



## Hummel Properties lawsuit alleges ‘insidious scheme’ by mayor, council



A lawsuit by Hummel Properties alleges council knowingly concealed a planned special meeting to implement a development freeze against a specific developer. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Developer Hummel Properties Inc. is suing the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for damages over an interim control bylaw passed just days after council was sworn in on Dec. 3, 2018.

Although the allegations have not yet been proven in court, documents filed by Hummel in court allege a “scheme” by Lord Mayor Betty Disero and “at least one” other councillor-elect was used to enact the bylaw — which halted all development in Old Town for a year.

The legal brief, known as a factum, obtained by The Lake Report alleges Hummel Properties suffered

damages as a result of the development freeze bylaw. The amount of the damages in the March 2 submission is unspecified.

It claims the statute was adopted illegally and was used to target a specific developer, Benny Marotta of Solmar Development Corp.

The suit alleges Disero and council were “secretly working to pursue interim control and had already arranged the special meeting of council for Dec. 5.”

The lawsuit suggests two “serious” issues with the Dec. 5 meeting — that there was no proper notice of the meeting given and that “the meeting was intentionally hidden from the public and the agenda was misleading”

and that “council did not have all discussions with respect to an interim control bylaw in public.”

“The Dec. 5, 2018, special meeting was called in contravention of the town’s procedural bylaw. There was no notice. There was no emergency,” the filing says.

It also claims meetings to discuss the bylaw “took place outside of an open public meeting, in secrecy.” As a result, the decision to pass the development freeze “was a fait accompli long before the actual meeting.”

The town refused to comment on the lawsuit because it is before the courts, but noted “councillors may act within their capacity as a member of council only

after they are officially appointed to that office and have taken their oath.”

Hummel says that because of the bylaw, his proposed development on Niagara Stone Road across from the Old Winery was put on hold and has been unable to proceed.

His suit alleges the company incurred costs and that the delay could result in changes to market conditions which could “affect the economic viability of the project.”

The lawsuit said the full costs and damages are still being quantified and asks the court to order a trial on the issue.

*Continued on Page 9*



Pat Fryer is happy to have her vaccine. RICHARD HARLEY

## I GOT THE SHOT

### 70s crowd says ‘get off the fence’ and get vaccinated for COVID-19

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Pat Fryer is looking forward to being able to see her grandchildren again soon.

Now that she’s been vaccinated she’s hoping to be able to give them a hug.

The 75-year-old received her first vaccine shot Monday at the Seymour-Hannah complex in St. Catharines through Niagara Health.

“The big thing for me is seeing my family, and once I have the vaccine I can see them because my grandkids are small and they’re in school and my son’s worried about kids infecting me and my daughter’s worried about them infecting me and so they come, but it’s

on the porch. So to be able to hug them and get close to them will be really nice,” she said.

“It’s not going to make a difference, day to day, I still have to wear a mask, you still have to distance and that’s going to go on for a long time I think. But, I’m really glad to have had it.”

She said the whole vaccination process took less than an hour. And she’s had no negative effects.

“I have no sore arm, absolutely nothing. I was tired last night but that might have been just being tired.”

She said she encourages everyone to get the jab.

“Get off the fence and get your vaccine. One of my kids was like that, but we had a little chat.”

## Hirji: Late-May could bring relief from COVID restrictions

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara’s top doctor says COVID-19 worries could start to ease by mid-May, thanks to vaccinations.

However, that depends largely on people limiting their social interaction for a

bit longer — and now is not the time to start acting like the threat is diminished.

“(It’s) absolutely not the time to be taking steps as if we are safer,” Dr. Mustafa Hirji told reporters Monday, noting the province should be tightening restrictions.

The province’s swift re-

opening, when hospitalizations and cases hadn’t fully flattened out, is a move Hirji for weeks has been saying was the wrong one amid rising cases of COVID-19 and a surge in variants of the virus.

Based on current modelling predictions by the fed-

eral government, Hirji said cases could rise drastically in April.

“Just on this graph you can see just to the month of April, you get the really astronomical cases,” Hirji said, showing a chart that predicts a massive spike in cases mid-April.

“Things are not going in the right direction. It’s absolutely not the time to be taking steps as if we are safer,” he said. Some more restrictive measures likely will be needed in the short term to bend the curve while people who are at the greatest risk get vaccinated,

he added.

“We can’t lose our nerve now and throw our hands up in the air and really completely reopen, because this is what the modelling shows is going to happen if we do that. I think we actually

*Continued on Page 3*

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# NOTLers forced to **Hamilton, Toronto** to get vaccines

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The provincial vaccine booking system opened to people aged 70 to 74 on Monday. However, glitches in the province's booking system have caused a major frustration for some Niagara residents looking to grab their jab.

The system wouldn't allow people to book a date, said Niagara-on-the-Lake's Colin Brzezicki, who called The Lake Report early Monday after unsuccessful attempts to book a vaccine in Niagara.

The booking system appeared to be working and took his health information successfully, but when he reached the calendar to select a date, the system "goes dead," he said.

"You cannot go any further and I've tried changing the venue, from the community centre to the one in St. Catharines, to the one in Grimsby, the one in Beamsville and nothing — it's like not even a rejection, it just says nothing, there's no reaction. The link is dead."

Brzezicki said he's spoken to several other NOTL residents who have experienced the same problem and some St. Catharines residents who were able to book their appointments with no hassle Monday morning.

He tried multiple times



NOTL resident Colin Brzezicki gets his jab in Hamilton on Tuesday. SUPPLIED

Monday and again Tuesday, only to experience the same hiccup. He's also tried using different web browsers and having a friend book it for him, to no avail — and he notes he's pretty tech savvy.

"So God knows how many people have had this frustration," he said.

Brzezicki ended up phoning the hotline number and speaking with someone in Ottawa, who also couldn't book an appointment for him, but eventually booked him one for Tuesday night in Hamilton.

"So I've got to drive to Hamilton to get to my appointment," he said Tuesday afternoon. "And I was on this at eight o'clock yesterday morning, when it opened for the 70-plus."

Ryan Donnelly, assistant to Niagara-on-the-Lake MPP Wayne Gates, said the issue was that the system made it appear that Niagara's clinics were all booked up, despite there being some spots

available on Monday.

"It showed everything booked, even though there were openings," he said in an email to The Lake Report.

On top of that, new dates needed to be added for the booking system, because the spots were limited (which happened on Monday).

Gates said the booking should be working now that the new dates have been added, noting that in Fort Erie, the province had actually over-booked by about 30 per cent and was forced to call many people and cancel their appointments on Sunday.

"So right now, as far as we're aware, you should be able to go online and get an appointment in Niagara," Gates' assistant Josh Upper said Tuesday afternoon.

However, Brzezicki still wasn't able to book an appointment Tuesday.

Brzezicki said he wishes there had been more infor-

mation available.

"I think a ball has been dropped, maybe more than one. And I certainly am totally in the dark," he said.

"I don't know what other people's experiences are or how they've managed to get an appointment — if they've got one at all. But another friend in Niagara Falls told me this morning that they tried and they've been told that everything is booked up."

Another NOTL resident, Sylvia Angelkoter, emailed to say she too felt there wasn't enough information available after reading The Lake Report's coverage of the vaccine rollout.

The region's chief medical officer of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji last week said about 100 per cent of 80-plus residents of Niagara had either received the vaccine or been booked to get one, based on 2019 census numbers.

With the NOTL Community Centre so far only being open for vaccinations March 31, April 1 and 9, "Where are these people having theirs?" Angelkoter asked.

"Pharmacies don't have any news. It is a forgotten community here and we are feeling very upset, especially as we are a tourist area, with a lot of outsiders passing through. I am feeling trapped in my house until my turn

comes for the vaccine."

She ended up booking an appointment in Toronto, she said.

"After the announcement (Monday) morning of it being my turn to make an appointment, and then being let down again, totally booked out not even able to make an appointment in May, I spoke to someone to get the vaccine done in Toronto this week instead of waiting any longer."

In a news conference Monday, Hirji said most people were able to successfully book their appointments Monday, with a few experiencing some technical glitches where some appointments weren't available.

"We've heard complaints that people aren't seeing any appropriate appointments, but then you know a few hours later we do see that our registrations have increased so people are — at least some people are — finding their way into clinics."

Part of the problem, Hirji said, was that clinics were starting to fill up.

"We've definitely heard that there's a fair number of complaints of people (struggling to get) booked. The flip side of that is that we saw a few thousand new bookings successfully go through this morning," he said.

"Part of that is some of

these technical glitches, but I think it's actually, we're starting to get up to the point where we're seeing our clinics get full. If people were really hoping to register into the Niagara-on-the-Lake clinic, unfortunately now that's filled up."

He said the region is working with the province to let them know these issues and "they're working to try and figure out what's happened."

"If people are having trouble getting into clinics I just ask them to be patient, try again in a couple hours and hopefully it's going to start working again."

He said it's out of the public health department's control as to when the province updates its booking system based on the clinic dates the region provides, but that those dates were submitted at the end of last week.

It's "absolutely not an issue with vaccine," he said, noting the region has planned its clinics so there will be a steady supply.

Hirji said about seven per cent of people in the age group have already received their vaccines through long-term care and retirement home vaccinations.

On Wednesday, Brzezicki said his experience in Hamilton was great, and "made up for the frustration the day before."

# Town gears up for tourists amid **sharp rise** in COVID cases

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

With cases of COVID-19 rising across the region and nicer weather around the corner, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is again getting ready to accommodate tourists.

The town said it is "proactively preparing" for an anticipated increase in visitors by posting safety signs, reopening public washrooms in Old Town and reinstating staff for public education and cleaning.

"We are entering our second spring and summer season amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," chief administrator Marnie Cluckie told The Lake Re-

port in a statement.

As of Wednesday, public health statistics showed NOTL had 19 active COVID cases and the region had 545. In addition, across Niagara 301 variant cases had been reported.

With the weather warming, "we're seeing an increase in the number of people coming to town and we want to ensure we're providing the services they need during their stay," Cluckie said.

"This past year has shown us that the town is incredibly agile and capable of adapting and responding quickly to changes rolled out by the province, and so we enter this second season with more confidence. We

feel cautiously prepared."

The municipality has also hired and trained more staff to assist with public education about provincial COVID restrictions, she said.

"Staff has prepared documents to assist local food and drink establishments adapt to changing regulations, and our bylaw officers have been readily available to support and educate businesses on what is required of them in order to promote and protect the health and safety of their patrons and employees," she said.

The town said physical distance markers will be used and signs will be posted around the downtown core, reminding people to wear a mask and follow

COVID-19 safety practices, like regular hand washing, sanitizing, maintaining a distance of two-metres and not touching their face.

