raised over downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake is big," he said.

"It was there, on French territory, where Canadians took on the Germans to liberate Europe. That was the start of it all."

"When you consider that of all the countries allied with Britain ... we took on the oversized role and the Canadians throughout the Second World War really punched above their weight through France and into Belgium and Holland, and then into Germany."

Germany officially surrendered to the Allied forces, ending the war on May, 7, 1945.

A call for veterans to attend


Veterans Affairs Canada has sent out a call for veterans to join the official D-Day ceremonies in Moncton, N.B., from June 4 to 7.

Any Second World War veterans from the Niagara-on-the-Lake area who are interested in travelling to Moncton to mark the anniversary can have the NOTL Legion send their contact information to Veterans Affairs to ensure they receive an official invitation.

The NOTL Legion has no remaining members who fought in the Second World War, Howse said.


Few veterans from that era remain alive today. As of Remembrance Day 2023, Veterans Affairs estimated only about 9,200 veterans of the Second World War and Korean War were still alive. Howse also is looking for Second World War veterans to take part in the June 6 Juno Beach flag raising. Veterans can contact Howse at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion at 905-468-2353.

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Rand hearing takes Solmar to task on sewer and heritage plans

Evan Loree
The Lake Report

An expert planner championing Solmar's Rand Estate subdivision proposal was cross-examined at the ongoing provincial tribunal hearings that will decide if the project gets the green light.

Solmar, owned by developer Benny Marotta, plans to fill the back half of the historic estate with 196 homes.

The proposal has received immense pushback from Niagara-on-the-Lake residents.

SGL planner Paul Lowes, who has been retained by Solmar, spent most of Wednesday and Thursday last week testifying in favour of the project.

Lowes said the Solmar plan makes more efficient use than an alternative plan proposed by the resident advocacy group Save Our Rand Estate (SORE).

SORE wants the subdivision capped at 112 homes.



Solmar plans to use pumping stations to move sewage uphill toward the main sewage line on Charlotte Street.

Compared to Solmar's plan, which allots 19 per cent of the land for open space, SORE's plan provides closer to 42 per cent, before accounting for greenbelt and natural wetlands on the property, Lowes said.

"In my opinion, the

amount of open space on the SORE plan is not required."

"It's not an efficient use of land or creating compact development," Lowes added.

In her cross-examination of Lowes, town Lawyer Nancy Smith pressed him

on the issue of heritage preservation.

Smith presented evidence that Leah Wallace, a heritage planner retained by Solmar, told former town councillor Clare Cameron at a meeting on July 24, 2021, her job was to mitigate the impacts of the proposed subdivision on the heritage assets in the estate.

"When I did my (heritage impact assessment) I was given the subdivision plan and I had to work with what I got," Smith said, quoting Wallace from a transcript of the meeting.

Smith said heritage assets appear to have been treated as a lower priority by the Solmar planning team.

For example, Solmar plans to move the historic carriage house on the Rand Estate to make room for houses, rather than maintaining it where it now stands.

"I'm going to suggest to you that Solmar's focus started with the plan of subdivision and you mitigated

what got in the way," Smith said.

Lowes insisted this was not the case.

"It wasn't like we created a plan and ignored what Miss Wallace told us," Lowes said.

Wallace was not asked to write her heritage recommendations around the subdivision plan, he said.

For example, if Wallace had recommended the carriage house be left where it is, the planners would have done so, Lowes said.

In her cross-examination of Lowes, SORE lawyer Catherine Lyons brought up Solmar's plans for sewer infrastructure.

Solmar wants to use pumping stations to help move raw sewage uphill toward the main sewage line on Charlotte Street.

Originally, the planning team was going to connect the subdivision and a proposed hotel next door to the same sewage line.

This would have allowed for a gravitational sewer

instead, which is cheaper to maintain.

The hotel was proposed by Two Sisters Resorts Corp., also owned by Marotta, but the application has been withdrawn and it is unclear if it will be built.

Lowes said the idea for a shared sewer line was scrapped when the engineer who proposed it learned the future subdivision would be owned by a condo corporation and have private infrastructure.

This is a problem, because Ontario building codes require the two owners have separate sewage lines, he said.

"Who made the decision that it would be developed by way of condo?" Lyons asked.

Lowes said it was the owner.

Lyons has been publicly critical of the claim that the subdivision land and hotel land make it difficult to share services, like access roads and sewer lines.

The hearings are ongoing.

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Hrvatsko Selo's second-oldest troupe, consisting of kids aged nine to 13, performed traditional Croatian song and dance during the open house at the Croatian National Centre of Niagara on Saturday. JULIA SACCO

Croatian heritage on display in NOTL at national centre for Folk Arts Festival

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

The Croatian National Centre of Niagara kicked off the region's annual Folk Arts Festival on Saturday with an open house at the centre's home on Line 3 Road.

The open house featured traditional food, music and performances by Croatians from Niagara and beyond.

This came shortly after Ontario legally declared May 30 as Croatian Heritage Day across the province.

Ante Jovic, consulate general of Croatia, told The Lake Report said that the passing of Croatian Heritage

Day is an "example of the many strong contributions of Croatians to this province in the last century."

The Croatian National Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake is a perfect example of this, he added.

Allison Welbourn, music instructor for the Croatian folklore group Hrvatsko Selo, said that the celebration of culture and heritage has brought the group all around North America — including Los Angeles, Illinois and this town.

Welbourn said that Croatian people, no matter their connections to their heritage, are passionate about keeping it alive.

"Some of us are third-generation Croatians and despite that, we understand the importance of preserving and sharing our traditions," she said.

No matter where people live now, Welbourn said, Croatians all want that same thing — a connection to their culture.

Nigel Young-Chin, who was serving up traditional cevapcici, said that he is an example of the welcoming nature of the Croatian community.

"I'm here through my wife," he said, explaining that he participates in cultural activities thanks to her being Croatian, even though he isn't.

"It shows that anyone who wants to be Croatian can be Croatian," he added.

Coun. Erwin Wiens, the deputy lord mayor, came by and expressed his thanks to the Croatian National Centre for bringing their culture to NOTL.

"You've brought a special heritage, special culture, special food," Wiens said.

"And you've transformed this into a wonderful environment for people to come and enjoy," he added.

Josipa Petronic, president of the centre, expressed her thanks to the town and council.

"You have been a big support," she said.
juliasacco@niagaranow.com




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Learn & Live session explores 'lessons of service'

Staff
The Lake Report

NOTL resident Peter Warrack will share his valuable lessons learned in service during his Learn & Live session alongside Lt.-Gen. Michel Maisonneuve and his wife Maj. Barbara Maisonneuve on May 27.

This month's Learn & Live session will offer a glimpse into the important life lessons learned through military and police service.

On May 27, Peter Warrack, Lt.-Gen. Michel

Maisonneuve and his wife Maj. Barbara Maisonneuve will discuss their experiences in various military and police careers. Mike Balsom will moderate.

The session will differ from the usual Learn & Live format as it will be held in the Simpson Room at the NOTL Community Centre from 1 to 4 p.m., leaving time for discussion.

There is space for up to 80 participants. Register on the NOTL Public Library's website.



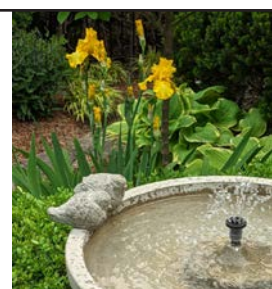
Peter Warrack, seen here with Gov. Gen. Mary Simon in Rideau Hall, Ottawa will lead the session on May 27. FILE



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Contributed by Patty Garriock

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Limbering up for soccer



Kids from the NOTL soccer club's house league were eager to register for one of two special pre-season training sessions on Sunday afternoon. Led by the Brock Badgers team captain and head women's soccer coach, players led drills and honed their skills during the two-hour sessions. JULIA SACCO

Editorial

A fairer wage for town councillors

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Being a local councillor can be a thankless job.

With the reading workload, complex issues, the stress of long hours at endless meetings (and the anger sometimes from upset constituents), who would do it for \$16,000 or even \$20,000 a year?

Yes, it's important to give back to the community or stand for the job because you feel you have something to contribute. But in this modern age, constituents also expect professionalism and engagement from their civic leaders.

There just seems to be a reluctance to pay for it.

The reality is that municipal politicians deal with more issues day in and day out that directly affect each and every one of us than those elected to senior levels of government.

There, the jobs and accompanying status hold much more cachet, but the influence and independence or influence that individual MPs or MPPs have is minimal thanks to the party system. There are no party whips at the town council level.

And higher up the ladder, the compensation (and pensions!) are substantially enhanced.

At the municipal level, it really is grassroots politics, but frankly it often feels like those who set our tax rate, fix our potholes and debate development applications are given little respect. Voter turnout at civic elections is usually the lowest of all levels of government.

Being the lowest tier of elected office (perhaps second only to school trustee or hydro commissioner, in jurisdictions where that is an elected post), town councillors are also among the lowest-paid.

And whenever they have the gall to suggest they should be paid more, there are some who readily call them out or denigrate the desire to be compensated just a wee bit more.

Not fairly compensated, mind you, because that could mean annual salaries of \$40,000 or \$50,000 or a lot more.

That's why, in principle, we don't object to Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors voting to increase their stipend to \$20,000 a year — from just over \$16,000.

They still earn far less than Ontario's hourly minimum wage and say what you will about "they knew what the pay was when they ran for office," if we want good people who are dedicated to helping their community, we should pay them fairly.

However, the town should adopt and follow a more formal and less ad hoc way of assessing and determining future salary increases for councillors.

There are many ways this can be done and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake would be wise to look into what some other jurisdictions do.

Perhaps there should be a committee of residents tasked with examining the salaries paid in other municipalities and making recommendations accordingly. (Though if the entire small-town sector is already underpaid, that might not be a productive or fair way of assessing salary increments.)

