

Easter rain? No problem

Ella Shapley, 2, plays with a helium balloon during Easter celebrations at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA/THE LAKE REPORT

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The rainy weather did not dampen spirits at the annual Bunny Trail party in NOTL on Saturday.

Although the egg hunt was moved indoors at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, children and families still walked away with some

sweet Easter treats. The event was organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen Club and the Niagara Nursery School and Child Care Centre. Families with children of all ages had a chance to participate in a variety of activities, including posing for pictures with Crystal Bunny. The event also featured face painting, a bake sale as well

as an arts and crafts zone. Ruth Belfie, who was at the event with her four-year-old granddaughter Maya Ballantyne, said this was the best year ever as the activities were more child-oriented. Lonny Danieluk, who was there with his family, said the Bunny Trail is a great place to see the community. "You see people you

haven't seen in a long time," he told The Lake Report. The District 1 firefighting captain Michael Mitchell said volunteers have been participating in the event for a couple of years now. Money raised from the event, which attracted hundreds of families, helps support the nursery school.

Photos on Page 12



Cathy Simpson is chief librarian and CEO of NOTL Public Library. BRITTANY CARTER

Provincial cuts hit Niagara library

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The provincial government's planned cuts to library services are going to affect library patrons in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Libraries in Niagara Co-operative, a local reciprocal borrowing program that started in 2010 among public libraries in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Lincoln, Pelham and Fort Erie, and Niagara College's library, has suspended

operations. The province's 50 per cent budget cut to the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and Ontario Library Service-North has resulted in the suspension of all interlibrary loan service as of April 26. NOTL library board chair Madeleine Lefebvre called on the government to reconsider the decision in order to "protect what matters most."

Continued on Page 8

Thomson named CEO of Niagara Falls Tourism

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Janice Thomson is taking her drive for high-quality leadership to Niagara Falls Tourism as the president and CEO, after an 18-year tenure at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce. Excited at the prospect of bringing her experience and success in NOTL's tourism to Niagara Falls, she said she was eager for the opportunity. "Just looking at the dynamic environment in the Falls and the fact that it is Canada's national tourism treasure, it appealed



Janice Thomson. JER HOUGHTON
to me to make that move," Thomson said in an interview.

Continued on Page 2

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Annual Lake Ontario cleanup coming back to NOTL shores

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Plastic, straws, cigarette butts – even toilet seats – are just some of the trash that can be found along the shores of Lake Ontario.

However, the NOTL shoreline will be a bit

cleaner after Sunday, May 5, when the fourth annual beach cleanup kicks off at 10 a.m. at Queen's Royal Park.

Love Your Lake is one of the programs organized by a non-profit organization, A Greener Future. The event starts in NOTL and ends in Kingston, making 100 stops to pick up litter along the way.

Last year, 3,456 pieces of litter were collected in NOTL with 42 volunteers and five staff members helping clean up the park's waterfront. Volunteers and staff picked up 656 cigarette butts, 132 food wrappers, 288 plastic bottle caps, 193 straws, 757 plastic pieces, 398 pieces of

styrofoam and five syringes – all at Queen's Royal Park.

Paddle Niagara was the cleanup's sponsor last year, said Rochelle Byrne, founder of A Greener Future, and, thanks to paddleboarders, a lot of litter was also fished out of the lake.

Tim "Bala" Balasiuk, the owner of Paddle Niagara, said he has been cleaning up the NOTL beaches for seven years. The decision to team up with A Greener Future came to him two years ago after he met Byrne and her sister, who were cleaning up the beach at the Queen's Park.

"If everyone was a little bit more aware about the individual impact they're having, it would make it a lot easier to solve all these big problems,"

ROCHELLE BYRNE
FOUNDER, A GREENER FUTURE

Balasiuk is frustrated by "the fact that we do have these beautiful parks down here and people still feel comfortable just disposing their trash," he told The Lake Report.

After talking to staff at A Greener Future, Balasiuk said he realized the litter isn't only due to people dropping it. Sometimes trash can be accidentally blown out of garbage bins on a windy



Tim Balasiuk, founder of Paddle Niagara, holds some trash he found on Lake Ontario's shore. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

day, he said.

Balasiuk said he looks forward to seeing how many kids will attend this year's cleanup.

"The more kids show up, the more influence we make," said Balasiuk.

"The saying (goes), 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks', so I'm going to start with the pups."

He'd also love to have tourists show interest or take part as well.

Cigarette butts and pieces of plastic are the two most collected items during the cleanup, said Byrne.

Most people who smoke think that the cigarette butts are biodegradable, but they are not because of the plastic contained inside.

Nurdles or plastic pellets, which are used for manufacturing plastic products, can also be found on almost every beach, said Byrne.

She also recalled col-

lecting strange items along various beaches, including vacuum tubes, toilet seats, sports equipment, single socks, oven racks, carpets, doormats and a full eggplant.

Before the program started, Byrne would pick up the litter in her spare time or organize community cleanups. She said she then felt like something "more organized" and more "impactful" for Lake Ontario had to be done.

"Over the years as I picked up more and more (litter), I've realized it's not a problem that is related to just litterbugs throwing stuff to the ground," Byrne told The Lake Report in a phone interview. "It's a problem that's related to our consumption as a society."