Staff has put yellow grip tape markers two metres apart outside the public washrooms to assist with physical distancing efforts and some stalls have been closed to further assist with distancing efforts, a town spokesperson said.

Town employees also began public education about provincial restrictions on Saturday, as well as periodically sanitizing high-touch surfaces like benches and parking machines. These precautionary efforts will continue on weekends throughout the remainder of



Yellow tape marks proper distancing by public washrooms.

the spring and summer.

"The arrival of spring always attracts crowds to our beautiful town," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"While we love to see visitors experiencing our unique culture and heritage,

our stunning parks and gardens, and our wonderful local businesses, we must remember that COVID-19 still poses a significant risk for our community, and safety comes first."

The public washrooms at Queen's Royal Park and Simcoe Park were opened Saturday and are to remain open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the spring and summer. The Market Street washroom, which does not close during the winter season, remains open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Public washrooms at Memorial Park and the Information Centre at Fort George remain closed but will open later in the season.

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## Popular Legion fish fry resumes April 8

Staff  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's favourite fish fry starts back up April 8.

The fry, held by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 on King Street, was closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Hours for the fish fry are 4 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday.



The Legion will once again be serving up fish and chips on Thursdays. FILE PHOTO

## Nine per cent of Niagarans vaccinated: Hirji

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara is continuing to push through with vaccinations of its older populations.

As of Monday, about 73 per cent of Niagara's 80-plus population had been vaccinated, as had 39 per cent of the 75 to 79 age group and 7.1 per cent of people aged 70 to 74, the region's chief medical officer said.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji said in total about 9.3 per cent of Niagara had received a vaccine.

"And that's, of course, very good news."



The NOTL community centre ready for vaccination clinics. RICHARD HARLEY

The number is fairly close to the provincial average, Hirji said, with Niagara above some other regions, largely due to vaccine allocation as a result of an older population.

Compared to other provinces, "Ontario is sort

of middle of the pack here, not quite as good as B.C. or Quebec, but doing better than the Maritimes, doing better than Manitoba, really on par with Alberta and Saskatchewan."

When it comes to regions in the province, Hirji said

Niagara is a little bit above the provincial average of vaccines administered, but said it's more indicative of where the vaccine has been allocated than the job health units are doing. The allocation, he said, is largely based on which regions have a high population of seniors.

While the region is working on expanding its health clinics, recently adding more dates from April 11 to 18, he said planning those dates depends heavily on information from the province on what the region's vaccine supply is going to look like in the coming weeks.

## Keeping cases down is best chance at opening soon

Continued from Front Page

really need to pull back over these two months to make sure that we keep things under control."

Once we get past Victoria Day, "there'll be the opportunity to really recalibrate and lessen a lot of restrictions in society."

If the province does lock down again, Hirji said it should treat the entire Golden Horseshoe as one unit, "given all the travel, given all the integration between us."

That whole area needs the same higher level of restrictions, he said. "We've seen that the grey-lockdown doesn't really keep cases under control. Hamilton went into that grey-lockdown back in December. It didn't slow their growth of cases," he said, noting it hasn't slowed cases in

Toronto or Peel either.

Hirji said Niagara is "in some limited ways" already seeing the benefits of vaccination.

"When we look at infections in the 80-plus age group, we can actually see that their infections are falling while it's rising for other age groups and I think that's a reflection that the 80-plus age group is getting vaccinated."

While Niagara is experiencing another wave and cases are rising, "we've fortunately not seen very large numbers of deaths, yet at least."

However, those not yet vaccinated, mainly in their 50s, 60s and 70s are most at risk "of being hospitalized, most at risk of needing an ICU admission. And we're definitely seeing those numbers still go up because we have

not been able to vaccinate them."

Outbreaks at long-term care homes are also much more manageable now that vaccines have been administered.

"It's really night and day of what we see with outbreaks now compared to where we were a couple of months ago," he said.

Previously infections would spread throughout care homes but "now, fortunately, one of those infections appears and it really just seems to fizzle there."

"It's really protecting a lot of lives as a result of us being able to get those residents vaccinated. I hope this is a message that really everybody else in society takes, that these vaccines are really working and we should all be taking them so that we can make sure we get out of this pan-

demic."

He said it will likely be "a couple more months" until public health is able to get those groups vaccinated to the level that hospitals won't be threatened with high admissions because of COVID 19 cases.

If people do what it takes to keep cases down, he expects restrictions could be eased in late May. If cases are high coming out of a third wave, he said it will likely be another couple of months after that before vaccines will distributed enough to open up.

Until then, the threat of another lockdown remains real, and it's going to take more than "staying the course" to get numbers back down.

The province needs to "absolutely no longer" continue to open and people need to stay home, he said.

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**NOTL active cases: 19**  
**Region active cases: 545**  
**Region deaths: 376**  
**Region total cases: 9,686**  
**Region resolved cases: 8,765**  
**Region variant cases: 301**  
*\*March 31 data per Niagara Region Public Health*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."  
 - Patty Garriock

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## Editorial

### State of the town is **valuable** for residents

Richard Harley  
 Editor-In-Chief

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie last week held their first state of the town address, to fill residents in on some of the municipal happenings affecting our town and residents.

The event is planned to be annual from here on and that deserves a kudos.

While most of the is-

sues addressed are covered by The Lake Report and some other media outlets, these meetings are an important tool in keeping residents engaged and aware about what's going on in our little town.

Congratulations to all involved for planning and hosting the event.

It's evident by the many questions that came in during the meeting that our residents are engaged and curious about matters that affect them, so also let's ac-

knowledge the people who watched it.

While it might seem trivial to some, having regular contact with our elected officials is important.

Disero, through her Coffee with the Lord Mayor sessions and quickness to pick up the phone to respond to locals who have concerns, is already doing a great job at being available.

An encompassing state of the town meeting is a new level of information for people.

It shouldn't be understated how important that information is. Information is the reason The Lake Report even exists.

So we know first-hand just how much people want to know about what is happening in their town.

Here's hoping, as chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue said during the event, that next year we'll be able to do it in person over breakfast or dinner.

editor@niagaranow.com



### Banning park BBQs a sign of NOTL's **'exclusive'** attitude

Dear editor:

Throughout this pandemic, we have been told we are in this together. I feel as though that does not apply to NOTL.

The town's plan to ban outdoor barbecues in parks is ridiculous. In a time where we are confined to our homes with not many options, park barbecues should be the least of the town's worries. And they are an amazing option to be outside.

As residents of NOTL, we take great pleasure in

heading out to one of our beautiful parks, with our children and friends. It is the most quality outdoor time for us all.

Bringing a small charcoal barbecue allows us to enjoy the afternoon and not have to hurry home for supper or lunch. I have never seen any one complain about smoke or how this can even disturb others.

And honestly a small barbecue in the park means less work for the one packing and making food.

Because we should all enjoy the day.

We are becoming a town that wants to be exclusive. The sense of community is being lost. Seems some of us are more concerned with our own backyards being affected.

We should want to be inviting and share what we have. This town is beautiful. Seeing our parks full of people, enjoying time together, should bring us joy.

What better thing to do on a Sunday afternoon? We

should wish this for our town, especially in the times we are in. This new by-law make us unattractive as a town. I worry often enough who is going to come and complain to us, as everyone is the police these days.

I may be missing something here, but I don't not understand why council, along with the mayor, have put time and effort into this topic.

We are in this together.  
 Sophia Vollmer  
 NOTL

### **Grateful** to have vaccine, thanks to Lake Report letter

Dear editor:

Per my earlier letter to The Lake Report on March 16, I received the vaccine March 29.

All thanks to Richard Harley for having pub-

lished my letter with following help from Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Coun. Wendy Cheropita, project manager Michelle Johnston, pharmacist Sean Simpson and the

region's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

The system is flexible and is very efficient at the Seymour-Hannah Complex in St. Catha-

rines. Once I had an appointment, as arranged by Michelle Johnston, it was home free!

A very grateful American,  
 Ralph Dangelmaier  
 Florida

### A **chilling tale** of life in the era of the COVID pandemic

Dear editor:

A dear friend told me recently that one of her relatives had an unusual experience after receiving a second COVID shot.

The relative expected that she might develop a fever but,

a few days after her second shot, she developed chills.

The chills continued through the day and through the night. The next morning, the chills continued.

That morning her son arrived for a visit and after

an hour, he strangely also developed chills.

At that point, her son checked the thermostat, and yes, you guessed it, the furnace wasn't working.

The moral of the story is: If, after your second

COVID shot, you feel chills, check your thermostat. If, after your second COVID shot, you feel feverish, check your thermostat.

True story. I kid you not.  
 Joseph Allevato  
 NOTL

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# OPINION

## Science and the risks of **AstraZeneca** vaccine

Dear editor:

In response to a letter by Samuel Young, "Seniors conflicted on AstraZeneca vaccine," I can understand where a little science might seem intimidating, so I wrote this note to hopefully help to clarify certain issues related to risks.

In Canada the decision on whether a vaccine can be administered is made by Health Canada. In the case of vaccines, they will rely on committees such as the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations as well as their expert panel of internal reviewers.

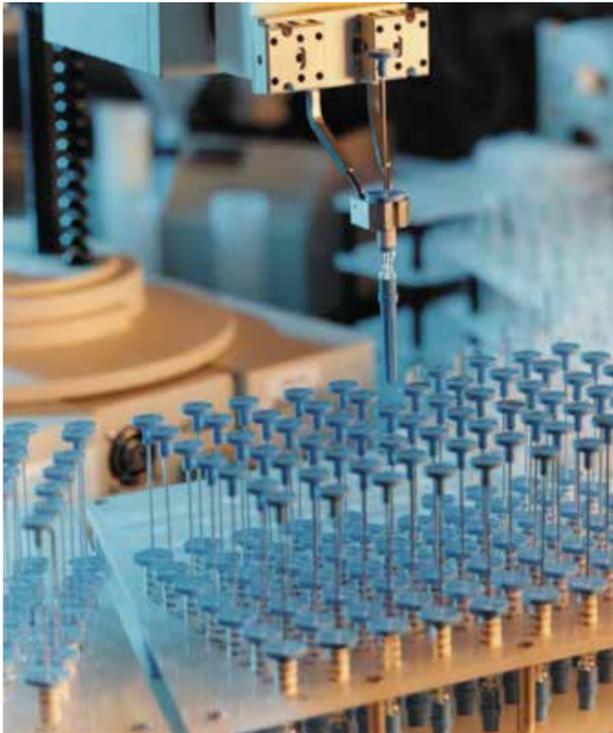
Health Canada will insist that the benefits of the vaccine must outweigh its risks before it allows it to be used in Canada. This will be done by carefully reviewing the clinical development program.