Or council could review compensation in the third year of its mandate and pass increases that take effect when the new council is elected. That way council-

lors are not necessarily directly increasing their own pay packet.

Or perhaps set a predetermined wage increment plan to hike salaries by a prescribed percentage over a certain number of years to try to boost NOTL councillors' pay to a more respectable level — perhaps eventually reaching \$30,000 a year.

Or some combination of these or better ideas.

We don't know what the ultimate answer or amount is. But a few years ago NOTL councillors were earning around \$14,000, an embarrassingly low stipend. Now they are up to \$20,000, a bit more realistic wage.

To those who say "our taxes are already high" — well, that's true. But the \$30,000 this increase will cost the town treasury is a drop in the proverbial bucket of a multi-million-dollar budget.

There are plenty of other areas in which savings can be found. Let's have some dedicated and decently compensated councillors capable of making those tough choices, if and when necessary.

editor@niagaranow.com

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Many parallels between Gaza and the Troubles in Northern Ireland

Dear editor:

The letters to the editor in The Lake Report over the past several weeks regarding the tragic war in Gaza have expressed many viewpoints. This is in reply to all of them.

I tend to view the war in Gaza through the lens of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The terrorist group, the Irish Republican Army had never recognized Northern Ireland as a separate entity within the island of Ireland and part of the United Kingdom as Hamas doesn't recognize Israel.

From 1969 to 1998, the IRA waged a bloody

campaign to reunify Ireland under a Dublin government.

They had some support in the Nationalist (Catholic) community in Northern Ireland after decades of discrimination by the Unionist (Protestant) government in Belfast.

They achieved terrorist "goals" that Hamas could only dream about: 2,000 souls killed, 30,000 injured and billions of pounds worth of commercial property destroyed.

They almost succeeded in assassinating Margaret Thatcher but did kill four of her staff as well as the

wife of one of her cabinet ministers.

In a separate attack, they killed the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by planting a bomb in his car. It blew up in the House of Commons parking lot.

But their most spectacular act of terror was the killing of the Queen's cousin, Lord Louis Mountbatten, his grandson and a young Irish lad helping out on their fishing boat in the west of Ireland in 1979.

Yet despite these multiple atrocities, the IRA realized this was an unwinnable war and was persuaded with the help of third parties to come

to the table with their arch-enemy, the Ulster Unionists.

They forged the Good Friday agreement, which, despite a few wobbles, has held.

The moral of this is that Israel (probably not Netanyahu) must talk to Hamas or its successor if a long-term peace agreement is to be reached.

However with 38,000 Palestinians dead, thousands more likely to die from starvation and disease, and Gaza uninhabitable, there may be nobody left to talk to.

**Richard James
NOTL**

Constant rezoning of properties shouldn't be allowed in NOTL

Dear editor:

I am not against the King Street condominium project nor against its approval by the Ontario Land Tribunal, ("Controversial King St. condo approved by land tribunal," The Lake Report, May 2).

What bothers me is the constant rezoning of properties.

In this case, it permits a jump in density, exemption from rear and front yard setbacks and removes the requirement for a children's play area.

These are not minor issues.

How many of our tax dollars were spent to create an official plan, only for the municipality to allow most major builds to have exemptions?

By sticking to the rules, we eliminate the need for tax dollars to be spent on these time-consuming issues. That also could eliminate the need for some staff — and thus save taxpayers' money.

Builders should first follow the rules that apply to the property on which they wish to build and then build accordingly.

**Susan Pohorly
NOTL**

Chapter two in a journalism career

Richard Wright
The Lake Report

Hello, Niagara-on-the-Lake. It's a pleasure to be here. I am the latest Richard to join The Lake Report's editorial staff. Richard Wright, to be precise.

And no, not that Richard Wright. I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting the esteemed NOTL author with whom I share a name. I have to say it is on my bucket list, though. Perhaps he and I will speak about the times he's been mistaken for me.

I jest.

It's been five weeks now that I have been chasing stories around the community, and for a number of reasons, it's been five weeks of nostalgic and professional joy.

You see, there was a time when I thought my journalism career was over. I got my start in the newspaper business in 1994 fresh out of journalism school.

I packed my 1976 Mercury Monarch, picked up my TripTik from the CAA (I am sure many of you remember those; they were the personalized note-pad-like precursor to GPS) and left Niagara for Alberta.

My first job was at a

weekly newspaper in Slave Lake. It might as well have been the moon, for all I knew.

Man, that was a culture shock. Northern Alberta is nothing like southern Ontario. But in the end, that's what made it so great for a young guy like me out there trying to start a career.

It was there I cut my teeth as the only reporter for a paper much like the one I work for now. I covered everything: civic news, court, sports, general news ... You name it, I was on it.

But there was a gig that I really wanted to specialize in, the reason I got into journalism in the first place.

I am a sports guy, always have been. I played almost every sport on an organized level. I've coached and now I am a referee with the Niagara District Basketball Referees Association.

Anyway, after a few more stints covering community news for papers in small-town Alberta, I got my first job as a full-time sports writer with Fort McMurray Today. If Slave Lake was the dark side of the moon, Fort McMurray was Mars.

But it was a growing community, a daily newspaper, had a Junior A hockey team,

a vibrant high school sports scene and because it was so remote, there were plenty of community-based sports to keep a guy like me busy.

I finished the first chapter of my journalism career with the Edmonton Sun as an editor and writer for the tabloid's special sections department.

I also created a weekly Alberta Junior Hockey League column, coverage that had never been published before in the Sun. I was, and am, particularly proud of that.

Junior A hockey is a big thing in Alberta and deserves the attention normally reserved for major junior.

But for anyone in the newspaper business, 2007 will be remembered as a time of change. It was the year the internet finally caught up with print journalism.

I was in denial the whole time.

What? People are going to read the news on tablets and their phones? Pfft! Never. Everyone loves to have that hard copy with their morning coffee or after-work beer.

That's another reason I like The Lake Report and

its readers. Y'all still read the paper. It's so nice to go to the Tim Hortons right down the street from the newsroom and see everyone sitting with a copy and their heads in the news.

So, 2007 is when Sun Media began its aggressive workforce changes. I lost my job along with 500 other staffers across the country.

The changes to print journalism since then are well-documented.

I have to give another nod to Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean here at The Lake Report for keeping tradition alive and doing such a good job at it.

More print newspapers continue to fall by the wayside every year. But here The Lake Report is thriving — kudos.

After the Sun I moved into corporate communications, media relations — seven years in the post-secondary industry and four years with the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce made up the bulk of my time in that world.

In 2019, with my kids grown and my aging mother still here in Niagara, old friends still around to welcome me back, I made the return home.



The Lake Report's new reporter Richard Wright is also a basketball referee in Niagara. SUPPLIED

I took a couple years off work, picked up some temporary positions along the way and enjoyed being able to live and play in Niagara, my birthplace.

And one day I saw an ad for a reporter's position at a small paper in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Jump ahead and here I am, back to where it all started, professionally and personally.

I hope I can do this paper some justice. I learned very quickly that it is only a small-town newspaper in its description. Its leadership and dedication to excellence and covering the hard news with integrity and bite is admirable.

I am learning a lot all over again. So far this second chapter of my journal-

ism career has opened as a page-turner.

I got to break the story on Zeus the abducted cat in my first two weeks! Watch out Pulitzer, here I come, straight off the back of the missing feline.

But seriously, I am glad he's back home with his owners.

And I'm glad to be home, too.

Niagara is a wonderful place and NOTL is a wonderful community. Thank you to everyone I have met so far.

You have all made my short time here enjoyable and I hope to stick around for a while.

Richard Wright writes primarily about the agriculture and business sectors for The Lake Report.



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The cost of upgrading our roads **caught up to us**



ARCHITEXT

Brian Marshall
Columnist

While the provincial government shovels money into “sexy” capital infrastructure projects — like the unnecessary and largely unwanted roundabout in St. Davids, which is projected to cost somewhere between \$3.9 million and \$12 million — the lowest tier governments are largely abandoned to struggle with funding the maintenance and updating of an aging automotive transportation infrastructure.

For the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, according to a report paid for by taxpayers and produced by 4 Roads Management Services, the cost to replace the town’s road system will equal \$8.5 million annually — an amount that our collective pocketbooks will need to fund over the next 50 years.

This, of course, is predicated on the assumption that we will continue to double down on the current model of depending on the automobile as our primary method of transportation and maintenance of the asphalt & concrete infrastructure upon which it depends.

Should we follow this path, don’t be surprised if, next year and every year thereafter into the foreseeable future, your property tax bill goes up substantially.

Now, allow me to say that this is not solely due to financial mismanagement by past and current local councils, although they do bear some of the responsibility.

In reality, all levels of government in this country over the last 100 years have, with singular focus, pushed us down the automotive rabbit hole for at least five decades now, financing this



The Niagara Falls Park & River Railway ran an electric train in late 19th and early 20th century between Chippawa and Queenston, later ran by International Railway Company. It ceased its service to Queenston in 1932. SUPPLIED

with deficit spending at the provincial and federal levels.

Here’s a “fun” — but sad — fact: on a per capita basis, Canada spends more than twice as much as the United States on this type of infrastructure.

According to a research paper the University of Calgary published in 2023, entitled “Canadian Competitiveness for Infrastructure Investment,” our infrastructure deficit — the investment required to expand, upgrade, or rehabilitate the municipal infrastructure system that has been deferred because it exceeds the municipality’s current funding capacity — now stands at approximately \$600 billion.

There is very little comfort in the fact that the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is far from alone in dealing with this financial crisis, as municipalities across this country face an identical challenge.

But, what decisions led us to the edge of the precipice at which we we currently stand?

The full answer to that question is far too complex for the space available in this column, but there are a couple that which we can explore.