"It's sad but every time we do this project, we pick up just as much litter as the

year before. It doesn't seem like the problem is getting any better and that can be really discouraging," she said.

"But at the same time, I think it helps demonstrate that we need to make changes in our society not necessarily because people are littering but because we're consuming too many single-use products."

After garbage is collected, the organization's staff sorts it. Appropriate material is recycled and composted and the rest is sent to landfill.

Cigarette butts are sent to TerraCycle by mail and textile items are dropped off at proper recycling locations.

Volunteers picked up their one-millionth piece of litter in Kingston last year.

"Funny enough, our millionth piece was a party horn," said Byrne. Reaching that milestone had been

Byrne's goal since the organization was established.

Another big problem is plastic tampon applicators. During last year's cleanup, Byrne's team picked up 33 applicators in NOTL alone.

A lot of people don't realize that when they flush down tampon applicators, they can end up in the lake and then get washed up on the beach, said Byrne.

Her petition to stop making plastic applicators, addressed to Tampax and Procter & Gamble, has almost 150,000 signatures. When the organization collects enough plastic applicators, the whole pile will be sent to Tampax, said Byrne.

"If everyone was a little bit more aware about the individual impact they're having, it would make a lot easier to solve all these big problems," she said.

Thomson leaving NOTL Chamber for Niagara Falls Tourism

Continued from Front Page

She will leave her position at the NOTL chamber effective May 15.

Thomson said that had she been asked a year ago if she would leave her post as president of the NOTL chamber, her answer would have been no, she was happy in her chamber role.

"It's interesting how you can see new opportunities. I think we've built a very

strong tourism career here."

Chamber of Commerce board chair Paul MacIntyre praised Thomson, saying, "Janice is a true professional and champion of Niagara-on-the-Lake. We thank her for all her inspiration over her term and of course all the remarkable achievements that she led at the chamber."

"She has been a true ambassador to every guest, new business or existing member

in need of help," he said in a statement.

Among many accomplishments during Thomson's tenure, MacIntyre noted that chamber membership doubled, new events like the White Effects dinner and Shades of Summer dinner were established, and the chamber took a leadership role on issues related to NOTL business growth and development.

Proud of what she did at

the chamber over her career, Thomson said its members and partners should be proud as well.

"We've done a lot at the chamber to build a brand name of Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Her biggest takeaway from her career at the chamber is the effectiveness of working with partners, she said.

"In this industry, within tourism, there are a lot of

people who make major investments, in infrastructure, in property, in service and attractions ... Finding common projects that people can work together on and then see that there's an uplift for everyone in the industry," she said.

In a statement issued by the chamber to announce her departure, Thomson said, "I am approaching my new opportunity to serve as president and CEO of

Niagara Falls Tourism with great enthusiasm and energy and am looking forward to working with the board, staff and member businesses of Niagara Falls Tourism to optimize the destination's success in maintaining a strong and sustainable leadership position within tourism in Canada."

The NOTL chamber will be conducting an executive search to fill the role of president.



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Fort Mississauga undergoing major restorations

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A new wooden roof with solar panels will soon be installed at Fort Mississauga on NOTL's lakefront.

Water has been leaking into the building through the existing roof at the national historic site. The new roof is intended to dry the structure out and help protect it.

The solar panels will provide some lighting inside and outside the tower as the site has no electricity.

"We decided we wanted some lighting on the outside for security but also for aesthetics," said Brendan Buggeln, Parks Canada's asset manager. "And also, some lighting on the interior of the building so any time we go in there, we don't need to be using flashlights as much."

"And rather than bringing electrical services out to the site across the golf course and through archeology and all of that, we found that putting solar panels was a more cost-effective way of



Restoration work at Fort Mississauga began this April. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

providing the lighting we needed," he told The Lake Report in a phone interview.

It's just to light up the tower at night, so the lighting won't disturb anyone nearby, he said.

The construction started earlier in April and is expected to be completed this fall. The total cost of the project is about \$1.3 million.

There will also be some minor restoration work to the

interior and exterior walls.

Working at Fort Mississauga, which was built between 1814 and 1816, is a challenging job, Buggeln said, "because it's old and it's unique in Canada in its design and construction. Actually, we've been working on this project for a number of years already."

He said Parks Canada teamed up with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, which surrounds the fort, to

avoid causing any disturbance.

Crews have worked hard to minimize any impact for visitors to the site, he said. "We expect the disruption to be minimal."

Visitors can walk to the top of the earth berms around the fort and view the renovation work, but for people's security Parks Canada has closed the grounds around the tower, he said.

Police investigate after cyclist is found in ditch

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

A 71-year-old St. Davids cyclist who was found in a ditch on Monday afternoon remains in serious condition in hospital, police say.

The man was discovered unresponsive in a ditch on East and West Line Road near Townline Road, Niagara Regional Police said in a news release.

Police have released few details about the incident. The investigation is on-going and there is no evidence that the incident was a hit-and-run, said Const. Phil Gavin.



Police blocked off a section of East and West Line for investigation Monday afternoon after a cyclist was found unconscious on the side of the road. RESIDENT PHOTO

Police have not said whether the man suffered a medical problem or if something else caused his injuries. The victim's name also has not been released. He is in an out-of-town hospital, but police declined to say where.