In the case of the AstraZeneca vaccine there were two randomized placebo controlled trials. In the European trial, which contained 24,000 participants, about 14,000 got the vaccine and 10,000 were put on placebo. In the United States trial, about 32,000 patients were included in the clinical trial: 21,500 patients received the vaccine and 10,500 received the placebo.

If a side effect such as a blood clot occurred more commonly in the treated group than it did in the placebo group then it became an adverse event and must be included in the labelling of the vaccine. Health Canada did not notice any such difference in the clinical development program of this vaccine.

Thrombosis Canada states that the incidence of thrombotic events in the general population is about one in 1,000 persons. In a population the size of Canada this translates to about 38,000 blood clots per year.

None of these people have necessarily received a vaccine. They may, however, have various risk factors that lead them to develop blood clots. This could include the use of certain medications, cancer, prolonged inactivity and genetic conditions. Your physician is the one who can let you know whether



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you are at higher risk of a blood clot.

Recent reports in Europe have stated that there could be an increase of blood clots with the AstraZeneca vaccine. This was based on reports of 38 blood clots among 20 million people who received the vaccine. This translates to approximately two blood clots per million patients, which is, in fact, much lower than seen in the general population.

Can we say that the vaccine prevented blood clots? Most certainly not. There were five events of cerebral venous thrombosis, which is a blood clot that occurs in the brain. This translates into an incidence of one per 4 million patients.

In a population not treated with this vaccine the incidence of blood clots in the brain (cerebral venous thrombosis) is believed to be between two and 10 per million persons and is a more common condition in patients with blood disorders, pregnancy, hormone replacement therapy, malignancy, systemic infections, irritable bowel disease, in addition to head trauma such as neurosurgery, brain infections.

On March 18, the European Medicines Agency concluded that the AstraZeneca vaccine did not cause an increase in blood clots. On March 16, the World Health Organization made the same comment. On March 17, Dr. Teresa Tam, who is

leading the COVID fight in Canada also stated that the vaccine did not seem to cause an increase in blood clots. It would be difficult to argue that there is collusion at play when various regulatory and health authorities come to the same conclusion based on the science.

Health Canada reached the same conclusion on March 24, but said it would add to the labelling a potential blood clot in the brain as a risk factor to this vaccine. This is done so that physicians can be made aware to monitor for this potentially extremely rare adverse event. These serious blood clots are almost always manifested as severe headaches lasting three days or more and can be treated with anti-coagulants.

The risk of a blood clot occurring in a person infected with COVID-19 is about one and 100 cases. The decision on whether to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine can be put in perspective if we look at the various risks in life:

Risk of brain blood clot with AstraZeneca vaccine: 1 in 4 million.

Risk of body blood clot with AstraZeneca vaccine: 1 in 2 million.

Risk of brain blood clot in the general population in Canada: 10 in 1 million. (Thrombosis Canada).

Death by cancer in Canada: 2,108 in 1 million. (Statscan 2018).

Death by cardiovascular

disease in Canada: 1,356 in 1 million. (Statscan 2018).

Blood clot in the general population in Canada: 1,000 in 1 million. (Thrombosis Canada)

Death by COVID-19 in Canada: 600 in 1 million. (As of March 25, 2021).

Death by accident in Canada: 51 in 1 million. (Statscan 2018).

Blood clot in COVID-19 infected person in Canada: 1 in 100. (As of March 25, 2021).

Given that we are in a race between the vaccine and the virus, especially with the new variants, the advantage of preserving immunity and avoiding hospitalization will be given to those who accept the first vaccine offered to them.

The decision on getting vaccinated becomes less intimidating if you compare these various risks. The risk of mortality from COVID-19 by far exceeds the risk of being vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Reports this week from Europe have shown that the vaccine may cause an increased risk of clots in the brain especially among women who are either pregnant, unknowingly, are taking birth control or have recently given birth. This population is typically at higher risk of blood clots because of the increased hormone blood levels.

There have been a few reports in men under age 55 also. These blood clots seemed to occur in patients who had low platelets in their blood. Again this is something you should discuss with your physician if you have some concerns. We only started to immunize patients over 70 years of age as of March 29 in Ontario.

For these reasons the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunizations has stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine should not be used by anyone under age 55. In an abundance of caution, it has decided to reserve the vaccine for people over 60 until more evidence comes to light.

I hope this helps put things in perspective.

**Robin Jinchereau**  
**NOTL**

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# OPINION



## For U.K. visitor and son with autism, bird cannon noise is unbearable

Dear editor:

As a regular visitor from England to the Niagara area, I have seen huge changes to the landscape – vineyards on an industrial scale.

The beautiful orchards along my familiar route have been replaced by featureless rows of grapevines. Of course, you can't stop "progress" but I'm nostalgic for the region's previous serenity.

However, I do not lament this as much as I lament the introduction of propane cannons by grape growers to scare birds. The explosions have materially altered my experience of the area.

On my visits each year, the assaults to my body are increasing to a point that it is now with trepidation and hesitation that I return to the area for my summer vacation. It has become prohibitive and a terrible loss to me.

I seriously cannot com-

prehend how the practice of blowing people out of their skins is allowed to perpetuate. It's like sitting in a firing range against my will.

The blasts are sudden and unpredictable. They stun me. My heart skips. My ears ring. Speech and thought stops.

Bodies have a natural reaction to stimulus such as an explosion, a huge shot of adrenalin to respond to perceived threat/danger. Should I be subjected to a state of panic/danger repeatedly during my visit?

After an adrenalin rush, the body can take up to an hour to return to normal. But before that happens, another explosion. Law makers and victims should research the extensive physiological changes that happen to the human body as a result of just one explosion, let alone many. After two weeks in the St. Davids area during

the summer it's difficult to say I had a lovely time.

But an even more disappointing and grievous aspect is that my son, on the autism spectrum, can no longer tolerate the scourge of the explosions. Their pervasive and increasing usage makes visiting his familiar places impossible.

He is seriously affected by the shock of the explosions, because they are truly shocking, to a point that he cannot go to the area at a time suitable for him – summer. Which now means never. This, too, is a serious loss.

Needless to say, these physical assaults are outrageous. As visitors, surely we are entitled to expect a safe and peaceful time. But what's being done to the residents daily is deplorable.

*Diana Westwood  
Stourbridge, West Midlands  
England*

### We welcome your letters

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

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Simcoe Park in Old Town. FILE PHOTO

## Town seeks comments on **tough** new parks bylaw

Staff  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's new parks bylaw, which among other things bans barbecuing, limits opening hours and prohibits drinking alcohol, has had a rough ride in some circles since it was passed last week.

Now the town is soliciting public comments on the new statute "to provide feedback throughout the spring and summer months" on how the regulation affects park experiences.

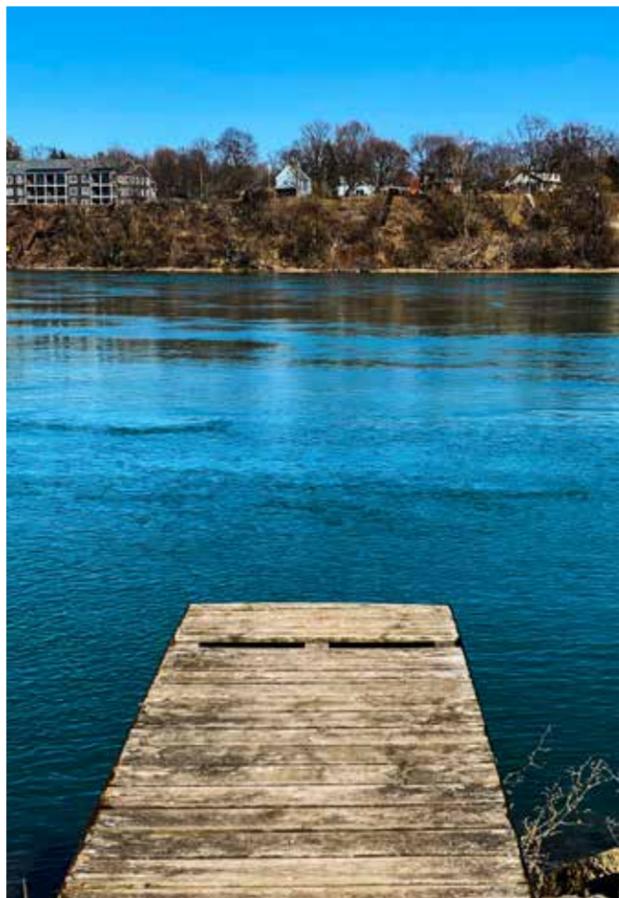
Comments posted to the

town's Join The Conversation page will be used to provide an update to council in October, the town announced Wednesday.

The bylaw also prohibits activities such as lighting, building or stoking campfires or bonfires, setting off fireworks, erecting tents, amplifying sound, letting pets run off-leash, using motorized vehicles, damaging property, using a metal detector, feeding wildlife, commercial activities, and more.

Some of the banned activities are allowed if a special permit is obtained.

## Kendall's Corner



An afternoon break and walk to the river in Queenston Village. The fishermen were gone for the day and we enjoyed a tranquil moment appreciating the deep blue colour and ripples on the calm river. GAIL KENDALL

# Easter baskets provide a **hearty** meal

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Newark Neighbours is sending out 44 baskets containing a hearty meal – and much more – to brighten the Easter of people in need.

Each basket contains either a ham or turkey, a freshly-baked pie, several boxes of stuffing mix, a five-pound bag of potatoes, carrots and onions, boxes of crackers and cookies, cans of peas, corn, green beans, pineapples, apple and cranberry sauces, chocolate bunnies, maple cookies — and even a small hyacinth.

"It's everything they need for an Easter dinner," said food bank manager Cindy Grant, as she and a crew of women worked to pack the baskets at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil on Tuesday.

The whole package is a town-wide effort, Grant said. The turkeys and hams were donated by Harvest Barn and Konzelmann Estate Winery. The pies are donated every year from Walker's Country Market. The other items were either donated or purchased from local businesses — the hyacinths from



Teresa Bell and Elaine Baitinger help pack Easter baskets for families in need. SUPPLIED

VanNoort Florists and the fresh potatoes, onions and carrots from Hendrik's Valu-mart in Old Town.

It also takes a community to help get the baskets out. A group of volunteers from Bethany Mennonite Church, organized by Dave Dick from

Niagara Motors, personally delivered about 20 of the baskets to people who couldn't pick them up.

Everyone's circumstances are different, Grant said. "Some of our clients have a hard time. Sometimes they have a car and sometimes they don't."

She said the whole project is possible thanks to the generosity of people who donate to Newark Neighbours.

"Thanks to everyone, as always, that has donated," Grant said. "We could not have done it without the generosity of this town."