So, let’s begin by going back to the first quarter of the 20th century and

looking at the power driven transportation options available to those who lived and worked in the geographical area now known as Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On Old Town’s King Street, two sets of rails ran side-by-side up the road.

On one set, the Michigan Central’s train from Buffalo would rumble down the rails belching steam and coal smoke to the station and turntable located near the docks just before noon and then make the return journey out of town around 2 p.m.

The other set of rails was there for the use of the Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto Railway, which ran an electric train — both passenger and freight streetcars — service from its Old Town station at King and Market streets (today’s Balzac’s) to the Geneva Square terminal in St. Catharines (Welland & Geneva streets).

Along the way, there were 10 official passenger stations where people and freight (local farm produce destined for non-local buyers) could embark, exit or be loaded.

From the St. Catharines terminal, electric train cars travelled out to service the downtown area, while other lines serviced other locations in the surrounding area.

The Low Line service

ran out to Merritton and Thorold, the High Line on the Welland Division travelled all the way down to Port Colbourne, the Port Dalhousie Division crossed Twelve Mile Creek Road and Martindale Pond, then followed Lakeshore into the village, and finally, the Grantham Division ran north to cross the old Welland Canal and then northwest to terminate in Port Dalhousie East.

A similar electric train system, initially operated by Niagara Falls Park & River Railway and later by International Railway Company, plied a double set of rails between Chippawa and Queenston, with passenger traffic peaking in 1923 at 1,951,000.

Between these two companies and several others, the Niagara peninsula could be easily navigated by rail during this period.

So, what happened?

A number of factors including questionable management, the Great Depression and the advent of the automotive imperative, with a resultant decrease in ridership, which lead to the end of the electric rail transit systems in Niagara.

In 1931, the Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto Railway abandoned its service into Old Town and the following year, the International Railway

Company ceased its service into Queenston, leaving automotive transportation as the only alternative for the people living in areas of what would become NOTL during the rest of the 20th century.

This leads us to the roads, which were almost exclusively gravel or hard-pack.

In the 1920s, Queen Street became the first paved road in NOTL but few others were.

If you turned the corner at Centre and Mississauga streets in 1956, you’d not notice any difference — both were gravel.

The paving of town roads largely took place in the second half of the 20th century.

Now, whether or not that was a wise decision is debatable.

According to industry sources, the cost of constructing a municipal gravel road is approximately one-tenth (or less) that of a paved road.

In the 1960s, the general belief was that paved roads would cost much less to maintain and therefore it made sense to swallow the high upfront cost because that investment would be paid back over time.

Unfortunately, that has not proven to be the case.

While the first few years after construction a paved road shows a substantially

lower maintenance cost versus gravel, over time, that trend reverses itself.

In the most conservative paper I am aware of, titled “Gravel Roads Maintenance and Design Manual” and published by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2000, the cost of paved road maintenance is actually over 25 per cent higher than maintaining a gravel road.

A relatively simple repaving of existing roads currently runs at a thumbnail estimate of \$1 million per mile.

However, that cost number can escalate significantly if the deeper ditches and higher volume storm water management systems required by the impermeable roads — plus other considerations — do not conform to today’s requirements and must be brought up to current standards.

Simply read, that \$1 million may double in order to conform to today’s best practices.

Here at home, our existent paved roads have reached (and passed) their expected life span and the bill is coming in at \$8.5 million per year over the next 50 years (and, we must understand, that cost estimate is in 2022 dollars).

We have been living beyond our means for decades — and since government bankruptcy isn’t a practical option — a fundamental rethink is critical.

Perhaps there should be some consideration given to returning a certain percentage of our roads to gravel.

I grew up with gravel roads and my first house in King Township fronted on a gravel road — quite frankly, it’s not all that bad.

And, a real public transit option with a zipcar (or similar) interface would be invaluable.

If the federal and provincial governments are so keen on funding capital infrastructure projects, there’s one that might actually make sense.

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



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Infrastructure funding gap a legacy of provincial and federal governments' cuts

Dear editor:

Yes, NOTL is falling behind in updating our infrastructure as is pretty much every other municipality in Canada, ("Bumpy road ahead to fund better town infrastructure," The Lake Report, May 2).

In the last 50 years, both the federal and provincial governments have abdicated their responsibilities by downloading the onus for services to the municipal level while at the same time stopping the funding.

Furthermore, it has been a herculean task to keep up with all of the other social services that the senior levels used to fund. Hence some municipalities have people living in tents under overpasses and in parks.

Worse, our provincial government has now embarked on severely limiting



Bob Bader says Doug Ford's government should be held to account for pushing infrastructure responsibilities to the municipal level, while simultaneously cutting funding. FILE

the local municipalities' ability to plan, control and fund development by virtue of its Bill 185 and revisions to the provincial policy statement.

Rather than fretting about how Niagara-on-the-Lake can keep up with paying for roads, bridges and culverts without quadrupling property taxes, we and the rest of the citizens of Ontario

should be holding the government of Doug Ford to account.

How many roads and bridges could be funded through vehicle licence fees? Stop buying votes with phony giveaways that we will all have to pay for in the end.

On a further note, the other controversial discussion of the April 30 council

meeting should not have been controversial in the least, "NOTL councillors vote to raise annual salary to \$20,000".

Our municipal councillors are underpaid and deserve much more than the increase they voted for themselves.

Anyone who follows the council meetings and various committees of council can attest to the hours and commitment of our elected municipal representatives.

By the way, any citizen who wants to can still submit comments for a few more days to the Environmental Registry of Ontario on Bill 185 and the provincial policy statement, at ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-8369 and ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-8462 respectively.

Bob Bader
NOTL

Questions about effectiveness of region's speed cams

Dear editor:

I read the article, "Speed cameras doing their job: Region," with interest.

Full disclosure, I have not yet been ticketed nor charged with a photo offence.

I have a lengthy safety and risk management background and I wouldn't jump to the conclusions that the region has quite so quickly, particularly if your article reported all the data contained in the regional report.

Before declaring victory, I would like to see the ticket issuance data in terms of

number of tickets handed out per each 100 (or 1,000) cars moving through the strip of road covered by the camera on York Road on a weekly or monthly basis, perhaps further sub-divided by the hour in which the offences occurred.

If the traffic levels dropped more than they usually do in Niagara-on-the-Lake between September and December, where are the vehicles going?

For example, when the camera was activated on York Road in St. Davids, I stopped using the part of

York Road between Tanbark and Four Mile Creek Road.

There are two very convenient alternate routes that ensure I don't have to know whether the posted speed limit is 40 km/h or 50 km/h. I wonder if traffic on these alternate routes has increased?

And finally, the objective of speed reduction efforts is (or should be) to reduce the frequency and severity of traffic accidents and near-misses.

So, I wonder how that's going? I also would be interested

in a comparison of visitor versus local ticket numbers. That might help determine where to aim further mitigation measures.

I know 181 sounds like a lot of tickets issued in a month, but that works out to one ticket every four hours on average in September and one every 12 hours in December (if the system is working 24/7).

I wonder if the \$500,000 budgeted for this safety program is being spent in the most effective way?

Kenn Moody
St. Davids

Council was right to grant entrepreneur a reprieve

Dear editor:

I am writing regarding The Lake Report's May 2 story, Council reinstates rental licence despite record of non-compliance.

I came to this wonderful country in March of 1952 from Germany.

I was 17-and-a-half years old at the time. My 19-year-old brother and I bought a lot and built a 1.5-storey garage. We had a building permit, which included a

note saying, "Not for human habitation."

By October of the same year, we proudly moved into our garage. It was clearly a bylaw infraction.

Soon thereafter we got a building permit to build a house, which made everything legal.

In 1963, I built Lincoln Feed & Farm Supply Ltd. on Niagara Stone Road, now Minor Bros./MB Country Living.

The site plan stipulated, "No outside storage." We could not abide by that. Today, it is permissible.

This brings us to Marlene Gallyot's problem as outlined in your story. Her profession is wedding officiant.

Apparently this leads to requests for weddings to be held at her property. That is a normal part of entrepreneurship.

I praise town council for its reasonable response. However,

a permanent solution must be found for a legal continuation of Gallyot's operation.

Coun. Erwin Wiens had it right when he said, "It's a big hammer to put someone out of business."

And I say, "You can take everything from the entrepreneur except his or her freedom."

We need entrepreneurs in our community.

Hans Wiens
NOTL

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That's the spirit: College's teaching distillery wins big

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara College's teaching distillery has added seven new medals to its growing collection — the most it has ever won in a single competition.

Of the 10 spirits entered into the 2024 Canadian Artisan Spirit Competition last summer, the distillery earned seven: a gold medal for its Mediterranean vodka, a silver (and merit in terroir) for its Taylor Rosso Vermouth, and bronze medals for its Amaro Sparacci, Tanzanite Gin, School Spirits Vodka, Single Malt and Eastern Hospitality.

The winners announced by the Artisan Distillers of Canada included dozens of professional distilleries from across the country.

Steve Gill, general manager of the college's learning enterprises, said the teaching distillery's win is an "outstanding accomplishment" and a testament



Tanzanite Gin, produced by, from left, Santosh Giri, Francis Mlingi, Anita Malla and Harjot Sethi, won a bronze medal at the 2024 Canadian Artisan Spirit Competition. SUPPLIED

to its program of applied learning.

"Our trailblazing teaching distillery continues to shine at national and international competitions because the students behind the entries are excelling at the skills they're learning at Niagara College," he said in a media release.

These spirits are available alongside a variety of student-created products from the teaching distillery, teaching brewery and teaching winery, while supplies last, at the college's wine and visitor education centre.

The centre is at the Daniel J. Patterson campus on Taylor Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Simon Raj, who helped create the gold medal-winning Mediterranean vodka alongside classmates Disha Bhendwal, Manpreet Kaur and Jeewanjot Kaur, described the win as "an absolute honour."