A resident who lives on East and West Line Road said the man was discovered in the ditch with his bike around 1 p.m. He said emergency responders at

the scene said the man still had a pulse when he was taken to the hospital.

The section of East and West Line Road between Concession 6 and Townline Roads was closed off for several hours due to the investigation by detectives of the Niagara police collision reconstruction unit.

Police are asking any witnesses to contact investigators at 905-688-4111, ext. 5500.

Clarification: Town can't pinpoint cause of sewer spill

The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has not been able to identify the source of a sewer spill that spewed carrots, sausages and other debris onto Mary Street, a spokesperson says.

A photo caption in The Lake Report on April 18 quoted a town employee saying that the blockage might have been caused by Backhouse Restaurant, which is located in the plaza near where the spill occurred.

Backhouse owner and head chef Ryan Crawford phoned the paper this week and is adamant it wasn't caused by Backhouse.

Town spokesperson Victoria Steele said there is no way to pinpoint what caused the spill.



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Editorial: Happy birthday to us! One year young

Richard Harley
Editor-in-Chief

We can't believe it's already been one year. Where does the time go?

When The Lake Report put out its first issue last May, "whirlwind" is one of the words we used to describe the feeling we had. And it still fits.

In just one (very!) short year, The Lake Report has established itself as the first independent and independently owned newspaper dedicated to producing hyper-local news about the wonderful community of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By bringing you news, views and stories about the people of NOTL, we have become a voice for you – and an outlet for you to publish your letters and opinions. We're proud that you, our readers, continually tell us that we provide a way for you to feel more connected to your neighbours than ever before.

It's been our honour to serve the community, and receive support and encouragement on a daily basis.

This community is unique in so many ways. We all know how welcoming we can be. We all know how friendly we can be. But beyond that, the sense of small town is truly overwhelming – beyond a fleeting, "Hello, how are you?"

We've received help and support, contributions to our paper, established lasting relationships with some of the town's most respected and established businesses and the people who keep them running.

We have seen first-hand the contributions to our local charities and are proud to be able to help those charities spread their messages to the community.

We could go on and on about how proud we are of what we've done, but the most important piece of it all, is you. None of this could happen without our readers and advertisers.

You are the people who read our paper every week, send us story ideas, photos and feedback. You are the ones who attended our launch party, who help support our local journalists, and who whole-heartedly encouraged us to go further than we ever expected to take things in our first year.

Ever since our first issue – just 5,000 copies, planned to be monthly – we were asked for more. When we went bi-weekly, you still wanted more.

It's been a ride – one we don't intend to stop soon. Time really does fly when you're having fun.

Here are some of the highlights from our first year:

May 2018 - First issue of The Lake Report is released.

July 2018 - Expanded to bi-weekly editions, increased to 10,000 circulation.

September 2018 - Lake Report hosts official launch party at Mori Gardens and more than 400 people attend.

October 2018 - Lake Report staff moves into first office space.

September 2018 - Lake Report releases Special

Election Edition covering municipal election with first-ever hyper-local coverage.

December 2019 - Lake Report staff marched in our first Christmas Parade

January 2019 - Official opening of newly renovated office space.

January 2019 - Increased to weekly production.

Along the way we've done a number of cool things:

Given a scholarship to one of our photographers Eunice Tang;

Supported local events and businesses, such as the first-annual Make Change for Children Spring Photo-shoot in 2018;

Supported new businesses with stories and promotion;

Published hundreds of NOTL news stories;

Put dozens of NOTL people and their stories into the paper;

Hosted interns from Niagara College;

Hired new staff members;

Formed community partnerships with numerous local businesses.

Joined organizations like CFIB.

editor@niagaranow.com

The Lake Report is proud to have received these two certificates from the Province of Ontario and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for its launch party and office opening. Thank you to our member of provincial parliament Wayne Gates and our lord mayor Betty Disero for the kind acknowledgements.



The Lake Report

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A foggy morning in NOTL. SUBMITTED BY TONY CHISHOLM

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OPINION: Stand up for libraries. And education. And public health

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

I don't use the public library. My shelves are sagging from the weight of the unread books I've been meaning to get to.

I don't need the public library.

Our kids are grown, so we don't turn to the library any more as a source for challenging, fascinating reading.

I don't rely on the public library.

My library card has long-ago vanished. No idea where it is.

I only rarely visit the public library, but I appreciate and understand the important role that libraries play in our society.

Just because I don't use the library now doesn't mean thousands of others won't do so every day.

Just because I don't need the library's services now doesn't mean I won't tomorrow or next week or next year.

Just because I don't rely on the library doesn't mean it's not an important lifeline for other members of the community.

Could someone please tell Premier Doug Ford?

Slashing the operating budgets by 50 per cent of the provincewide services that arrange inter-library loans of books seems a cynical and nasty way to save what in the grand scheme amounts to a few dollars.

Yes, I understand, we have to live within our means. An admirable sentiment. And with all the corporate and other revenue reductions the province has instituted, someone has to pay the price.