## NOTL lauded for being **'friendly, quaint'**

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is the third-most friendly town in Canada for 2021, according to Expedia users.

People who leave reviews on the travel website gave Niagara-on-the-Lake the third-highest percentage of positive traveller comments between January 2019 and December 2020., using descriptions such as "friendly, friendliest, amiable."

Describing NOTL as "quaint," the site noted the town is "filled with lots of restaurants and wineries for the perfect weekend away."

It also mentioned that while the town has about 18,000 residents, it attracts millions of visitors each



The clock tower. FILE

year, thanks to the area's "natural beauty, as well as the many historical landmarks and local amenities."

NOTL finished behind Radium Hot Springs, B.C., and Digby, N.S. The other top 10 locales were: Baddeck, N.S., Drumheller, Alta., Saint John, N.B., Gatineau, Que., Thunder

Bay, Banff and Charlottetown.

With lockdowns and the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the cancellation of the Shaw Festival's productions last summer, along with almost every other major tourist-focused event, visitor numbers fell and many businesses struggled to survive.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was pleased by the recognition.

"It has been my experience that those who call Niagara-on-the-Lake home, the 'locals' if you will, are some of the most kind, generous and community-minded individuals I've ever known," she said in a statement.

"We've all experienced a variety of challenges this past year and I am proud

to say that our Niagara-on-the-Lake community has remained warm, hospitable and friendly to one another and to those who have had the pleasure of visiting our small town."

Disero said she hopes during this coming tourist season, "residents and visitors will be able to safely enjoy the wonderful attractions, heritage and culture, and distinct beauty of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Chief administrator Marlene Cluckie noted, "Kindness and friendliness are imperative to great experiences and I am pleased to know that those who visited Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2019 and 2020 experienced the town through the lens of a friendly, welcoming community."

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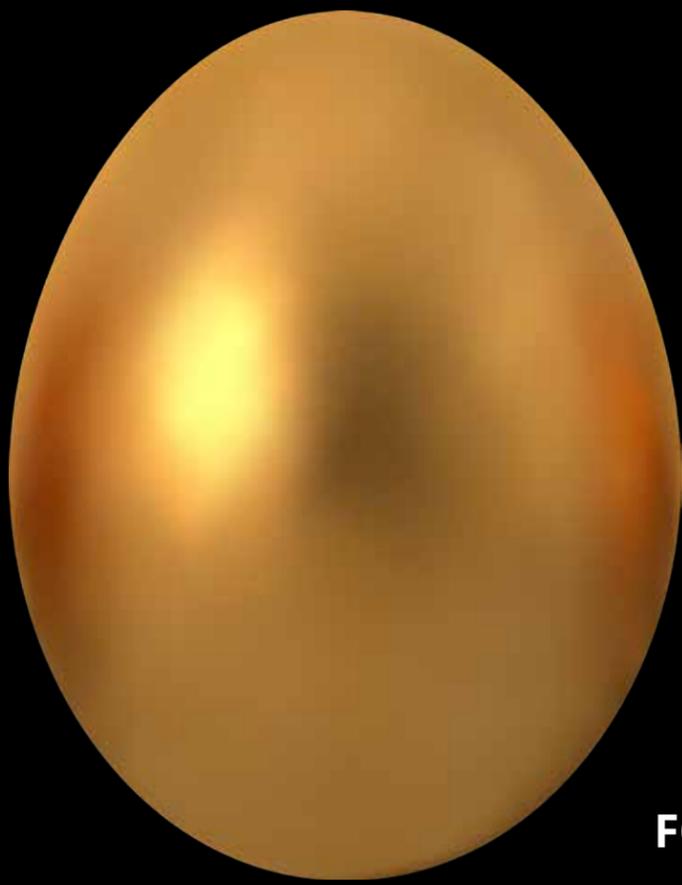
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# Hummel lawsuit alleges ‘scheme’ to hide special meeting

Continued from Front Page

While the legal action claims council acted in “bad faith,” the document notes this is “not to imply or suggest any wrongdoing or personal advantage on the part of any of its members.”

However, it says, “council acted unreasonably and arbitrarily and without the general degree of fairness, openness and impartiality required of a municipal government.”

In the factum, the developer’s lawyers Thomas Richardson, Peter Mahoney and Sara Premi of Sullivan Mahoney in St. Catharines, call council’s actions “intentional and insidious.”

“The applicant, the development community and the public deserve much better from elected officials. The Town breached the open meeting requirements of the Municipal Act and acted contrary to the principles of fairness, transparency and accountability.”

Hummel is seeking a trial for financial damages associated with development freeze, which was extended for a year and then revoked in June 2020. He also wants the bylaw quashed and declared illegal.

## Short notice for meeting

The factum claims Disero and “at least one” other councillor knew as early as Nov. 22, 2018 — almost two weeks before taking their oaths — that there would be a special meeting of council Dec. 5 to implement the bylaw. It alleges the mayor asked town staff to draft the interim control bylaw on Nov. 22, but to date it Dec. 5.

The lawsuit says the meeting was also not announced in advance as required under the town’s procedural bylaw. Notice of the meeting wasn’t published until Dec. 4, one day before the meeting, and that when it was published it was “cryptic and made no reference to interim control,” the suit says.

“The failure of council to comply with its procedural bylaw resulted in the public and stakeholders being



Lord Mayor Betty Disero during council’s inauguration Dec. 3, 2018. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

unaware of the intention to hold a special meeting or any of the items that council intended to consider. No media were present at the meeting.”

The suit says council did not disclose the intended special meeting during the inaugural council meeting Dec. 3 either. It claims council “concealed the fact and led the public to believe that there would not be any other council business until the next regular meeting on Dec. 17.”

The Dec. 5 meeting was held at 8:30 a.m., not a typical time for council meetings, and just 37 hours after council was sworn in.

At the meeting, “council immediately went into an in-camera session to consider matters subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, specifically regarding properties on John and Charlotte streets, being the Randwood properties,” the document says.

The suit says the culmination of these alleged actions “offended the principles of transparency and accountability that must be held by elected representatives.”

“In their haste to target one developer, council moved from breaching procedural safeguards to substantive incompetence, enacting interim control bylaws which exceed the jurisdiction of (the Planning Act).”

The lawsuit suggests both the interim control bylaw and its extension should be quashed for illegality under

the Municipal Act and because they were “enacted in bad faith.”

The lawsuit alleges on Nov. 22, two weeks before council was sworn in, that Disero informed the town’s director of planning, Craig Larmour, that council was considering the interim bylaw to prohibit development in Old Town.

## Planning director testified

An affidavit by Larmour confirms he was asked to prepare the bylaw for the Dec. 5 meeting.

However, the factum argues there is “no record of any properly constituted meeting” where council considered the bylaw before Nov. 22.

Larmour testified in proceedings last August that Disero may have “met with the members of council individually or the council-elect” to consider the bylaw.

The factum claims that Disero had “no authority” to direct staff but did so and indicated the request came from council.

On Nov. 23, the town’s then-chief administrative officer Holly Dowd provided Larmour with a draft interim control bylaw for the special meeting on Dec. 5, advising, “at this time it is very confidential.”

On Nov. 30, Larmour sent the draft to Disero, and “anticipated” the bylaw would be passed Dec. 5.

The lawsuit alleges now-resigned Coun. Stuart McCormack prepared a resolution which he shared

with Larmour on Nov. 30, 2018, provided under a “cryptic” email, “I gather you have been working on this. I thought I would share it with you.”

However, McCormack’s resolution was “out of sync” with the proposed bylaw because it “contemplated a different study and different interim control than the draft bylaw.”

The town’s justification for the bylaw, namely the prohibition of development until the official plan was in place, “does not constitute a study,” the factum alleges.

Hummel argues that since an interim control bylaw requires a study, Larmour “inserted a placeholder to give some semblance of meeting that requirement.”

The lawsuit said there was no staff recommendation or planning report to support the interim control bylaw and that, instead, Disero and council directed changes “on the spot” at the Dec. 5 meeting.

Larmour, in his affidavit, attributed the issues with the bylaw as “the hazard of creating this bylaw on the fly” and had not recommended it be approved, or a study to be undertaken.

“Council did not seek his position on the appropriateness of interim control. Had they done so, he would have recommended that there be additional review. (Larmour) did not understand council’s basis or the true concern,” the lawsuit says.

Hummel claims the interim control bylaw was directed specifically at developer Benny Marotta,

who at the time had planned to build a hotel on the Rand Estate — a contentious project that shaped the 2018 election, during which residents elected an almost entirely new council.

## One developer targeted

The factum makes several allegations in support of that claim, including a personal meeting between Disero and Hummel, during which the mayor allegedly said the interim control bylaw “wasn’t about you guys” and that “you all know why I am doing this.”

Larmour in his sworn affidavit also said the Rand development was on the mind of council.

“I can state that the Randwood development and the activity that occurred in the previous month or so was on the mind of council” and “I would say there was someone specific on her mind, she didn’t identify who it was ... I would be making an assumption,” he says.

Email communication from Coun. Wendy Cheropita also suggests council was being directed to act against a specific developer.

When council voted on the bylaw, “it was the first order of business after the election. Councillors, including me, were unaware of the full extent of the consequences and validity of this move. We were all being guided to vote yes to protect the town from a specific developer,” Cheropita wrote.

The lawsuit alleges

Disero gave “several assurances” to Hummel that the development freeze would be “short lived.” It said Hummel, along with other developers, relied on those assurances in not immediately challenging the bylaw.

However, contrary to those alleged promises, and against staff recommendations, the interim control bylaw was extended Nov. 11, 2019, for another year.

Larmour testified that staff made it clear the extension was not needed.

In April 2020, council moved an exemption process to the bylaw, which Hummel alleges had no planning justification other than “a late attempt to correct the improper interim control and extension.”

In June 2020, council repealed both bylaws.

The lawsuit acknowledges the Planning Act does not require the public to be given advance notice of a proposed interim control bylaw and there is no right to public participation in the process.

However, it does not “obviate” the requirement for proper notice of a public meeting under the Municipal Act, the suit says.

The lawsuit says the town has “given a revolving set of reasons for interim control.”

## ‘Not promoting public interest’

“Even (Larmour) has said he is unaware of the true basis. The town did not call evidence relating to the facts and impetus for interim control. The town has not provided any explanation for not doing so. This allows the court to draw a negative inference.”

In passing both the development freeze and the extension, “council was not promoting the public interest through proper planning,” the suit says.

“It clandestinely targeted one developer and schemed to hide its true purpose. It enacted a sweeping bylaw, one beyond its jurisdiction, which impacted many stakeholders and compromised the public interest.”



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# Region adopts **major development** blueprint for Glendale

Steve Hardaker  
Community Correspondent

Niagara regional council has formally approved an official plan amendment to implement the long-term vision and key directions set out in the Glendale District Plan.