"It was something unimagined and unbelievable," said Raj, who is originally from Bokaro Steel City, India.

Mediterranean vodka is a neutral spirit with very little sugar but several spices that

are often found in Mediterranean cooking, including basil, mint, lemon and coriander.

The complex flavour and aroma of the different spices and herbs made it tricky to get the proportions just right, Raj said.

"The major challenge (we) faced was to get the composition of these four spices right," he said. "We had to make extracts of each spice separately and in different concentrations of (alcohol by volume) neutral spirit. There was a total of five trials done for us to reach the final proposition for the spirit."

Eastern Hospitality, one of five spirits that earned a bronze medal, was inspired by the flavour profile of shochu, a Japanese distilled spirit made from grains and vegetables.

The koji process is used in the production of shochu. It's a confirmation process not commonly used in North America that uses another microbe to help take over the role of the

breakdown of the sugars in the process.

Elisa Lavigna, one of four students who worked on the spirit, said it was tricky to work with rice flakes.

"The main challenges we encountered through our project included working with rice flakes and their different response to standard processing, understanding what the best approach was to incorporate koji in our making process, and last but not least, having proper time management to have every component sufficiently aged and blended by the required deadline," Lavigna said.

The distillery's silver medal-winning Taylor Rosso vermouth is a favourite of head distiller David Dickson, who said it has some "bigger, bolder flavours."

"We actually used some fortified port-style wine that we teamed up with the distiller in the winery to make," he said.

As for the bronze medal winners, Tanzanite gin

was inspired by the classic London dry style with some flavours of the newer style of gin, Dickson said. Aged with cherry wood chips, the spirit has some wood character but is still "bright and refreshing."

The Single malt whisky is now an end-of-term production for first-term students, Dickson continued. It's made every first semester but takes three years to age.

The School Spirits vodka is the distillery's standard vodka with a clean, neutral profile. The key ingredient in the Amaro sparacci is asparagus.

Dickson said he's proud of the students' accomplishments — not just because of the wins, but because of the work put into the spirits.

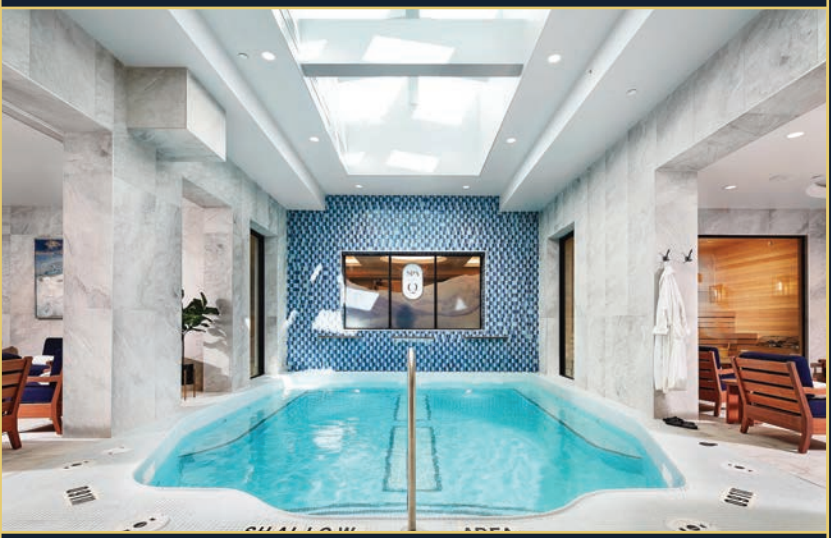
"With the amount of time we have to develop these projects and everything that goes into them, it's so impressive — the quality that the students are able to achieve," he said. "Releasing them is one of the happiest days of the year for me."

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Chamber names **interim** executive director

Staff
The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake has appointed Kathy Weiss as its new interim executive director.

Weiss replaces Minerva Ward, who suddenly departed as president of the chamber in mid-April.

Board chair Andrew Niven announced Weiss's appointment Wednesday afternoon, noting she has "an extensive background in both Chamber of Commerce and tourism management, as well as economic development."

He noted the organization is beginning to finalize its strategic and tactical marketing plans.

"With a passion for driving business growth and promoting the unique cul-

tural and historical offerings of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Kathy is well-equipped to lead the organization forward during this critical period of revitalization," Niven said.

She starts in the job on May 20.

Weiss spent two years as a project facilitator with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake working on its tourism strategy. For the past year she has been a director with Hickey Global Canada.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake holds a special place in the hearts of residents and visitors alike," Weiss said in a statement.

"I am committed to working closely with the board and stakeholders to promote our community's rich cultural heritage and support the growth of our local economy."



Kathy Weiss is the interim director of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL. SUPPLIED

Annual police **food drive** teams up with Newark



Staff
The Lake Report


As part of this year's National Police Week, the Niagara Regional Police Service is gearing up for its fourth-annual spring food drive, which will make a stop in Niagara-on-the-Lake on May 16.

In three years, Spring Forward Food Drive has collected 51,044 pounds, or 23,153 kilograms, in food and \$35,113 in cash/gift cards donations from members of the public and businesses.

Niagara officers with the police service's community engagement unit have once

again partnered with 10 local food banks and 13 local grocery stores in an effort to help support the demand for food and donations within Niagara.

They will be at Newark Neighbours, located at 1551 Niagara Stone Rd., on Thursday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. collect donations.



RIDDLE ME THIS

This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.
Category: IT'S A SCIENCE

Atmospheric sciences include climatology and this, the study and forecasting of the weather.

Last issue:
Category: THE ANIMAL KINGDOM
Clue: Meerkats aren't felines. They're in the family named for these cobra fighters.
Answer: What is a mongoose?
Answered first by: Bill Hamilton
Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jane Morris, Claudia Grimwood, Margie Enns, Lynda Collet, Mike Gander, Bob Wheatley, Catherine Clarke, Susan Dewar, Katie Reimer, Jim Dandy, Pam Dowling, Nancy Rocca, Wade Durling, Hedy Wiebe, Marla Percy, Sue Rautenberg, Daniel Smith, Tuija Johansson, Elaine Landray, Howard Jones, Sheila Meloche

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Walk, drive, run to NOTL's inaugural **Studio Tour**

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Known for its theatre, wine, history and natural beauty, Niagara-on-the-Lake has so much to offer that it's hard to imagine needing anything else.

But like a good glass of Chardonnay or an intense performance-ending scene, it's very easy to crave just one more.

That's the thought of a group of local artists who will usher in the community's first NOTL-specific community showcase of the fine arts June 1 and 2.

Known simply as the NOTL Studio Tour, organizers hope it will add to local pride, artist exposure and to the destination wish lists of tourists across the region and beyond.

"There are four of us who get together for lunch and one day we just sort of looked at each other and said, 'Why couldn't we do a studio tour?'" said organizer Barb Zimmermann, who, along with her husband Ron, owns and operates Zimmermann Pottery in NOTL.

"This region puts a lot of its spotlight on the theatre, which is fantastic, and the wineries are a big driver of



Patricia Haftar, seen in her home studio, is part of a group of local artists who will oversee the first Studio Tour on June 1 and 2. RICHARD WRIGHT

the economy, music gets a lot of attention, but there hasn't been the same energy, in my mind, focused on the fine arts," she adds.

"We want people to think about artwork now too."

A total of 28 artists will take part. The tour will stretch through 16 locations on three different routes.

"We have potters, we have glass people, we have wood working people and all manner of painting," adds

Patricia Haftar, another organizer and painter of acrylics, water colours and mixed media collage work.

"Our vision is that this will continue for many years to come and attract people to the area and to Niagara-on-the-Lake specifically."

Meandering through NOTL's common, residential and even rural areas, the tour is meant to be a marathon more than a sprint.

Haftar, a retired teacher who as a young child picked up the love of painting from her grandmother, wants people to take their time and to explore not only the various sites, but to get a feel for the character of the artists, their inspirations and, of course, their work.

For her, art is the ultimate expression of individuality, creativity and familiarity.

"Why do this tour? It's

just because this is what we do. If you look at our work, and this may sound strange to some people, but this is us. This is who we are," she said.

"If you look at the choice of topics that we use, it is usually places we are familiar with, places we have been or places we have a history with," she continued pointing to a painting of hers that mirrors a scene she remembers of her

grandmother's cottage on Lake Muskoka.

"Art creates emotion and that's what we want to share."

Haftar believes that for most people, it will take at least a full day to visit all the locations, but recommends taking it slow and visiting all over the two days.

To find out more about the tour, its artists, locations and routes, visit notlstudiotour.com.

Mimosa Day
Fundraiser

All proceeds from Mimosa sales during *May 13 - 17* will be donated to Red Roof Retreat.



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Swifties bond over drinks and tunes at Limited Distillery

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

Swifties flocked to Limited Distillery and SRC Vinyl on Sunday in Virgil for a special edition of the Spin the Black Circle series.

Sunday was the third episode of Limited Distillery's special themed afternoons where musical food and drink are served while spinning the vinyl of a particular artist.

Other Spin the Black Circle afternoons highlighted Pearl Jam and Queen, but last Sunday's was focused on all things Taylor Swift.

David Waddington and his family came from St. Catharines to listen to some music and grab some new records.

"I'm a Swiftie dad," Waddington told The Lake Report as he sifted through the selection of vinyl.

His daughters — 12-year-old Sylvia and nine-year-old Esther — weren't able to get tickets to the coveted Eras



"Swiftie dad" David Waddington searches through Taylor Swift records to add to his daughters' collection. JULIA SACCO

Tour, so this was a nice way for them to enjoy the music together.

"I like her because she sings about life and she doesn't lie," Esther told The Lake Report.

Fans of all ages came by to enjoy the tunes.

Meaghen Calder and Kristi Elia from NOTL enjoyed Florida Creamsickle mocktails and shared plans about their upcoming trip to take in the Eras Tour in

Toronto in November.