When Ford was a Toronto city councillor a few years



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. BRITTANY CARTER

ago, he was ridiculed by some left-leaning elitists (and they were, indeed, "elites") for saying he wouldn't hesitate to close "libraries" if necessary. And while he's not yet shutting libraries, he is clearly showing his antipathy and disregard for those who read, need or write books.

I think what bothers me most about this move by Ford's government is that it seems so petty and unnecessary.

I'm really hoping for a grassroots groundswell of people telling their MPPs that the province needs to stop picking on libraries. And

education. And flood management. And public health.

Maybe librarians and library lovers will be the ones to lead the way.

Meanwhile, I think I need to use the public library more. We all should.

Condolences: *The NOTL community was shocked this week by news of the death of Stefanie Sherk. Heartfelt condolences to her parents Sue and Rick Sherk. Stefanie, an accomplished actor and writer, died of an aneurysm Saturday at age 43 at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Centre in Los Angeles.*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sign petition to support Sentineal horse carriages

Dear editor,

NOTL has a strong base of intelligent, proud and caring residents devoted to the preservation of historic sites, built heritage and elements that reflect calmer bygone days.

Compassionate hearts and minds concur that Sentineal horse and carriage rides are an intrinsic component of the heritage landscape, as it have been since the early 1990s.

Regarding the matter of safety, how much of a problem is it for drivers of vehicles that confront a horse and carriage to simply slow down to ensure safe passage for all? When driving in the Heritage Dis-

trict, they will be able to exit to a side street within about a minute.

Plans are underway for a petition to town council to address issues of protests, provocation and harassment aimed toward the carriage business and staff and to ensure the long term continuance of Sentineal Carriages.

The petition will reflect active pacifism as opposed to passive or active activism. My horsing around is over ... I implore every citizen to read the petition and use a pen. Every signature matters.

**Stephen Oprici
NOTL**

Additions should complement heritage buildings

In response to Brian Marshall's feature Architect printed March 28, 2019 where he says, "I fail to understand people who believe that an addition to a building should never be of the same design," I offer the following.

Having spent years on the NOTL Heritage committee, listening to and having seen additions Peter Stokes designed, I believe the following to be the direction an addition to a heritage building should take. I learned from the

'master'.

An addition to a heritage building should distinguish itself from the original in a positive way from the original building. An addition should be slightly removed in position, pushed back from the heritage building so that the original building is the outstanding, the 'star' so to speak. The addition should be minor and not a fake replica of the original building.

**Victoria Morley
NOTL**



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OPINION: Turn defence lands into a park, not wetlands

Dear ditor,
We all should thank Debi Goodwin and the Harmony Residents Group she represents for clarifying the intentions of their organization regarding the National Defence lands bordering on the Chataqua neighbourhood.

We now know that they are not simply protecting the privacy of nearby homes, but rather creating a natural heritage park, with the sewage ponds area turned into "wetlands," where people can see the Carolinian forest, species can be preserved, and history, including, that of the Indigenous peoples, can be reflected. A noble pursuit, indeed.

Yet we see problems.

1. There is very little for-

est in the largely open areas of the old National Defence grounds. If one wants to enjoy the Carolinian forest, nearby areas of the Niagara Parkway will more than satisfy one's needs. Need more solitude or forest in a nearby lakeside setting? Visit the long-standing park on Lake Ontario just west of the new sewage treatment plant.

2. Another word for wetlands, in many areas, is swamp. Do we really think that parents and children, or groups of students, are going to want to don their rubber boots to slosh through the edges of a swamp to view wildlife, while swatting at mosquitoes and other noisome aspects of wildlife? I don't need more skunks digging up my lawn, more raccoons chewing on my

roof, or more geese bombing my driveway. If I want to see wildlife I will be happy to visit Algonquin Park. Niagara-on-the-Lake is not a nature preserve; rather it is an example of gracious urban living dating back to its planning by the British Army engineers.

3. After 42 years of living in Garrison Village, directly across from the sewage ponds, I, like many residents, can attest to the noxious odours that have emanated from that area, especially every weekend in the summer when the tourists arrived. At times we could not eat supper with friends on our patio because of the stench. Finally, after many delays, Niagara Region is about to start operating the new sew-

age plant, a kilometre down the road. We don't need or want memories of the good old days; the ponds should be filled in and the land converted to other use.

Recently, my wife and I visited Jaycee Gardens on Ontario Street in St. Catharines, near Port Dalhousie, an experience I highly recommend to all residents concerned about the National Defence lands development. There, we strolled with many residents along lovely sidewalks and across green swards — just lawns and trees slowly winding down to the water of the rowing basin, where a long pedestrian bridge provides access to Port Dalhousie.

In one area there were swings and slides for children. A few bicycles and

three Segways went by the pedestrians, the large area guaranteeing there would be no conflict between the various forms of locomotion. The experience was delightful and enlightening. Here, we realized, was a perfect model for the lands whose use we are debating. Picture large civilized open space with access to Lake Ontario, room to stroll in comfort without encountering hostile or undesirable wildlife, space to play, to throw or kick a ball, to run with one's children. Perhaps even a boat ramp or a beach.