When fully built, after 2041, regional growth projections estimate Glendale will have a population of 15,000, along with 7,500 jobs, including current residents and jobs.

Adopted last week, the plan for Glendale covers about 700 hectares, 400 of which are developable lands, located primarily within Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a small portion in St. Catharines. The district plan envisions a vibrant community where residents can live, work and play.

The boundary of the amendment area includes Queenston Road to the north, Concession 7 Road to the east, Niagara Escarpment to the south, and the Welland Canal to the west.

The regional official plan amendment, known as ROPA 17, reflects the Glendale District Plan's vision for a proactive development strategy that supports growth and economic prosperity.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who is also a member of regional council, thanked the public "for their valuable contributions to this effort. This is a very important step for the Niagara-on-the-Lake community."

"It will open opportunities for thousands of new residents and businesses, while we ensure our community remains distinctive, sustainable with smart,



Glendale's future Main Street area. SUPPLIED

balanced growth," she told The Lake Report in an emailed statement.

"While we will still have to sort out the details of this new neighbourhood in our community, there is so much potential for green trails, amenities and mobility options."

Glendale will become a "spectacular landmark for Niagara-on-the-Lake and an example of what can happen when the public and government work together."

The first step for the town was funding enhancements for the new QEW/Glendale Avenue diverging diamond interchange.

"Our contribution will allow for the creation of a gateway that will finally join both sides of the highway in a proper, more prominent way, bringing all of Niagara-on-the-Lake together as one community," Disero said.

NOTL Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, who also sits on the regional planning and economic development committee, told The Lake Report the plan "provides an opportunity for the entire town of NOTL to address the top issues facing our community."

"ROPA 17 sets the stage for implementing the planning and policy cornerstones" and provides the community with places to live, work and visit.

Housing affordability, employment growth and infrastructure development are among the top issues, he said.

"This gateway to our community, with access to the QEW and central location in the Niagara Region will support our joint future," he said in an email.

"Housing variety is supported. Different forms and density will assist long

term in mitigating the current housing availability issue. Place to live."

"Employment growth lands, supported by the educational institutions in Glendale and Niagara Region, provide our community with the opportunity to attract quality business investment. Place to work."

"Infrastructure assets are identified for transportation. Connectivity for public transit, GO service enhancements and a future rail platform. Place to visit."

Creating the Glendale District Plan was a 2 1/2-year effort to develop a vision and plan to guide future development in Glendale.

Development of the district plan was a collaborative effort involving the town and the Region of Niagara, municipal leaders, residents, Niagara College, stakeholders and

land owners, as well as several public consultation meetings.

The area will offer a mix of housing options, a main street between Glendale Avenue and the Outlet Collection, a dedicated employment area, a hospitality district, a transit hub, greenspace and walking trails and new amenities to support the population of the district.

There are opportunities to recognize the local heritage features, land forms, cultural history and the many environmental features in the Glendale area.

Last year, there were recommendations from the Friends of Laura Secord to use the opportunity to recognize the geographic, historical and cultural attributes that may one day lead to a renaming of Glendale to a more relevant name.

Next up will be an

updating of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Glendale secondary plan to reflect the directions in the Glendale District Plan. The secondary plan was first approved by town council in 2010.

This updating will once again be a collaborative effort between the town and region and further assess the land use concept and prepare detailed policy and mapping to implement the district plan.

Once completed, land owners and developers will be able to submit development plans that are consistent with the goals of the district plan and the Glendale secondary plan.

Steve Hardaker has lived in Glendale for 10 years and is active in many community organizations. He was a member of the Glendale District Plan, Phase 2 community focus group.

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**Mike Shatkosky**  
Owner

# With Brazilian variant rising, Hirji worries about new surge in **vaccine-resistant** cases

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

For weeks, Niagara's chief medical officer of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji has been warning that if the province continued to open up and people didn't reduce their social contacts, variant cases of COVID-19 would start to rise as regular cases flatten out.

Now, he says, that's "exactly what seems to be happening."

"We now actually have a very sharp upwards trend in terms of cases across the province. We are well past where we were at the first wave. We're probably about halfway from where we were back to being at this peak of that second wave."

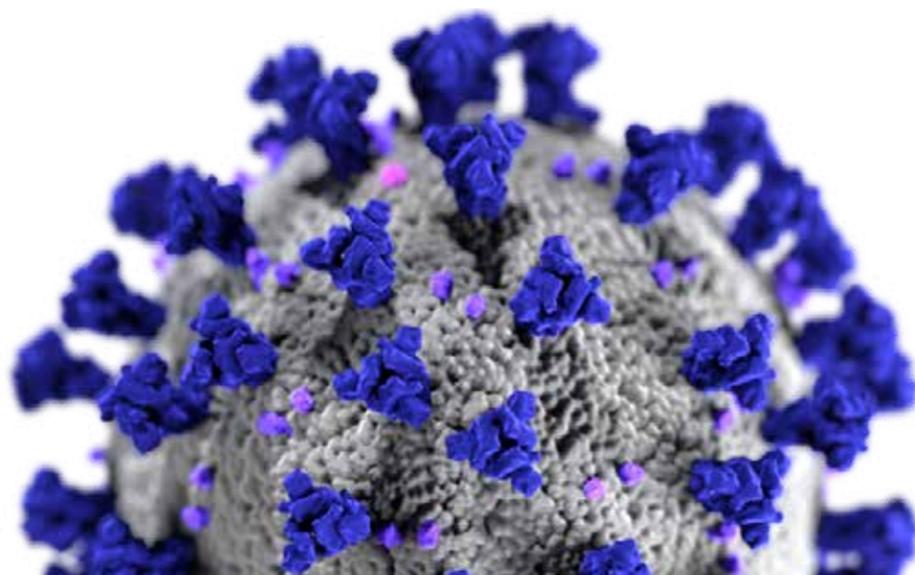
"It's only by reducing the number of people we have social contacts with that we have any hope of flattening this out," Hirji told a media conference Monday.

"We are seeing more infection spreading and so I don't know how we get off this upward trajectory and flatten it out based on the current decisions that are being made in the province."

He urged people to have the "fewest interactions with fewest people for the shortest amount of time at the greatest distance while wearing the best-fitting mask."

Reducing contact with other people by "sticking to just our household, keeping our distance, wearing face coverings" are the only way to bring cases under control, he said.

It could mean the province imposes more restrictions "to basically force us



Niagara's top doctor is warning of P.1 variants of COVID-19 emerging in Ontario. The coronavirus mutation is more infectious and may be vaccine resistant. SUPPLIED

to get there. The earlier I think we do it ourselves, the better off we'll be and perhaps there's still the opportunity that we can avoid a government-imposed lockdown."

He said a big reason for concern is that variant cases will be more severe and many will require hospitalization, and intensive care in some cases.

As the case numbers rise, so does hospitalization.

"Obviously we never brought our cases all the way down so we never brought our hospitalizations and ICU numbers down. And we can see that ICU number starting to go up and it's nearing where we were at the peak of that second wave."

As those cases start to rise, places like Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto are preparing field hospitals to deal with a surge in patients.

Hirji is alarmed that cases of the P.1 variant,

which originated in Brazil, are also starting to rise in Ontario.

Cases of the Brazilian variant jumped to 82 from 61 in just two days, about a 30 per cent increase.

The P.1 strain appears to be more deadly, he said, with thousands of deaths per day being reported in Brazil.

It also appears to be "less prevented by the vaccine," he said.

"And so if this variant starts to rise in Ontario, that makes everything that we've seen become much worse."

British Columbia has detected large numbers of variant cases — more than the entire United States has diagnosed, he said.

While those numbers are likely skewed because Canada is testing for variants more, it's concerning because there is "still is a lot of interprovincial travel around Canada."

"It's fortunately not quite

as grim here in Niagara, at least not yet," he said, adding variant cases had actually seen a slight drop in recent days.

Still, with regular and variant cases combined, Niagara is on an upward trajectory.

Hirji said the latest mobility data the region has access to shows more people are going out for shopping and recreation.

While vaccinations will help get cases under control, that's not going to happen overnight, or even in a few weeks, he warned.

"We need to be very careful about relaxing measures, we need to be careful about having social gatherings, about interacting with others, because that's fuelling the increase in cases."

Mobility data shows that is not happening, he said. "It doesn't seem like that is taking hold yet and so I'm not very optimistic of where this leads."

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I can never be thrown but I can be caught. Ways to lose me are always being sought. What am I?

Last issue: I'm where yesterday follows today and tomorrow is in the middle. What am I?

Answer: A dictionary

Answered first by: Susan Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jon Schmidt, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Wiens, Maria Janeiro, Frank Bucci, Sheila Meloche, Mary Drost, Devon Neudorf, Margie Enns, Katie Reimer, Carol Durling, Elaine Landray, Marion Webb

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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## Museum serves up history of lawn tennis

Barbara Worthy  
Special to The Lake Report

When world-class tennis pros come to Canada today, they often head to Toronto or Montreal for what is now called the National Bank Open.

But in 1886 the tennis world turned its eyes on Niagara-on-the-Lake, and for the next 40 years the world had a front-row seat at the fabulous Queen's Royal Hotel for some of the most prestigious tennis championships of the time.

"The International" and "The Canadian Open" would both be hosted there, with many U.S., Canadian, and Wimbledon champions competing for tennis glory.

And when the world came they saw the beautiful six grass courts belonging to

the Queen's Royal Hotel, balconies that overlooked Lake Ontario and gave perfect viewing of the courts, and enough space all around for the hundreds of spectators.

Plus there was the golf course, the bowling greens and rowing boats for hire on the lake. The nearby military camp housed upward of 10,000 soldiers and their families, all who loved some entertainment. And with four steamships and three trains arriving daily, Niagara-on-the-Lake was a social hub.

Robert J. Lake's virtual lecture on Wednesday, April 7, "A History of Lawn Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake," will turn the clock back on this period of tennis history. His presentation will detail the socio-

economic influences and intricate sports dynamics that made it all happen – as well as its demise following the aftermath of World War One.

Lake is in the sport science department at Douglas College, B.C., where his research focuses on the socio-historical aspects of tennis.

A published author, he won the Lord Aberdare Literary Prize from the British Society of Sports History for "A Social History of Tennis in Britain." He also is president-elect for the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

He brings a wealth of sports history to his lecture and the museum is indebted to Rosemary Goodwin, director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis



A woman plays tennis in NOTL in the late 1800s. SUPPLIED

Club for facilitating this lecture.

\* A History of Lawn Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake is presented April 7 at 10.30 a.m. Registration is required at [www.nhsm.ca/](http://www.nhsm.ca/) events.