Elia is a regular at SRC Vinyl and said she was told about the listening session the last time she visited the store.

There are more sessions to come — for all different artists.

Keep your eye on the website at limiteddistillery.com/products/spin-the-black-circle-sundays to find out what artist will be featured at the next one on June 2.

RiverBrink's **spring exhibitions** debut May 11

Staff
The Lake Report

The RiverBrink Art Museum is celebrating the arrival of spring this Saturday with the opening of two new exhibitions by two modern Canadian artists.

The dual solo exhibitions, opening May 11 from 3 to 5 p.m., are Millie Chen's "Turbulence," a collection of new drawings and older work, and Dianne Davis' "We live the opposite dar(l)ing," which combines photography, drawing and installations.

Chen's "Turbulence" dives into the relationship between "phenomenon, history, social justice and sorrow," according to RiverBrink's description of the exhibition.

The series emerges from years of walking along both banks of the Niagara River and focuses on sites that have historic and symbolic significance, depicted in the turbulence created by underwater disturbances — a connection to turbulence, or unrest, in life and history.

The title is named after a new series of her drawings,



From left, Mille Chen's "Turbulence" dives into the relationship between "phenomenon, history, social justice and sorrow," while Dianne Davis' "We live the opposite dar(l)ing" is a reimagining of RiverBrink's history from a queer perspective. SUPPLIED

with the first three works in the series to be included in the exhibiton, along with her older works dating back to 2013.

Davis' "We live the opposite dar(l)ing" is a reimagining of the history of RiverBrink, an "alternative history," RiverBrink states, with imaginary characters who make up an invented historical queer community in Niagara.

These characters and

relationships pay homage to queer artists from the past and Davis' current community (she was born in Niagara and based in Toronto).

This is the third installment of a series the artist started in 2017.

The exhibition opening on Saturday is one of several events RiverBrink has slated this spring and summer, with a garden party, jewellery workshop, studio tour,

art installation festival and kids' summer art camp also coming up.

To RSVP for the spring exhibition opening, contact RiverBrink administrator Janet Zylstra at jzylstra@riverbrink.org. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit riverbrink.org/upcoming-exhibitions. The RiverBrink Art Museum is located at 116 Queenston St. in Queenston.



Willowbank's online open house is May 16. FILE

Willowbank hosts **virtual open house** for prospective students

Staff
The Lake Report

Willowbank is hosting a virtual open house this month, aiming to attract people who want to learn more about the Queenston school's heritage conservation diploma program.

The deadline for applications is Friday, May 31 and the online open house will be broadcast on Thursday, May 16 from 7:30 to 8.30 p.m.

During the session Katie Houghton, director of marketing and business affairs at Willowbank, will speak about the history of the site

and the school, while president Dr. Faisal Arain will discuss the program's structure, curriculum, outcomes and careers.

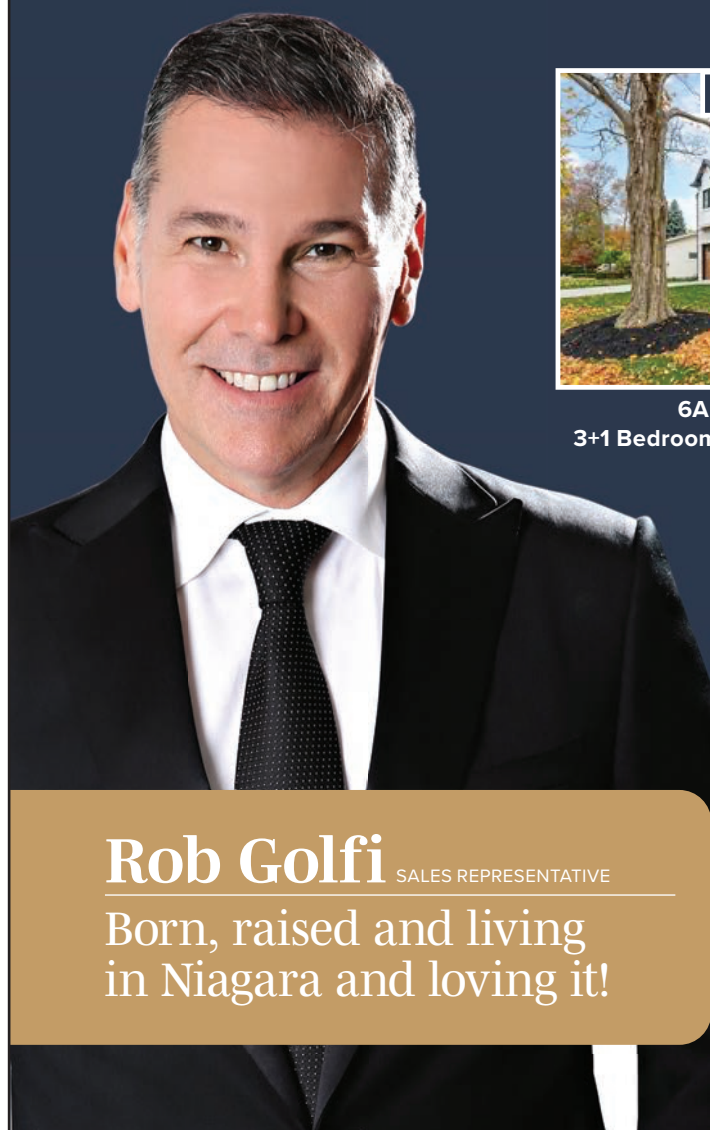
In addition, Bianca Verrecchia, a Willowbank alum, member of the faculty and a heritage planner with the Town of Grimsby, will talk about the Willowbank experience and how it has shaped her career.

Houghton also will address scholarships, bursaries, grants, European Summer Schools program and the application process.

The link for the virtual gathering is bit.ly/3UGVdGn.

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Horticultural society's annual plant sale is a sure sign of spring

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Big business retailers have Black Friday. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society has Green Saturday.

While not its official name, the society's annual spring plant sale, being held this year on May 11 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil, is one of those door-crasher events that amateur and professional greenthumbs alike have marked on their calendars for months.

"When we set up on Friday we have to make sure we have a barrier at the front and a pathway through (into the entrance)," said the society's president Cindy Grant.

"We open the, quote unquote, gates at 9 o'clock (on Saturday) and they are lined up down the parking lot and

around the corner."

"Get there early," she advises.

Featuring annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables and fruits, the sale is where the sights and smells of spring meet the masses, helping to turn NOTL and area yards, homes and businesses into a sea of colour and flair.

All of the plants available for purchase are locally sourced, either through regional wholesalers or from the yards of area residents.

"We ask our members to transplant and donate extras that they have in their gardens," said Grant.

"It's a wide variety of things. For example, I am going to be donating some iris and Solomon's seal. People know that the plants are coming from good gardens."

What people may not know, she added, is that a



The NOTL Horticultural Society is bringing back its annual spring plant sale on Saturday at the Virgil arena. FILE

large portion of the proceeds from the sale, the Gardener's Garden Tour in July and a third event later in the summer, go back into the community.

"This year most of the money that we are able to make from both the plant sale and the garden tour and another fundraiser that we are hosting at Kent (Heritage) Farms at the end of July are going to support

two scholarships, one at the Niagara College School of Horticulture and the other at Niagara Parks School of Horticulture."

Shoppers won't have to break the bank in order to support their own gardening needs or the futures of two fortunate students.

Many of the plants at the sale can be purchased for under \$10. The sale ends at noon.



2024 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE Interim Second Installment due May 15, 2024 Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 2024-004

Payment Options:

- By **mail** or **post-dated cheque** to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil ON, L0S 1T0)
- **In-person** or via **front or side entrance drop box** at the Town Administration Building (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil)
- **Electronically** from a bank account using your 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.

If you did not receive a tax notice, please call the Town at 905-468-3266 ext. 0 to ensure your correct mailing address and P.O. Box number are on file. To avoid penalties and interest charges, the Town must receive payment by May 15, 2024. On the first day of default and every month after, a 1.25% penalty will be added. Penalties will not be waived.

To save time and potential late fees, pay your taxes through a Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan, online or through telephone banking. You can also request to receive property tax bills and Town notices by email. For more information, please visit www.notl.com/council-government/property-taxes. Thank you.



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

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

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

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

By-law No. 2024-029
By-law No. 2024-030

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

Christ Church McNab, 1294-1296 McNab Road
Glencairn Hall, 14795 Niagara River Parkway

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
this 8th day of May, 2024

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk



Sue Rumsey's Leafs display is packed away after they lost to the Boston Bruins. FILE

Leafs superfan packs away lawn sign

Staff
The Lake Report

Sue Rumsey isn't planning on changing teams any time soon.

Despite the Toronto Maple Leafs elimination from the NHL playoffs thanks to a 2-1 overtime loss to the Boston Bruins in Game 7, Rumsey remains positive.

Her popular "Go Leafs Go" lawn sign on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil was

removed after the final game, though.

"We took it down first thing the next morning before any cars were driving by," Rumsey told The Lake Report.

Her sign was changed twice during the playoffs, reading "Set the 63 Rat Trap," referencing Boston captain Brad Marchand's sweater number.

Before the final game, the sign got another makeover to read, "The Woll is Built,

Game 7 Win!" in honour of Leafs goalie Joseph Woll, who ended up not playing in Game 7.

Rumsey added that she still has her sign ready for next season — just in case.

"We'll move on to next year and hope things are different," she said.

Until then, Rumsey said she is hoping for another Canadian team to pull through — either the Edmonton Oilers or the Vancouver Canucks.



Thwaites asparagus is available at their farm stand on Firelane 11. RICHARD WRIGHT

Thwaites asparagus is on sale now

Continued from Front Page

people start messaging for asparagus," said Nelson Thwaites, a next-generation producer with the farm also known for producing grapes, pears, peaches and nectarines.