We have, of course, Simcoe Park, but I need not remind our townfolk of how flooded with tourists that venue becomes every summer, or how impossible it is to find parking. One beauty of this proposal is that the park would be largely unknown to tourists. It could be a sanctuary for townfolk, not snapping turtles. It would require vision, and leadership, but I am assured that our new

council is replete with such qualities. It will require financing, but I can foresee that a subscription might well be supported by local residents who would enjoy its benefits. Perhaps, as in St. Catharines, the Jaycees might want to make this a project.

An argument against filling in the sewage ponds has been the cost involved. The Jaycee Gardens sit upon the third Welland Canal, which had to be filled in for the park. Clearly, "where there is a will ..."

Again, my thanks to Ms. Goodwin. She corrected my error in suggesting the landowner was the Niagara Parks Commission, when in fact it is Parks Canada. Now, I will be certain to correctly address my next letter. We agree on one thing: "It's vital that they hear from the community before it is too late."

James Tupman
Colonel Butler Crescent
NOTL

OPINION: Short-term rentals law is being ignored

Dear Editor,
This is in response to the letter to the editor, by Alison Hepburn, dated April 4, 2019.

NO. The Town of NOTL is NOT enforcing the short-term rental bylaw. Our community has been battling with town staff regarding absentee owner-owned Airbnb rentals in our residential community since last summer.

The staff gave two properties three-bedroom cottage rental licences in spite of the fact that both properties have more than three bedrooms. Had town staff licensed these properties correctly as villas, properties within 400 feet of the proposed villa property would have been notified and given a chance to appeal.

Town staff continue to defend the five-bedroom rental property on our street as a three-bedroom cottage rental even though the rental listing shows pictures of all five bedrooms and invites nine to 10 guests.

Those of us in Garrison Village are determined to change this situation and welcome all residents to join us in our fight.

We suggest that:

1. All issues with short-term rentals be reported each and every time by going to notl.org, clicking on Customer Services, then the online request & complaint form and making your complaint. Why? Because every time you send an email, town staff direct you to do this.

2. Continually send letters of complaint to your councillors and to Peter Todd, the town clerk.

3. Coun. Stuart McCormack is working on the new short-term rental bylaw. We need this one to have "teeth." Please offer your suggestions to this councillor.

4. Also, during conversations with councillors, we have heard repeatedly that they believe we need to hire more bylaw enforcement officers to work on a

24/7 basis. It is my opinion that if a solid bylaw is created then this won't be necessary. And I do not believe our property taxes should ever be used to monitor these businesses. They just need to be run correctly.

In my opinion, all short-term rentals within residential communities need to be owner-occupied. They should be limited to the rental of two bedrooms with maximum occupancy of two people per bedroom.

The rooms need to meet all fire regulations and egress protocols. No street parking should be allowed.

The new bylaw needs to supersede any previous short-term rental bylaws and licences. Short-term rental properties will not be licensed if they have pools and hot tubs, for obvious safety reasons.

Please advocate for yourself, because no one else will.

Deborah Symington
Garrison Village

A man and his dog



Jules Goss playing frisbee with his dog Lila at Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.
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Budapest Bakery brings Hungarian culture to NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Staying connected to Hungarian culture is important to Todd and Anett Kane, the owners of a newly opened bakeshop in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Budapest Bakeshop, at 106 Queen St. E. near the Shaw Cafe, specializes in chimney cakes that vary from savoury to sweet.

Chimney cakes, or kürtőskalács in Hungarian, are pastries made from raised dough which is then wrapped around a spit and baked. The cakes can also have different fillings inside, from ice cream to sausages.

"This is a 300-year-old recipe. This is very famous in Hungary and I grew up on chimney cakes," said Anett.

Staying in touch with her culture is important for her, said Anett, who taught her two daughters, seven-year-old Helena and two-year-old Victoria, the Hungarian language. The family also tries to visit Anett's home country at least once a year.

Anett said her parents were excited and proud of the new business venture, and her mother flew from Hungary to be at the opening this month.

Todd said their chimney cakes are unique.

"When you hear the word 'cake,' you think of the traditional cake, but it's a total opposite of that," he said.

Opening the shop required "a lot of trial and error" but it was also a "lot of fun," said Todd. The couple recalled how before they had an oven, they were using a charcoal grill and a dough wrapped around a rolling pin, which they were spinning to try to make a chimney cake.

They also tested two different ovens and went through five or six cheeses before finding everything that they needed for the shop.

The original recipe also had to be perfected because the flour is different in Canada than in the United States or in Europe, said Anett.

Renovations took about four months but the whole process



Todd and Anett Kane with their oldest daughter Helena at their newly opened bakeshop in downtown NOTL. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Chimney cake is a popular Hungarian pastry. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

of coming up with the interior design and different recipes took about two years, said the business owners. Area residents have been "unbelievably supportive" and "really welcoming," they said.

"The second that we were here and the second the work started and as we started talking to people, it's just been amazing," Todd told The Lake Report. "That just reassured us that we've made the right decision and we've taken the biggest risk of our life at this point."

Responsibilities are divided among the team of seven with Anett helping with food prep in the kitchen and Todd taking care of the operations and social media promotion.

They start the baking process at six or seven in the morning and by the time the bakeshop opens at 10, there

are fresh cakes available for purchase. The number of pastries varies each day as with any baked good. "It's got to be fresh," said Todd.