## The eagles have landed

NOTL resident Robert Barrow captured this photograph of two bald eagles near the NOTL Golf Club last week.

Send us your photos of interesting scenes, wildlife, local people to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to see your work in print. Make sure to include a photo description, the location and names of anyone in the pictures. Deadline is Monday every week.



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# Legion program to help **lonely** seniors

Jessica Maxwell  
The Lake Report

NOTL is getting a new outreach program to help lonely seniors, thanks to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion Branch 124.

The Seniors Volunteer Outreach Program, aimed at combating social isolation among NOTL seniors, will connect people 65 and older, not just Legion members, with volunteers who can provide support when needed.

“Our goal is to assist seniors’ needs in our community, not just in our branch, as they relate to socialization,” office manager and committee chair Elizabeth Richards said.

Funding for the program is provided by the New Horizons Seniors Program, with a government grant of up to \$25,000 for community-based projects focused on making a difference in the lives of seniors.

The Legion is surveying the community in hopes to better assess the needs of seniors in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Richards said she is focused on jumpstarting the program by using that information to help tailor



Legion Branch 124 Office Manager Elizabeth Richards is helping to jumpstart the outreach program. JESSICA MAXWELL

services to residents in need and gathering volunteers.

Senior residents or those supporting seniors who could benefit from this program are encouraged to visit the Branch 124 website and fill out the survey. The survey asks for feedback from residents on what resources would make the most impact in their lives.

Some suggestions include online safety courses, art classes, assistive technology information and grounds maintenance. Richards said she hopes this dialogue will help the outreach program better allocate money because it’s not just about the committee’s view of what this

project looks like.

Residents interested in volunteering their time to the program can fill out a volunteer information sheet on the Legion website or call the branch at 905-468-2353.

The Legion is hoping the volunteer committee will be able to build and foster long-lasting relationships between seniors, the branch and the local community, Richards said.

“Physically we have a membership of like 269. I’m sure there’s some of those guys that want to be involved,” she said, but encourages anyone who can help to sign up.

Recognizing that NOTL

has many helpful connections and programs that could already benefit seniors, Richards said she doesn’t want to “reinvent the wheel.”

Making smart partnerships and connecting people with resources that may already exist in Niagara-on-the-Lake is how this committee will make sure they are budgeting effectively, she said.

Legion president Paul Eramian said the branch applied for the grant to take on the project in hopes of giving back to the community.

“The community always showed up for functions pre-COVID and support our fish fry,” Eramian said. “I have no problem giving back or doing something with a little extra work.”

“Why not? Why not try to help, because I’m sure there’s many in our community that this would be a godsend for. A little bit of something is a lot better than a whole lot of nothing,” he said.

The Legion’s mission is to serve veterans and their dependents, promote remembrance and act in the service of Canada and its community.



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# Museum lecture examined past and future of **Queenston Quarry**

Linda Fritz  
The Lake Report

Those who have hiked the Bruce Trail on the Niagara Escarpment between Queenston Heights and St. Davids can’t help but notice the Queenston Quarry.

The series of lakes located among blocks of white limestone is an arresting sight. The remains of disused kilns, an old radar tower and parts of an abandoned railway line are all reminders of the past.

On March 24, Frank Raccioppo spoke about the quarry as a part of Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s virtual lecture series. Raccioppo is part-owner of the Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company and has been involved in the project since its inception in 2006.

It was thanks to a 428 million-year-old sea bed



Frank Raccioppo. SUPPLIED

that Queenston limestone developed. As millennia passed, the rock was covered with vegetation. The Neutral Indigenous peoples used this land. By the 18th century, they had been displaced by European settlers, including members of the Secord family, who farmed the area around the quarry.

Then, around 1819, the beauty and strength of the

stone was recognized and quarrying began.

Queenston limestone is world famous and can be found not only in local buildings, but in places like Rideau Hall and the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, at McMaster and Queen’s universities, Union Station in Toronto, and even Canada House on Trafalgar Square in London. The third Welland Canal was

also built of Queenston stone.

Large-scale extraction of Queenston limestone lasted less than a century. The invention of Portland cement, a product that was much easier to use, became the chosen building material by 1909.

What most interested the 100 people who participated in the museum’s session, however, is the future of the quarry.

In fact, limestone continues to be quarried. In the 21st century, it’s used for monuments such as the Landscape of Nations on Queenston Heights, and for the new cornerstone of the renovated Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. One listener wondered if he could get a piece of the stone for his new kitchen!

Raccioppo said that the quarry site will remain a

cultural landscape as reclamation continues. Already, an organic farm is producing a variety of vegetables. In season, look for the “Always June Organic Farm”.

The Quarry Reclamation Company is working with the Niagara Parks Commission to ensure that the kiln sites, radar tower and remnants of the old railway are accessible to the public. These landmarks were ceded to the Parks Commission when the company began its work.

The project will include housing. Twenty-seven acres of the 257-acre property will be used for townhouses and condo units. A golf course will be a part of the open space, along with the organic farm and walking trails.

Raccioppo expects that the plans for this part of the project will be approved and

unveiled before the end of 2021.

In a lengthy question-and-answer session following Raccioppo’s presentation, audience members proposed that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum arrange walking tours of the area when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Raccioppo agreed to the idea.

The presentation was recorded and is available on the NOTL Museum website, [www.nhsm.ca](http://www.nhsm.ca).

The final lecture in this series is April 7 when Robert J. Lake will talk about “A front seat among the playgrounds of two nations: lawn tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake c. 1880s-1920s.”

Linda Fritz is one of the contributors to our Niagara’s History Unveiled feature and wrote a detailed story about the quarry in November 2019.



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# Kim McQuhae: A woman who never sleeps

*This article was originally published at Powering-Communities.ca through the Joint Electrical Promotion Plan, which is supported by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Construction Council of Ontario and the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario.*

Sherri Haigh  
Special to The Lake Report

It is hard to know when NOTL's Kim McQuhae sleeps.

When she isn't managing her farm or making award-winning jams and jellies, she's out pulling cable – a career she loves.

Speaking from her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake where she raises cattle, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 303 member is proud to talk about her career as a network cable specialist.

"I absolutely love it," she says.

A network cabling specialist's tasks can involve installing, repairing and maintaining cable lines



Kim McQuhae with her award-winning jams. FILE PHOTO

for voice, video and data transmission. The job also includes work with various types and sizes of cables, including single line, coaxial and fibre optic.

"It's different from an electrician. We do not deal with live wires. But being able to read a print, using some common sense and having a little bit of strength as sometimes you are pulling cable a long distance," she says.

McQuhae discovered this opportunity by "fluke" when she was told about a job opening in construction back in 2011. As an emerging new trade, she was excited to be part of something new and exciting. The well-paying position is now in great demand by employers due to the growth in new technology.

"My first day on the job happened the day they were introducing the (distributed

antenna system), so I was learning with everyone else," she says. Distributed antenna systems use a combination of coaxial cable and fibre optic to distribute the signals and are often used by cellular, wifi and emergency services.

That led to an apprenticeship offer and a career that has allowed her to experience different job sites, working everywhere from Joseph Brant Hospital in

Burlington to the Niagara Falls Entertainment Centre.

"Watching that theatre come to fruition was very cool," she says.

Mark Cherney, business manager for Local 303, says she is a great asset to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

"Kim is an incredible example of perseverance and success. We are truly grateful to have her as part of our IBEW family," he said.

While it is still a male-dominated profession, she says she has found her co-workers to be supportive. Other than occasional challenges around washrooms, she says there haven't been issues being one of only a few women working on job sites.

"I never had any problems personally. I have worked with people with a lot of experience and they have been very supportive and accommodating," she says. She also stressed that being part of electrical workers union was a great advantage with its high focus on safety and training.

"I've had great employers

too," she said.

She admits that people do often seem surprised by her career choice.

"I walked into a grocery store wearing my PPE and was asked if I was a crossing guard. Some people just assume because I am a woman that is all I can do and when you tell them what I actually do they are surprised," she said.

To describe her days as busy would be an understatement. She rises early each morning, and before she heads to a job site she focuses on her farm. Other than raising and showing cattle at fairs, she also makes 200 different types of jelly and wins awards every year at the Royal Winter Fair.

But her career as a networking cabling specialist is something she is particularly proud of and she enjoys the opportunity to work on different job sites.

"It's fascinating watching a larger project go from bare-bones to completion and then one day you drive by that building and think to yourself – I was a part of that."

## Wellness committee opens **hotline** to help seniors with booking vaccine appointments

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's wellness committee has set up a phone number residents can call to get help with booking their vaccines.

Cindy Grant, chair of the committee, said the idea came to her when the province started taking bookings for people 80-plus in Niagara to get their shots. "The thought occurred to me that there's a bunch of people in this town that don't have a computer or are nervous of it or are confused when they call the 1-800 number and have to push 1 for this and 2 for that and 4 for that, and they're at risk of getting left out, and don't know how to get a vaccine," Grant said.

The phone line will be an "extra layer" of help for people to ensure they're able to get the vaccine if



Cindy Grant, chair of the wellness committee. FILE PHOTO

they want one, Grant said.

She said the library has also agreed to let the committee use computers to help people book their appointments, if needed.

While the service won't be offering rides, the committee will try to help connect anyone who needs a ride with local transit, which is offering free rides for anyone getting to or from a vaccine appointment, or with a local company that's offering \$10 rides (Community Support Services of Niagara).

"I may not get a call, or I may be overwhelmed with calls. I think realistically I'll probably get one or two calls, if that. But I think it's something that is worthwhile doing."

With some people not showing up for appointments at Toronto clinics, she suspects that could be because seniors don't have a way to get there. She hopes the phone line will help solve that potential problem in NOTL.

The hotline number is 905-246-3091.

## First state of the town address highlights plans to **preserve character** of NOTL

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

When will Niagara-on-the-Lake get a dog park? What's up with the town's diversity committee? How will the municipality streamline operations during the pandemic? What are the pandemic impacts and how are the town's finances?

Those were some of the questions asked during the first-ever state of the town address on Friday, during which Lord Mayor Betty Disero and chief administrator Marnie Cluckie discussed where the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is at in 2021.

The forum was hosted by Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue.

Disero highlighted some of the accomplishments and challenges council has faced in the last two years since she was elected mayor, while

Cluckie spoke about what she's done during her first three months as the town's top civil servant.

The mayor's list of wins for the town included securing an expansion for the nursery school, a new on-demand transit system and the creation of a town wellness committee.

Challenges included being \$4.9 million behind in infrastructure spending for roads, as well as the town's financial and revenue problems looking toward future budgets, noting tough decisions are going to have to be made to boost revenues and avoid major tax hikes every year.

She also talked about the town's vision for major issues like protecting heritage and setting standards for development.