"Today, people were lining up before 10. There are a lot of happy people."

On day two of the spring season, at midday on Saturday, Thwaites' stock of stalks was replenished and still plentiful as a steady stream of

happy customers lined up.

The popular stand will be open seven days a week until the end of asparagus season, usually in June.

Grocery stores, restaurants, market retailers and the public all have the start of the asparagus season marked on their calendars.

"I've been waiting for two weeks for this," said one gentleman as he was handed two bursting bags of the vegetable crop.

Thwaites Farms grows the product on its Norfolk

County properties and then brings it to its packing and distribution site in NOTL where it is available to eager Niagara customers.

On Friday, trucks were bustling in and out of the location and Thwaites himself could barely find a minute to talk before having to run to the commercial loading area to help another large-order customer.

"It's the kick off to the local season," he said. "They want it in the store as quickly as they can get it."

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Worker mobility **key concern** with changes to temporary foreign worker program

Richard Wright
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Proposed changes to Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program that will directly affect thousands of Niagara-on-the-Lake seasonal workers won't come soon enough and don't go far enough, says the head of one of Ontario's leading advocacy groups for migrant workers.

"The changes that are being floated aren't going to come into effect until 2027," said Syed Hussan, executive director of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change.

"What we need today is for the federal government to ensure permanent resident status."

Permanent residency allows people to live, work and study in Canada for an indefinite period, putting them on a much easier trajectory to full citizenship status, which they can apply for after three years.

Temporary residency permits foreign nationals to stay in Canada for a limited time. Most NOTL seasonal workers are only here months before they are being required to return to their home countries.

Both have protection



Left: William Arias Sanchel, from Mexico, prunes a grapevine on Lakeshore Road. He is one of thousands of temporary foreign workers in the region who do not have permanent residency in Canada. RICHARD WRIGHT
Above: Syed Hussan, executive director of the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change. SUPPLIED

under Canadian law and access to social benefits such as health care. Neither are allowed to vote or run for public office.

The current proposed changes to the program outlined in a federal government document obtained by The Lake Report calls for a number of changes, including "measures to increase protections for workers, to reduce administrative burdens for employers, and to help ensure employers can access workers quickly to fill short term labour market gaps."

Agriculture workers make up the bulk of the temporary workforce hired

in NOTL. They are employed under the program's primary agriculture stream, which features four sub streams.

What has now been proposed is a new single agriculture and fish processing stream to replace the four sub streams.

A highlight of the new category is a "sector-specific work permit which will allow workers to change jobs and move to another employer with a LIMA (labour market impact assessment) without having to apply for a new work permit."

This gives workers more control over selecting the

jobs and employers they want to work for after they arrive in NOTL without threat or fear of repercussions.

The government plans to phase in the new stream over the next three years, but not before holding a number of face-to-face meetings with stakeholders, including Hussan's Migrant Workers Alliance for Change.

"We don't know (what to think) yet," he said. "We are waiting for the consultation process. It is so far from the final product, we need to see more."

Consultations are scheduled to begin this month.

NOTL councillors getting a **pay increase**

Continued from Front Page

Ruller was concerned that council salaries were already decided as part of a market review during budget discussions.

However, clerk Grant Bivol confirmed that was not the case.

Ruller continued to voice his concerns, adding that he would "rather see this coming from someone that is removed from council."

"I think we're opening ourselves up to criticism here because if there is an inaccuracy we leave ourselves a little bit vulnerable to that," he said.

Burroughs agreed, saying, "It does appear more objective if it comes from a staff report."

Cheropita said that the additional \$30,000 it will take to increase salaries can be accommodated without a tax increase.

Town finance director and treasurer Kyle Freeborn added that some of the projections in the year's



Coun. Wendy Cheropita.

operating budget were "conservative," meaning there could be room to handle the increase.

"We are expecting higher investment income and I believe it would cover off that cost," he said, adding that a surplus would carry over into the 2025 budget.

During her presentation, Cheropita included a table that showed regional councillors are paid the highest salaries at more than \$40,000 a year, followed by Niagara Falls at about \$38,000 and West Lincoln where each member earns \$30,000 annually.

The hike means NOTL and Port Colborne councillors will be the fourth lowest-paid in the region, above only Wainfleet, Thorold and Pelham.

With the increase to \$20,000 per year, NOTL councillors will earn about \$384 a week. With meetings, preparation and town business, some councillors say they work up to 30 hours weekly.

At the new pay rate, 30 hours a week works out to about \$12.80 an hour. Ontario's minimum wage is \$16.55 per hour and is due to rise 3.9 per cent, to \$17.20 hourly in October.

Burroughs told The Lake Report that he works roughly 25 to 30 hours on council-related business weekly.

"I'm on a couple of committees and they're not that much, probably four or five hours a week for actual council and committees of council, I'm chairing. I've got one more month to go. I would say I spend roughly

15 to 20 hours a week on that," he said.

Burroughs added that while he sees no reason why Cheropita's report would be incorrect, he did express some concerns.

"I've been around for quite a while and typically we don't do those kinds of motions. We request them to be done and reported back (to council)," he said.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor reported a similar workload to Burroughs, noting it changes from week to week.

"For instance, in August we don't have any — at least any formal council meetings, but there are other things going on," she said.

Last week O'Connor said, among other town commitments, she attended a flag raising, a meeting with Walker Industries and Tuesday's council meeting — plus preparation time, committee meetings and events.

She estimated that all amounted to roughly 30 hours.



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to designate the property at **287 WARNER ROAD, WARNER HOUSE (PART LOT 139)** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of Property

The subject property is located on 287 Warner Road and is called the Warner House. 287 Warner Road is located approximately 2 km west of St. Davids urban area, which is accessed from the subject property through Warner Road. The subject property also lies in proximity to wooded lands towards the south, agricultural lands and vacant lots towards the north, and few residential properties towards the east and west and the Warner Methodist Burying Grounds towards the west.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has cultural heritage value or interest for its design and physical values, its historical and associative values and its contextual values. The Warner House is a representative example of the Regency style that was a result of the settlement of the retired military men in Canada from Britain's colonies. The single storey residential building features a rectangular plan with a wing addition on the south elevation, a symmetrical five bay facade and symmetrical side elevations. The residence is constructed of Grimsby red and contains details of Queenston limestone. Other elements representative of the Regency Style includes, the high-pitched hip roof, overhanging eaves with moulded frieze details, large rectangular window openings with sandstone quoins, and stone chimneys. The residence also features a Classical Revival doorway that features, a paneled wooden door, a semi-elliptical arched opening with fan transom and decorative classical cornice, an entablature on the top, and fluted doric columns on either side of the door. 287 Warner Street displays a high degree of craftsmanship as seen in the doorway and stone details of the house. The doorway features a semi-elliptical arched opening with decorative classical cornice and an entablature on the top. The wooden columns on either side of the paneled door are also fluted. The intricate details display a high degree of craftsmanship.

Warner House has historical value as having direct association with Christian Warner and Methodism in Canada. Warner converted to Methodism in 1790 and during 1795 he was chosen as the first Circuit Steward. It was during this time that the first Methodist meeting house, west of Bay of Quinte, was constructed on Lot 139 in 1801. Warner preached, encouraged Methodist doctrines and left a powerful legacy in the Niagara area. He has a road, cemetery and a house named after him. He is buried at the Warner Methodist Burying Ground along with various Loyalist settlers. 287 Warner Road is also associated to being the residence of the Warner and McKinley family. Both the families played an important role in the propagation of Methodism in Canada and the Niagara Region.

Warner House has the potential to yield information that contributes to the understanding of Methodism in Canada and the Loyalist settlers in the region. Research into the location of the subject property has yielded information about the religious activities conducted on Lot 139 that might contribute to a better understanding of the Methodist community. The property parcel and the rest of Lot 139 seems to have a high potential of buried archaeological resources that might provide insights into the rise of Methodism era.

The construction of Warner House is connected with Matthew and Peter Warner. The brothers were stone masons who built the house with their own hands. They were the sons of Christian Warner who was the pioneer of Methodism in Canada. Although the designer of the house is unknown, the brothers, as builders of the residence, are significant to the community in the region.

Warner House is located in the rural area near St. Davids urban area. It lies at the border of the Town and the City of Niagara Falls. It is important in defining the character of the area. The subject property is designed in the Regency style which utilizes the rural setting and the picturesque location of the subject property. The house sits on top of a slight slope overlooking the landscaped lawns and the wooden areas surrounding it. Warner House is also historically linked to its surrounding. The subject property lies along Warner Road that was named after Christian Warner who was essential for the spread of Methodism in Canada. The subject property lies in close proximity to the Part IV designated Warner Methodist Burying Ground and was also the site of the Warner Meeting House. The house is physically linked to its surroundings through its construction materials. The stones used for the construction of the house were sourced locally. The Medina sandstone may have been sourced from Grimsby while the limestone used in the details seems to be Queenston limestone.

Description of Key Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that embody the heritage value of the estate at 287 Warner Road include its: • Single storey Regency style residence

- Symmetrical five bay façade
- Symmetrical side elevations
- Use of Medina sandstone
- Queenston limestone quoins on elevation corners and window surrounds • Rectangular window openings and stone lintels
- Half elliptical lintel with a keystone on the main entryway
- High pitched hip roof
- Overhanging eaves with moulded frieze
- Stone chimneys and stone foundation
- Main entryway on north elevation with semi-elliptical arched opening, decorative cornice, entablature, and fluted wooden doric columns.
- Location along Warner Road
- Historical connection to Warner Methodist Burying Ground
- Substantial setback from the Road
- Location on a slope with surrounding landscape

Objections

Any objection to this designation must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Intent to Designate. Objections should be directed to the Town Clerk, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1T0. The last date to file a notice of objection is **June 9th 2024**.