They also try using as much local produce as possible, he said. Cheese Secrets in NOTL provides cheese, such as aged cheddar and gouda, for the shop's savoury cakes.

"There's an art to it, of this food. It's very visual," said Todd.

The Kanes will move to the town in June but, for now, they are commuting from Buffalo every day. Anett holds Canadian, Hungarian and U.S. citizenship and Todd is a U.S. citizen. The family is also in the process of acquiring dual citizenship for their two daughters as Helena will be attending St. Michael Catholic Elementary School next year.

"What we wanted to do

is raise our kids and bring them here, to Niagara-on-the-Lake, because there's just appreciation for all sorts of culture," said Todd. "Having something that connects with Hungary, that connection to home, and just offer something delicious for people to eat, tourists and locals."

The shop opened quietly a few weeks ago and then had a grand opening. Both proved successful as all the cakes were sold out.

Mary Ng, the MP for Markham-Thornhill and the federal minister of small business and export promotion, also stopped by the shop on Saturday during their grand opening, said Todd.

"We even had flowers delivered to us by locals as a welcome," said Todd. "It was pretty special. Very excited about the future in NOTL."

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Calling all cooks!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd like to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: recipes@niagaranow.com

The top recipes will be published in an annual paperback book which will be available (in limited supply) to residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake at The Lake Report office. This year's book (title uncertain!) will be released in the coming months!



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Tim Taylor
Special to The Lake Report

Bill Redelmeier is a passionate man who challenges his business and his industry with every decision he makes.

From a young boy working on his family's massive dairy farm in Richmond Hill to his proprietorship of Southbrook Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake now almost 50 years later, Redelmeier says he tests all his personal and professional actions against one mantra: will it make our world better.

"It's challenge, challenge, challenge."

Redelmeier emphasizes. "The wine industry advances when people are not trying to make money—this is a s***y way to make money—but building on the quality challenges laid down by other wine-makers."

Southbrook Vineyards sits on the south side of Niagara Stone Road, not far from the NOTL airport, in what is known as the Four Mile Creek sub-appellation (an area descriptor for wine regions).

Aside from award-winning wines, Southbrook is probably best known for the great purple wall, running the length of the retail structure, enticing visitors into the serenity of the winery experience.

"It is a massive wall. You

are supposed to wonder what's behind it," Redelmeier pauses to catch the moment. "And when you get to the doorway, you can see through the building and see there is nothing but glass between you and the vineyards."

The winery is proudly biodynamic, organic and LEED Gold Certified (an official measure of a building's environmental sustainability).

Biodynamic is a hard concept for Redelmeier to describe. "It's a system of agriculture based on generations of farming wisdom

that predates chemicals—with a little spirituality added. It is a kind of canon that describes a way to farm productively. It's going back to basics.

"I really can't explain why it works. I just know it does."

"I want everyone to go home and be able to personalize their visit to Southbrook. I want everyone to understand our passion."

**BILL REDELMEIER
PROPRIETOR
SOUTHBROOK VINEYARDS**

Part of the biodynamic ethos includes raising various farm animals to naturally keep the non-vine greenery at bay (goats) and provide natural fertilizer (goats and chickens). "The animals are also a wonderful attraction for children of all ages," Redelmeier says with a smile.

Biodynamics is just one layer of the sustainable world that Redelmeier continues to build.

All Southbrook wines are



Bill Redelmeier, proprietor of Southbrook Vineyards (and some of the vineyard's 99 chickens), surveys a few of the 432 solar panels that make up the winery's solar farm. Solar power provides 80 per cent to the company's

TIM TAYLOR

certified organic. Redelmeier typically grows half his grapes and buys the remainder from eight local vineyards that are also certified organic. "In the early days it was hard to find organic grapes."

The most recent layer of sustainability involves a 100+kw solar array (432 panels at 315 watts each) which generates almost 80 per cent of the winery's electricity requirements.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro and the Violin Group (a St. Catharines technology company) really helped make this project happen,"

says Redelmeier.

The program is called net metering. "The math is great. We sell what we produce to the electricity grid. And they subtract what we use for the winery. We only pay the difference. We will recover our investment in just a few years.

"And we feel good about being part of the solution."

After a career in farming and farm-based retail on the family's Don Head Farms property in Richmond Hill, Redelmeier, 65, and his wife Marilyn bought their 74-acre parcel in Niagara in 2005 (36 acres were already

planted in useful grapes).

The next step was designing and building the environmentally sensitive structures that house the winery today. They chose internationally renowned architect Jack Diamond, from Toronto, to bring it to life.

In an early consultation with Diamond, the architect reflected that the winery team just wouldn't "shut up about the vineyard." Redelmeier replied: "Because that's what's important."

"Your building will reflect that," Diamond promised.

The winery opened its doors in 2008.

The Redelmeiers have maintained their home in Richmond Hill. And with a small flat in Fonthill, they semi-commute to the winery.

But he says they are in the market for a home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. "We're looking. We're close. We just have to make a decision."

Redelmeier admits he is primarily a storyteller. "I want everyone to go home and be able to personalize their visit to Southbrook. I want everyone to understand our passion."

He's good at what he does.