"When we started just over two years ago, single lots were being converted to repetitive, cookie-cutter hous-

ing, cannabis companies were lining up in the agricultural areas, waiting for the interim control bylaw to expire, and some of our woodlots in places like Virgil, St. Davids and the Old Town were being clear-cut to make room for, again, repetitive cookie-cutter housing," Disero said.

Council immediately focused on addressing those issues and updating the town's official plan, she said.

That official plan still isn't done, however, she said it is "working its way through the region, particularly concerning the environmental mapping in the rural area."

In the meantime, the town has amended its existing official plan to require compatible development in older established areas of Old Town and Virgil.

As for the dog park, Cluckie said it's on the agenda for 2022, but won't be discussed until then.



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# NOTL Pandemic Heroes



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The Lake Report wants to help recognize NOTL's Pandemic Heroes — people who have made a difference, big or small, in a positive way. You can help us recognize someone in the community by sending a bit about the person and why they're a Pandemic Hero. Please send your nominations early to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com). A special thanks to Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery for providing a bottle of sparkling wine to each of our pandemic heroes. That's the spirit!



## Patio pals

Back row: Jordan Meyer, Paul Bradley, Laurie Stratton, Andrew Ball, Matt Miller. Front row: Levi Brant, Tim Jones, Doug Short. The group banded together last year to help build a patio for the Sandtrap Pub & Grill. RICHARD HARLEY

Throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants have been some of the hardest hit businesses.

But when restaurants were allowed by the town to set up temporary patios last year, a group of friends who frequent the Sandtrap Pub & Grill didn't skip a beat in offering their construction skills free to help out, building a patio for the business — in one day.

For their hard work and friendly gesture, the whole group are some of Niagara-on-the-Lake's "Pandemic

Heroes."

Reached by The Lake Report, one member of the kind crew, Andrew Ball, is humble about it. He and Levi Brant, co-workers at Old Town Building Co., took the lead on the project.

"It was literally me and Levi and then all the bar flies," he jokes.

"Matt and Paul asked me if I could head it up and I just grabbed literally a bunch of volunteers. I took the day off work and we built it in a day for them."

"They're best buddies,"

Ball says of Matt and Paul Dietsch, the NOTL brothers who own and operate the pub.

Ball has about 15 years' experience in construction, and Levi five, so it was just another day's work.

The whole crew celebrated that night, on the Trap.

"As soon as we finished that day there was, ah, lots of libation," Ball said.

Like most who do kind deeds, they were never really looking for recognition.

"I just did it because they're my buddies

and I don't look at myself as doing anything different than anyone else. If anyone calls me for anything I would obviously go help them. But they're just buddies and I like to frequent the bar, so ..."

Brant feels the same way.

"It's a small town, right? Everyone tries to help everyone, especially your buddies. And their business was obviously struggling. It was just the least we could do to help them out."

Matt Dietsch said the patio build "was a true NOTL

moment."

"Growing up in town and seeing so many changes, it's a great feeling knowing that there are some things that will never change — neighbours helping neighbours," he said.

"When the province gave us the OK to open patios on the Monday for the Friday there was no shortage of hands being raised. It helped them knowing the quicker they built it the quicker they had a spot for a cold beverage. They are definitely some of our

COVID heroes."

Paul echoed his brother's comments.

"We are extremely grateful for being a favourite among the locals. And when the town and province removed the red tape to allow patios to open to help our business open back up, we knew we could rely on our regulars who we consider personal friends as well."

"They definitely answered the call and went above and beyond. We can't thank them enough. They are our Pandemic Heroes."

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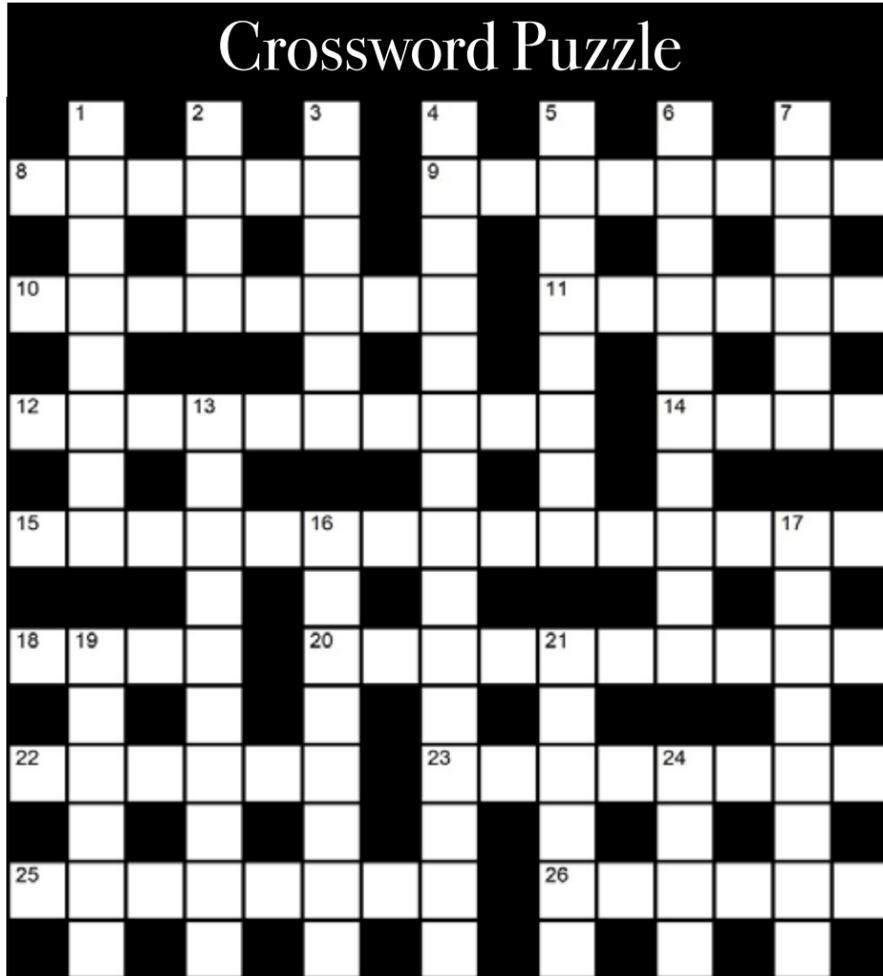
*Have some fun*

**Across**

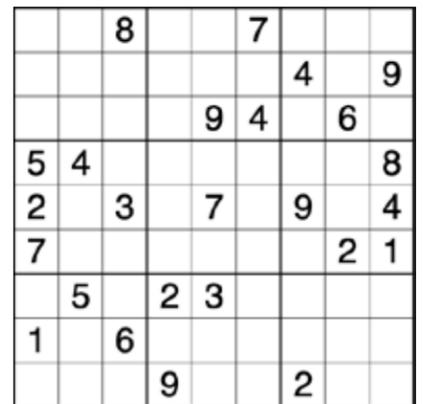
- 8. Part of a sentence (6)
- 9. Newbie (8)
- 10. Where Drake bowled (8)
- 11. Put the phone down (4,2)
- 12. "Late December, back in ---" (Four Seasons) (5-5)
- 14. Some want to eat this and still have it (4)
- 15. Mart cart? (8,7)
- 18. Send (4)
- 20. Upbeat (10)
- 22. He had a talking donkey (6)
- 23. Herb often found with with lamb (8)
- 25. Relating to a law court (8)
- 26. Burger topping (6)

**Down**

- 1. Puerile (8)
- 2. Inner surface of the hand (4)
- 3. Take off (6)
- 4. Getting warm (2,3,5,5)
- 5. Kind of ear implant (8)
- 6. Mealtime annoyances (5,5)
- 7. Walked out (6)
- 13. Old-style audio accessory (4,6)
- 16. "The Man in the ---" (Dumas novel) (4,4)
- 17. German IT manager settles elsewhere (8)
- 19. Kind of collision (4-2)
- 21. Regimental animal (6)
- 24. The high seas (4)



Last issue's answers



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## Starry nights of spring

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

Vincent van Gogh left the Netherlands to join his art dealer brother Theo in Paris where he would further his studies and come into contact with, and be influenced by, the discoveries and work of many of the Impressionists including Monet, Seurat and Pissarro.

However, in time, van Gogh craved a place of solitude where he could assimilate what he had learned in order to create new work under different circumstances. He wanted to leave Paris and its many distractions and get back to nature and serenity.

Although he planned to go to Marseilles, he stopped in Arles, the ancient port of the Phoenicians, which had become a military, cultural and religious centre for the Romans from 123 BC. Van Gogh was so enchanted with Arles that he decided to stay.

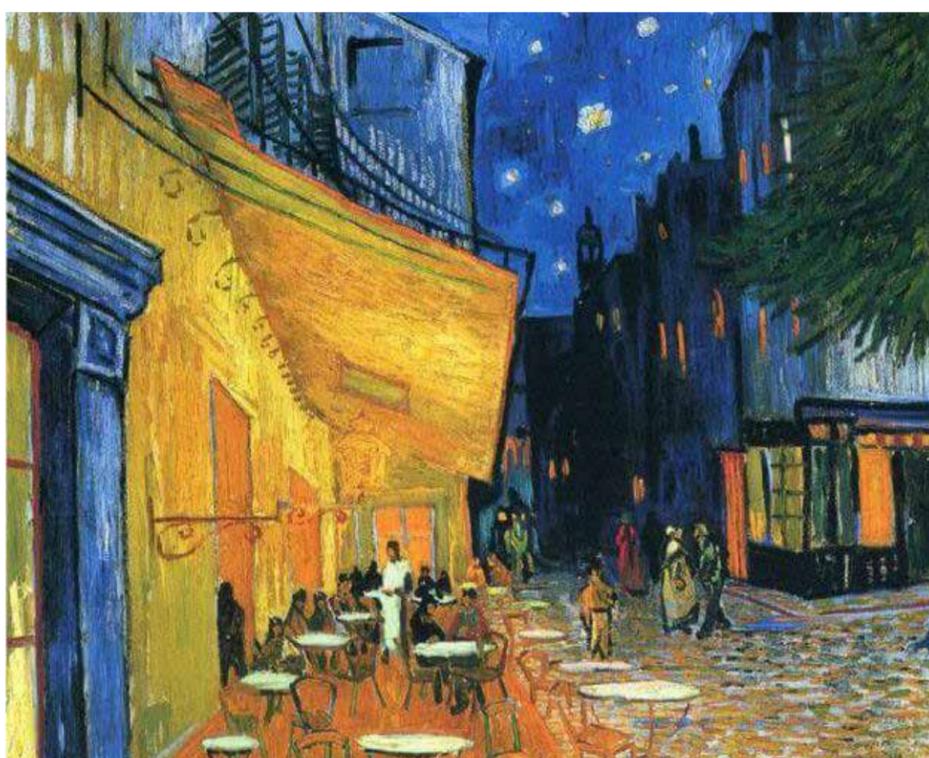
It was a new world for him, a world of sun, warmth, tropical beauty and the relaxation of the south so appealing to northerners. It

was everything he had hoped for: vibrant colours, strong light, the Camargue plains and marshland of the Rhone delta and the picturesque appearance and customs of the local Provençal inhabitants.