Queries

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

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 9th day of May 2024

GRANT BIVOL, CLERK

Have some fun



Across

- 1. Eliminates (7)
- 5. Parcel (7)
- 9. Monetary value of all a country's goods and services in one year (8,7)
- 10. Boredom (5)
- 11. Destructive key (3)
- 12. Alpine heroine (5)
- 13. File (7)
- 14. Takers (7)
- 16. Jewish or Arab (7)
- 19. Characteristic of a class (7)
- 21. Therefore (5)
- 23. Meadow (3)
- 24. Former Portuguese territory in South China (5)
- 26. About 18 to 24C, usually (4,11)
- 27. Concluding parts (7)
- 28. It may have shortcuts (7)

Down

- 1. Ramble (5)
- 2. Some monsters and some microbes (7)
- 3. Such as Nicola Benedetti (9)
- 4. Defame (7)
- 5. Well-liked (7)
- 6. Priestly profession (5)
- 7. Insulting (7)
- 8. Arising from the outside (9)
- 13. Dishevelled hags cried "Fire!" (9)
- 15. Many bones broken? Certainly not! (2,2,5)
- 17. Male maturity (7)
- 18. Supporters (7)
- 19. Advance (2,5)
- 20. Squash handful (7)
- 22. Ben ---, comedian and writer (5)
- 25. At an advantage (3,2)

Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
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26														
27								28						

Last issue's answers

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Mysteries of **dark energy** and the expanding universe



DR. BROWN

Dr. William Brown
Columnist

Dennis Overbye of the New York Times is one of the best science writers in the world for good reasons: he talks to the principal scientists involved in the subject of interest, other well-qualified scientists not involved in the study and pulls it all together in a way the reader can understand without dumbing the material down too much.

His handling of the question of whether the force that continues to expand the universe is constant or not was well-covered and, along with other tried and true sources, provided the grist for this essay.

To begin, we've learned a lot about the universe in the last century. It started out as one galaxy — the Milky

Way — but it turns out there are more than two trillion galaxies and counting within the visible universe, which some physicists now believe represents but five per cent of the total universe.

That's mind boggling, as was earlier evidence that the universe was expanding and had a beginning probably as a tiny nugget of dense energy, which for reasons unknown, almost 14 billion years ago, inflated many times faster than the speed of light to the limit of the visible universe, all within a tiny fraction of the first second.

Then a mist of primordial matter formed and, within a few more seconds, more familiar particles and dark matter were created. That's a busy paragraph, but so was the universe in those first few seconds of creation.

From that incredibly hot energetic shock-like beginning, the expansion of the universe began to slow and cool enough several hundred thousand years later for stable hydrogen and helium atoms to form — and 100 million years later, for the



very first stars and galaxies to form.

In a nutshell that's what evidence and the standard model of the universe tells us, so far.

Mathematical models are just that: models based on reasonable assumptions and available observations, to account, in this case, for the evolution of the universe and serve as a framework to guide future studies.

But should one or more of those underlying assump-

tions turn out not to be true based on new observational evidence, it's time to tweak the model or even toss it out and create a newer model that better fits emerging new observations.

That's what's happened to dark energy, the force behind the expansion of the universe. In the standard model, it was assumed to be constant.

The majority of galaxies are speeding away from one another, carried by the

continuing expansion of the universe and the velocity at which they are doing so can be measured by employing the doppler effect: those moving away are red-shifted, the more so, the faster their retreating velocities.

To look far out is to look far back in time, and by identifying galaxies of different ages, it should be possible to compare the retreat velocities of galaxies in different time periods.

And if those velocities are similar across different time periods, dark energy can be assumed to be constant. But if the velocities differ between past time periods, suggests that dark energy is not constant, but varies over time.

To answer the question of whether dark energy is constant, a five-year study was recently launched to create a 3-D map of the positions and velocities of 40 million galaxies (sounds like a lot but for perspective, only 0.0000004 per cent of the estimated number of galaxies in the visible universe). Initial data suggests the rate of expansion of the universe may not be constant.

It's early days in the study, much too early to upset the standard model, but the early observations do raise questions. What if the rate of expansion turns out to be slower or perhaps faster than current models suggest? Or, if the rate of expansion varies, could the continuing expansion of the universe turn into contraction and even a collapse of the universe, as some physicists love to speculate?

This is the grist of theoretical physicists who like to keep all options open regarding the big questions about the eventual fate of the universe. Will we know any better in a few years?

Maybe or never, considering the enormous scope of the universe (much of it out of sight forever because of the enormous distances involved and the fact that the speed of light is too slow for us to ever see those faraway galaxies) — or so we believe.

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



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Restaurant, Queenston Heights, Canada.

Queenston Heights Restaurant

This postcard from circa 1910 shows what the former Queenston Heights Restaurant looked like. In the background, there is a sign off to the left that shows the direction to the dining room. What we're seeing here is likely a café where visitors could enjoy a quick bite. Tapping into the very British history of Queenston Heights, the owners have draped British flags throughout the space. Visitors could sit and enjoy refreshments while taking in the stunning view of the Niagara River. This postcard was printed by F.H. Leslie, who was known to print and sell many local postcards during this period.

Not Maple Leafs forever. Time for some **big changes**



Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson
Columnist

"Great Clips, the official hair salon of the NHL." That ad was on the Scotiabank Arena boards during Game 4 between the big bad Boston Bruins and the uh, high-scoring Toronto Maple Leafs. Whatever happened to Beehive Corn Syrup and Imperial Oil? And to Wheaties, the Breakfast of Champions? Back in the day, there was rarely an ad on the boards surrounding an NHL ice surface, and only the home team's proud logo at centre ice. No ads cluttered up the rink and the red line was checkered to distinguish it from the two solid blue lines. This was back in the days of black and white TV and,

yes, I am aging myself. NHL team sweaters had a team logo proudly emblazoned on their front and only Swedish team outfits had advertising logos. Now, the Leafs advertise "Milk" on their sweaters. Milk? No, not their jerseys, their sweaters. Roch Carrier wrote the bestseller "The Hockey Sweater, Le Chandail de Hockey." Not "The Hockey Jersey." I mean, maybe Labatt or Molson would be OK on the sweaters. But Milk? Sheesh! And every game now features dozens of gambling ads, from Bet 360 to Fallsview Casino Niagara, often touted by obscenely rich players like Connor McDavid, Mitch Marner and Auston Matthews. And is Wayne Gretzky in a bespoke suit supposed to entice old-timers like me to join the excitement of same-day parlays and over/unders? How about McDavid and the Great One having a Zamboni race? And some fast-talking dude named Taxi rapidly listing the ridiculous prop bets, just in case the actual game gets boring.



The appropriately blue-haired Lianne Stewart serves beer during game six of Toronto Maple Leafs-Boston Bruins series at Butler's Bar & Grill. ROSS ROBINSON

Can't I just watch the hockey game in peace, without gambling ads? Please, I don't even know how to play poker or euchre. Back to the good old hockey game. Toe Blake convinced his multiple Stanley Cup-winning Montreal Canadiens teams that even the fastest skater couldn't keep pace with a well-passed puck. Get the puck, look for an open teammate ahead, and pass the puck. Short, quick

passes and watch the opponents struggle to regain possession. Firewagon hockey, it was called. In Game 4, in the third period alone, Toronto's wealthy winger William Nylander tried three solo full-length rushes up the ice. Each one ended in frustration at the Boston blue line — and it was back to square one. Punch Imlach knew that a Stanley Cup winner needed at least three solid and dependable lines, four

competent defencemen and a great goaltender. Wearing his urbane fedora and trenchcoat, Imlach pulled the strings and was admittedly a bit of a psychological tyrant with his skaters. Hey, they were getting paid forty or fifty thousand bucks a year. Suck it up, guys, and get back on the ice. In goal he had old guys, brave and wily veterans named Sawchuk or Bower to count on game after game. My goodness, they didn't even wear artistically painted helmets and took more than the odd shot off their foreheads. Stitch up the cut and get back between the posts. Nobody from Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment has asked me, but I think it's time to totally blow up this under-achieving edition of the Toronto Maple Leafs. While the value of top scorer and last year's MVP Auston Matthews is highest, take a deep breath and blow up Brendan Shanahan's so-called the Shanaplan. Yes, get rid of the president, the general Manager and the coach.

And trade the league's Most Valuable Player for a whole array of talent. Get a great goalie, a star forward, two "top four" defencemen, three solid third- or fourth-line skaters and a few future draft choices. And negotiate hard, after the deal is done, nickel and dime them for a bucket of frozen pucks. Indeed, brave actions, but the Leafs are going nowhere with what they put on the ice now. Even the four (not two or three) talking heads admit this, while pontificating between periods. Whatever happened to Ward Cornell and Brian McFarlane in the Hot Stove Lounge. (Incidentally, Brian's dad was Leslie McFarlane, who wrote many of the Hardy Boy novels.) Betcha didn't know that. Ah, the Leafs. Another first-round exit. Just the other morning in front of the Court House, an older gentleman walked by wearing a Leafs ball cap. I gently said, "Sorry about your team." His rejoinder? "Don't worry about us. We're used to it." But I ramble.

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Left: The members of the WOOFs men's league kicked off their season on Tuesday afternoon. Right: Members of the NOTL Golf Club's nine and 18-hole women's leagues held their annual scramble to kick off the season Tuesday. The golf was topped off with lunch and prizes. KEVIN MACLEAN

NOTL golf leagues in full swing for another season

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Golf season is in full swing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Under sunshine and cloudless skies (for the most part), the NOTL Golf Club's competitive leagues have kicked off their seasons as scores of golfers hit the links daily now.

On Tuesday morning, the women's nine and 18-hole women's leagues held their traditional joint scramble to launch the season.

The theme was 18 Shades of Green and top group, with a score of even-par 36, was Trish Anthony, Ginny Green, Suzanne Watson and Judy Wright.