Library services feeling weight of provincial funding cuts

Continued from Front Page

In a letter to Michael Tibollo, the minister of tourism, culture and sport, she expressed the "profound disappointment" of the Niagara-on-the-Lake

Public Library board over the decision.

"During the first three months of 2019, our library users borrowed an average of 762 items a month from libraries in the Libraries in Niagara Cooperative

(LiNC) and 45 items each month from libraries outside the Niagara Region. In addition, SOLS negotiates and co-ordinates bulk discount purchasing of online library products such as eBooks and information databases

for libraries across the province," Lefebvre wrote.

The provincial and Niagara interlibrary loan services ensure "fast and efficient sharing of books and other materials between libraries in the Niagara Region and

across the province, increasing selection and decreasing duplication, through a shared database and courier network," she said.

Without the sharing network, the NOTL library will be unable to provide

important services the community relies on, she said.

The NOTL Public Library board was scheduled to meet on Wednesday evening and the province's budget cuts were expected to be part of the discussions.

 **Lisa WALE**
Broker/Manager
Niagara-on-the-Lake Office

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A map to daffodils



The Daffodil Garden of Hope initiative was started in 2004 by 82-year-old NOTL resident Sheila Hirsch-Kalm to pay tribute to those affected by cancer. The bright yellow gardens are meant to bring local awareness, remembrance of those we've lost, and remind people they can fight cancer every day in their own way.

The project is supported by Communities in Bloom, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticulture Society, St. Davids firefighters, the Canadian Cancer Society and the NOTL community.



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28	29	30	
<p>Family Friendly Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Celebration of Heritage: Special Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p>	<p>Tumble Tots - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Urban Design Committee - 5 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Children Painting Nunavut's Future - 7:30 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>NOTL Hearing Show - p.m. - NOTL Commu</p> <p>Movie: Green Book - p.m. - NOTL Public Lib</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Spring League We) - p.m. - The Exchange</p>
5	6	7	
<p>Love your Lake - 10 a.m. to noon - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>The 74th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial - 1 p.m. - Navy Hall</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p>Artisanal Breads - 9 a.m. - Canadian Food & Wine Institute at Niagara College</p>	<p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Public Meeting: 358 Four Mile Creek Road - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>Tumble Tots - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>3 Course Mill St. All Organic Beer Pairing - 6:30 p.m. - The Irish Harp Pub</p>	<p>St. Andrew's Lectur</p> <p>Years: Tommy, ows</p> <p>Church Parades of f</p> <p>Garrison - 10 a.m. - Presbyterian Church</p> <p>InfoHealth: Immun</p> <p>in Cancer - 2 p.m. to Public Library</p> <p>Trivia Night: Excha</p> <p>(Spring League We</p> <p>p.m. - The Exchange</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	25 Niagara Golden Age Club: Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Open House: Tree By-law - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Town Municipal Offices Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	26 Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	27 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Quick Garden Design Fixes - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Daddy & Me - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library Artist Workshop: Distant Edges with Lenore Walker - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Etsy: Made in Canada Spring Market - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - The Hare Wine Co.
1 w - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Exchange Brewery (Week 6) - 6:30 - Exchange Brewery	2 Niagara Golden Age Club: Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Customer Experience and Technology Committee - 3 p.m. - Council Chambers Opening Reception of Living Desert Exhibit: Robert Herman - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	3 Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association - Spaghetti Dinner - 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Queenston Firehall Yellow Door Theatre Project: Coffee House Youth Series - 7 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project	4 Daddy & me - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Live Well Health & Wellness Fair - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - White Oaks Resort
8 Life Series 225: Inner you, outer soul? The Niagara - 7 p.m. - St. Andrew's Therapies - 3 p.m. - NOTL Exchange Brewery (Week 7) - 6:30 - Exchange Brewery	9 Practical Genealogy: Beginner Class - 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Practical Genealogy: Intermediate and DNA Workshop - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	10 Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Duplicate Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Humour & Hops Comedy Show - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	11 Artist Workshop: Small Feats with Lenore Walker - 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Bravo Niagara! Presents Alfredo Rodriguez & Pedrito Martinez - 7:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards

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Museum uses social media to connect with public

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Niagara Historical Society and Museum is reaching out of the past and into the digital era by joining in on a seven-day #MuseumWeek social media campaign.

Boasting a new theme and corresponding hashtag for each day of the week-long campaign, which runs from May 13 to 19, staff will publish posts and encourage visitors to do the same while using specific daily hashtags, which can be found at www.museum-week.org.

Part of an international marketing strategy with the emphasis this year on women in culture, Museum Week aims to boost aware-

ness about the significance of cultural institutions around the world while also connecting with the public.

With the spotlight on women, the Niagara museum will focus on historically important women from town during the online campaign, said Amy Klassen, acting managing director and society administrator.

“For women, we might highlight someone like Janet Carnochan, who founded the museum, or we might highlight someone like Laura Secord, or women who have contributed to the history of the town that people may not know about.”

Museum Week falls under the broader Museum Month, which the Ontario Museum

Association has been advocating for all municipalities to officially recognize. During the April 8 council meeting, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake approved a motion to declare May as Museum Month.

As May also is the start of the summer tourism season, it’s an appropriate time for promotional awareness of Ontario’s culture and heritage, said Michela Comparey, conference and communications co-ordinator of the Ontario Museum Association.