In his letters to his sister and brother, van Gogh wrote glowingly, “Nature here is so extraordinarily beautiful” and “Things here have so much line and I want to get my drawing more deliberate and more exaggerated.”

He soon realized his vision had changed after a few weeks and that he saw things differently “with an eye more Japanese” (he was a collector of Japanese prints). “You understand,” he explained to his sister, “that nature in the south can’t precisely be painted with the palette of the north. A palette nowadays is absolutely colourful: sky blue, pink, orange, vermilion, strong yellow, clear green, pure wine red, purple. But by strengthening all colours, one again obtains calm and harmony ...”

Van Gogh painted feverishly, canvas after canvas, drawing after drawing, 300



Vincent van Gogh, Café Terrace at Night, 1888, Oil on canvas, Krüller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, Netherlands. SUPPLIED

in one year, driven by the desire to express specific ideas by colour, simplification, emotion, sincerity and an overwhelming feeling for nature.

Even the most banal images were infused with dynamism. He found endless intriguing subjects and sites that appealed to him and from which he created statements of great vitality using symbolism and specific allusions with meanings both spiritual and psychological.

A remarkable example of this productive period is “Café Terrace at Night.”

As we, the viewers, stroll ahead in the Place du Forum of Arles, we see under the yellow orange light of the café with its awning, 12 tables and 12 seated patrons with a white robed figure in the centre of the group.

Is he a waiter with a white apron or is he possibly an allusion to Christ and the 12 Apostles and, therefore, to the Last Supper? This man,

with long black hair, stands before a window with wood strips separating the panes of glass, forming a cross behind his head.

To the left, a black-clad figure mysteriously leaves the terrace going inside. Judas? To the right, a stroller turns to observe the café scene and two couples in the shadows stand and chat. One is red robed. Mary? Our eyes are pulled into the dark Rue du Palais where an alert horse, ears forward, is

drawing a carriage with a top-hatted driver toward us.

One can almost hear the clip-clop sound on the cobblestones. The awning and the diagonals of the buildings with the luminescent candle glow of their interiors lead up to the deep blue nocturnal sky full of shimmering stars and constellations reputed to be accurate to Sept. 17 and 18, 1888.

This work, created on site by van Gogh with candles stuck in the headband of his hat, is one of the three famous “Starry Night” paintings done within a year.

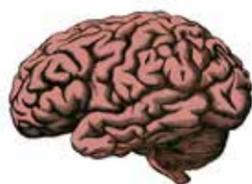
Although van Gogh was a deeply religious man he had turned away from the pursuit of theology to be an artist. And yet, he wrote to his brother Theo, in reference to this painting, that he felt “a tremendous need for, shall I say the word, for religion ...”

As we welcome the coming days of Passover and Easter and aspire to join friends and family once again on outdoor evening terraces, we might well look up and, if it is a clear, starry night, be reminded of the extraordinary vision of van Gogh.

*Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She also was head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario.*

## Dr. Brown: Concussion, the brain and landing on aircraft carriers

*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.*



Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

In 1940, the British navy was very short of aircraft carriers to protect its vital convoys from U-boats and the German reconnaissance aircraft that tracked them and guided the U-boats to the convoy.

Given the situation, Winston Churchill made a desperate decision for desperate times – lop the tops off small merchant ships and add decks on top. It was a makeshift, brilliant proposal but hazardous for crew and pilots alike.

Landing fighter aircraft

on carrier decks in those days was never going to be easy for the decks were so short – 400 feet in this case. That and landing on heaving decks in rough seas made every landing dangerous and if the hook failed to catch the last cable, a crash into the sea and near certain death was usually the result.

Eric Brown was a Royal Navy fighter pilot assigned to just such an aircraft carrier, which was charged with escorting a convoy from Gibraltar to the U.K. One day enemy reconnaissance aircraft were spotted shadowing the convoy, so Brown and his leader

took off to intercept them.

In the ensuing battle they managed to shoot down one four-engine Condor aircraft but return fire crashed into Brown’s cockpit. That was Brown’s last memory until a half hour later when he woke up in sick bay.

The records show Brown was “talked down” to touchdown by his leader who stayed close to Brown’s port wing throughout the return to the ship. Brown’s plane successfully caught the second arresting cable (there was no third), after which his leader banked away to make his own approach and land.

The other day I read the takeoff and landing procedures for the Grumman Wildcat fighter that Brown flew that day. Like many Second World War fighter aircraft of those days, the

Wildcat was tricky to land at the best of times and there were a lot of checks to make before catching the cable.

On approach, pilots had to control their airspeed within one or two knots and stay on a visual glideslope throughout to the expected touchdown point if they were to have any hope of trapping the cable and landing safely. Learning to land in those days was fraught with crashes – some fatal.

But as it turned out, Brown was a natural for whom a heaving 400-foot deck was fun and just one more challenge to master. Later, he became the most celebrated fleet air arm test pilot of the war and continued to serve well into the era of high-performance jet fighters.

In that fight, Brown was

wounded in the left wrist and superficially in the head. He must have suffered a concussion. Even so, for the half-hour between becoming wounded and “coming to” on the ship, he was able to take directions from his leader, operate a complex unforgiving aircraft, follow all the procedures and maintain control, right through to hitting the landing spot on. He was later told that it was one of his best landings.

Brown clearly retained procedural memory because he was able to carry out all the complex procedures for level flight, entering the landing pattern and land precisely, even if he had no later recall of doing so.

The whole experience reminds me of football players I have seen who suffered a concussion yet continued to

play for much of the game, only to have to be reminded later of what happened.

Like Brown, they were able to take instructions and carry them out, in one case catching the football in the endzone for the winning touchdown, which he didn’t remember a month later when I examined him.

Concussion raises questions about awareness and attention, both of which were working for Brown and the football players. However, the processes of forming, consolidating and retrieving the memories for the train of events between the concussion and sick bay, were lost to Brown, as it turned out, for the rest of his life.

*Learn more during the NOTL Public Library’s continuing online series about the brain.*



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# FEATURED



## Late 1800s road work

This is a late 1800s photograph of a group of unidentified men, possibly in Queenston, working on the road systems in our community. Early road development was completed through “statutory labour” and was overseen by “Pathmasters” or an “Overseer of Highways.” Every May to September men appointed to this position would call upon lot owners, as part of their statutory duty, to assist with the development and repair of highways and roads in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The physical labour could be strenuous with falling trees, breaking stone or creating bridges. Failure to show up would result in fines. Eventually, this system was changed to payment in lieu of labour and thus taxes to pay for public works expenditures.



## Don't be surprised

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Thinking of a home renovation, an addition, or a build? Be prepared, because the cost of your project under current market conditions is going to be significantly more than you think. And allow me to say that it is NOT the fault of your local contractor or builder.

Although it may be stating the obvious, we are living in challenging times.

Let's consider softwood lumber for a moment. Twenty-four months ago, the humble spruce 2x4 in the local big-box store was priced at about \$3. By mid-summer of 2020 it had risen to almost \$9, then in November



Out of your wallet.  
SUPPLIED

it was back down to below \$5, and as of this month it's selling for over \$8.

Now, let's assume that the cost of the lumber for framing a new house at the beginning of 2020 was \$40,000. Today's cost for that same lumber would be over \$106,000!

How can this have occurred?

Well, it begins with the drastic loss of western softwood timber resulting from predation by the mountain pine beetle and the spruce beetle whose out-of-control proliferation is due to global warming. The resultant shortage of harvestable timber has led to the loss

of about half of the western processing facilities.

Then along comes COVID. First, the mills anticipated a slowdown in housing starts and planned accordingly. That slowdown was shorter than projected and the mandated stay-at-home DIY'er demand for lumber rocketed to unprecedented heights, putting the mills in a desperate back-order position. Then came lockdowns. Any time a mill employee tested positive, the entire operation was shutdown, with associated delays to output and subsequent increased production costs.

After nearly catching up in the fall of 2020, once again, the December lockdowns precipitated another round of shortages.

All this was complicated by the American demand on Canadian producers (despite Donald Trump's tariff) continuing to rise.

To sum it up, there has been a domino effect: climate issues led to

insect predation, creating a shortage of healthy standing timber, which led to closed mills and diminished capacity further hamstrung by COVID workplace lockdowns, exacerbated by unprecedented demand. The result, perfect storm conditions for the wildly inflated costs.

And lumber isn't the only supply chain showing this type of cost inflation and fluctuation.

I was recently speaking with the owner of Canada's largest distributor of porcelain slabs, who stated that while stock levels at the factory were good, there was a drastic shortage of shipping containers (apparently being stockpiled in China) that is resulting in supply shortfalls.

Even the jobsite Porta-Potty has become more expensive as new COVID government regulations insist they all be flushable!

Unfortunately all costs that literally come home to roost.

## Obituary & In memoriam

### John Surgeoner



#### JOHN SURGEONER

John passed away in peace while in the presence of family on March 25, 2021, at the age of 74. Preceded in death by his wife Linda (2013). Loving father of Jay and Justin (Christine). Dear brother of Bill in California and Ron of Niagara Falls. Further survived by nieces, nephews, and many relatives throughout Canada and the United States. Born in St. Davids and an entrepreneur at heart, John operated St. Davids Auto Services Station for 30 years receiving the highest awards of excellence from Petro-Canada. John maintained a lifelong commitment to volunteerism serving 40 years as a firefighter, rising to the rank of Chief with Niagara District #2 and as a member of the St. Davids Lions Club. After his retirement, John and Linda moved to their cottage on Lake-of-Bays where they spent summers hosting family & friends. They would spend winters in Venice, Florida enjoying new-found friendships, NASCAR races, and of course his Buffalo Bills. A special thank you to the staff at Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and Hotel Dieu Shaver in St. Catharines. At John's request cremation has taken place and arrangements have been entrusted with Essentials Cremation and Burial Services. A Celebration of Life will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers and gifts, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences may be shared on John's tribute page found at EssentialsNiagara.com.

### Denise Lundy



Denise Lundy a loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother.

Born January 16, 1961

Passed away April 01, 2019.

Remembering you is easy, we do it every day.

Missing you is a heartache that never goes away.

Always loved, forever missed.

Tony, James, Michael, Jen and Granddaughter Rose.



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