In second place with

38 were Michele Darling, Penny Green, Lynne Heaman and Gayle Tanner.

Most honest prize went to Ruth Dowsett, May Chang, Bonnie Lamourie and Kathy Taylor.

Other prizes: Green and Lamourie (longest putt), and Patty Garriock and Peggy Larder (tee shot closest to the line).

And at high noon Tuesday, about 70 members of the men's WOOFs league began the year with their shotgun scramble.

On Wednesday, the club held a welcome reception for its members.

Last Thursday, more than 150 competitors in the men's league played their inaugural round.

Reigning men's club champion James Grigjanis-Meusel showed he's ready to play, firing a 1-under 35 to take low gross honours.

He also won gross skins for birdies on #4 and #6, plus was closest to the hole on #4.

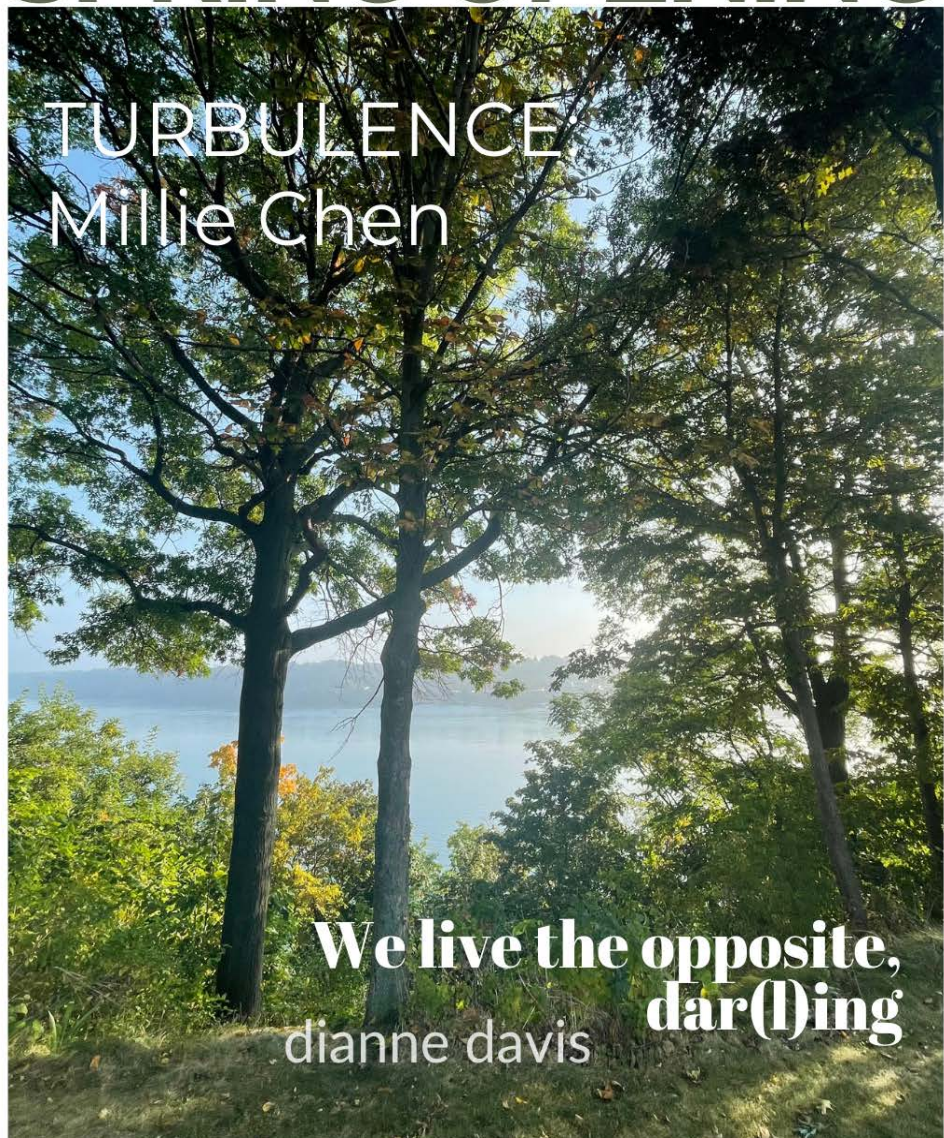
Mike Bondy shot a solid 41 and had the best Stableford score with 21 points.

Net skins winners (\$35)

were Jon Schmidt (#1), Drew Porter (#3), Matt Mines (#6) and John Reynolds (#8). Reynolds' birdie on #8 also won him a \$40 gross skin.

Other winners were: Kevin MacLean (closest to 150 marker #1), Ron Newman (longest putt #2), Matt VandeLaar (longest drive #3) and Jim Garrett (closest to the hole #9).

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Because annuals take a lot of nutrients out of the soil, try turning compost or compost manure into the soil. SUPPLIED

Properly planting your **annuals**



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Columnist

It is soon time to start planting your annuals. I say soon, because the most important thing to know is that you should not be putting out your annuals until after the last frost date for your area. Here in the Niagara region, our last frost date is usually listed as May 21, but in recent years, we have often been safe by Mother's Day. If you just can't wait to plant, be prepared on cold evenings to offer protection, such as covering them with a sheet. Most annuals will start showing signs of distress when the temperature goes below 5 C or will die if the temperature dips below 0 C. Before planting, now is a great time to be improving the soil where you will be planting. Annuals are heavy bloomers, and heavy bloomers are heavy feeders. They take a lot of nutrients out of the soil.

So, to help them perform to their best ability, you can turn compost or compost manure into the soil. This will help replace some nutrients back into the soil as well as improve the soil structure. If you have been growing your own plants from seed, it is best to slowly start "hardening off" the seedlings. Hardening off is a process that will help the plants adjust to being moved outside. Start by moving the seedlings out on a warm day and placing them in a part shade location for the day, but bring them back inside for the evening. Do not place in full sun right away. The sunlight outside is so much stronger than bright light inside your home and seedlings can be easily burnt. By slowly moving them into their permanent place, this will help them adjust without many setbacks. If you are purchasing your annuals, take time to analyze the site that you will be planting them in. How much sun does it receive? Full sun is considered to be six hours of sun or more. Part sun is four to five hours of sun and shade is less than four hours of sun. Knowing this will help you to start narrowing own your plant choices. Next, consider what height of plants you want to use. Are they being planted

in front of any shrubs or perennials? Are you wanting various heights of flowers? The next thing to decide on is your colour theme. Did you know the colours you choose will help to create the mood you want to convey? Using light pastel colours (cool colours) such as pale pinks, mauve, white or silver will create a relaxing, calm atmosphere. Using warm colours, reds, oranges, golds or burgundys, will create a more vibrant atmosphere. Warm colours make a bigger impact while the cool colours will recede, creating a softer look. Decide what kind of effect that you want to create. The ideal time to plant is on a cloudy day. This protects newly planted annuals from having sun stress seedlings as they're settling into their new digs. Another option is to tackle planting chores in the evening, which gives plants the overnight window to recover. If you must plant on a sunny day, consider erecting some sort of shade device to protect seedlings. A piece of cardboard or bedding plant flat propped up to cast shade works fine. It's not hard to master how to plant annuals. Water any annuals that are dry before removing them from cell packs or pots.

Root balls should be moist at planting time. Never pull annuals from their containers — that's a good way to break stems. Instead, remove plants from their containers by gently squeezing the pot and then flipping it over, cradling the annual stem with your hand. It should slip right out. Use your hand or a trowel to dig a shallow hole large enough to cradle an annual's root ball. If you're planting many annuals, try the method professional landscapers use: the stab-and-plant technique. Hold a trowel with the blade facing down and the concave side facing you. Stick the trowel into soil, and pull the handle forward, creating a hole behind the blade. Slip the annual from its container and drop it into the hole, firming soil around the plant. This method works best with loose soil. Always water annuals after planting. Use a watering can or hose-end sprayer or watering wand that delivers a gentle shower of water. Soak soil thoroughly. You can add a thin mulch layer to slow water evaporation from soil and help reduce weeds. Happy planting. *Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.*

Obituary

Julia Campbell



Julia Elizabeth Campbell (née Tranter) passed away peacefully in Ottawa on April 25, 2024, with family by her side. She was aged 74. Predeceased by her darling parents, Lorna and Bill Tranter, her loving brother, David and her cherished friend of 40 years, Charlotte Jones. Beloved mother of Meghan (Daniel) and Alex (Leslie).

Precious grandmother of Ruby, Ezra, Liam, and Charlie. Dear sister of John (Janet). Lovely aunt of Shane (Jessie), Ryan (Amy) and Scott (Monica) and great-aunt of Stella, Sophia, Emma, Chloe, Liam, Dylan, Bailey and Denali. She is lovingly remembered by Ron Green, a long-time family friend of the Tranters. She will also be missed by many extended family and loving friends.

Julia received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from the University of New Brunswick. She was a much-loved piano teacher, having retired in recent years. She was a lover of the arts and humanities. Having family roots in the Niagara region, Julia spent many years in Fredericton before settling in Ottawa. A deeply caring person with a great sense of humour, Julia most enjoyed playing the piano and spending time with her family. She was very loved, and will be missed.


Cremation has taken place. An interment with family will occur at a later date in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Please consider a donation in her memory to Operation Smile Canada.

To learn more about Julia's life please visit www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com

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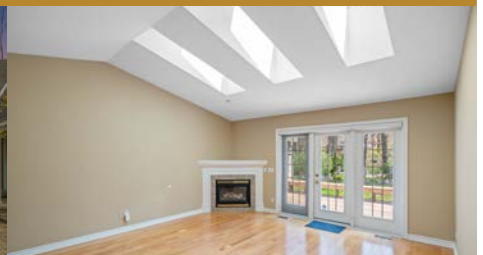
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