Marie Lalonde, the provincial association’s executive director, said in an email that Ontario’s museums are vibrant and vital parts of communities across the province.

“They hold relevant and

meaningful collections that tell stories of the past, present and future. May is Museum Month (and) is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of museums to their communities and to kick-off the summer tourism season.”

The Niagara museum is ready for the exposure the month will bring with a new exhibit. From Head to Toe will run from May 16 until Oct. 31, highlighting the fashion collection on location. Up to 30 pieces of men’s, women’s and Indigenous clothing will be on display, spanning from the late 1790s to the 1950s.

All pieces, except for the Indigenous garments, come from the museum’s curated collection, said Shawna Butts, acting curator of the



Shawna Butts, acting curator of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum. BRITTANY CARTER

museum.

“Since we are only able to show historic dress as isolated pieces, without any accessories, we have also decided to display some portraits, both painting and photography, from our collection to show visitors how individuals actually dressed. Some of the portraits also feature a few of the dresses on display,” Butts said in an

email.

On International Museum Day, May 18, the Niagara museum will offer free admission, providing a “great opportunity for locals to see the new display,” said Klassen.

The museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St., and will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily from May to October.

Easter fun in Old Town



NOTL Kinsmen hand out Easter eggs. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Kai Davidson, left, and Addison Dupuis sit on a digger truck. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Lonny Danieluk holds his 10-months-old daughter Ffion Corry-Danieluk. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Emma McFarland inside a fire truck with two volunteer firefighters, Natasha Theobald from District 1, and Colin Hunter from District 2. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



Maya Ballantyne came to the Bunny Trail with her grandmother, Ruth Belfie. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA



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Retiring owner of Shoppers honoured by Friends of Fort George

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

David Lee says he is going to miss the people the most after he retires.

Lee has owned the Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shoppers Drug Mart for the past 16 years.

"I will miss seeing the people on a regular basis, seeing the customers, working (with) my staff," he said. "Providing service to the community – that's what I really enjoyed."

Lee said he decided it was time to retire.

"I felt I've got to the point where there are things I want to do and I need more time to do," said Lee, adding that owning the store is time-consuming and requires working outside the usual nine to five hours.

"It's seven days a week. Early mornings, late nights," said Lee.

After retiring, he is planning to stay in NOTL and get involved with some community organizations in town.

Tony Chisholm, president of Friends of Fort George, presented a plaque to Lee Thursday morning, thanking him for his service and



Retiring owner David Lee, new owner Grace Kuo and Tony Chisholm of Friends of Fort George, with a thank-you plaque presented to Lee for his support of Fort George.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

generous support over the years.

"He's always been kind and forthcoming and very supportive," Chisholm told The Lake Report.

Lee, who has lived in NOTL for 34 years, said it's been a "good, fruitful relationship" with Friends of Fort George.

"We're always happy to support events and organizations like Friends of Fort George, so it's something we're keen to do," he said in an interview. "Definitely a worthwhile cause preserv-

ing the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and we're fully supportive of that."

Grace Kuo will replace Lee as the store's new owner and pharmacist. With five years' experience working as a pharmacy manager at Shoppers in Welland, Kuo said she is feeling excited and nervous about starting at a new location.

"It's beautiful, I love the area," Kuo, 31, told The Lake Report. "I think it's going to be a lot of fun getting to know everybody."

Kuo has lived in St. Catharines for the past five years. She said she will be commuting to NOTL for work as it is only a 15-minute drive to town.

Lee said he had a discussion with Kuo on how important it is, as a business owner, to provide support to community organizations and events.

Kuo, who will officially start her duties on May 19, said she will continue supporting Friends of Fort George and other local organizations.

NOTL Hearing Show at community centre May 1

Richard Harley
Editor

Just about every month is dedicated to something these days — or a variety of things — and May is no different, having been dubbed "Speech and Hearing Month" by Speech-Language & Audiology Canada.

The organization dedicates the month to raising public awareness about communication health and encouraging people to "speak well, hear well, live well."

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, hearing clinic owner Gus Koroneos is doing his part to make sure the movement

isn't falling on deaf ears by hosting a hearing show at the community centre May 1.

"What better way to kick off better hearing month than a free event to the public educating people on hearing loss and how it affects one's health?" Koroneos said.

He thinks NOTL residents — many of them who are older — could benefit from learning what options are available to improve their quality of life.

"We will be having two hearing manufacturers, Signa and Starkey, as well as us, Hear Better Niagara at the NOTL Hearing Show," Koroneos said.

There will be presentations by audiologists and hearing instrument specialists from Starkey and Signia, he added. "Both lectures will be discussing hearing loss and how it affects your overall health and well-being, as well as new technologies and how we can help one's hearing and their overall quality of life."

The show will include a morning session with registration starting at 9 a.m. and lectures beginning at 10 a.m. A repeat of the morning session starts at 1 p.m.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided at noon, catered by Sweets & Swirls



Supplied photo.

Cafe.

Part of the proceeds from any sales or bookings made during the event will be donated to the St. Davids Lions Club and the NOTL Legion (branch 124).

"As a locally owned business we believe in giving back to the community," Koroneos said.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 1 at the NOTL Community Centre.

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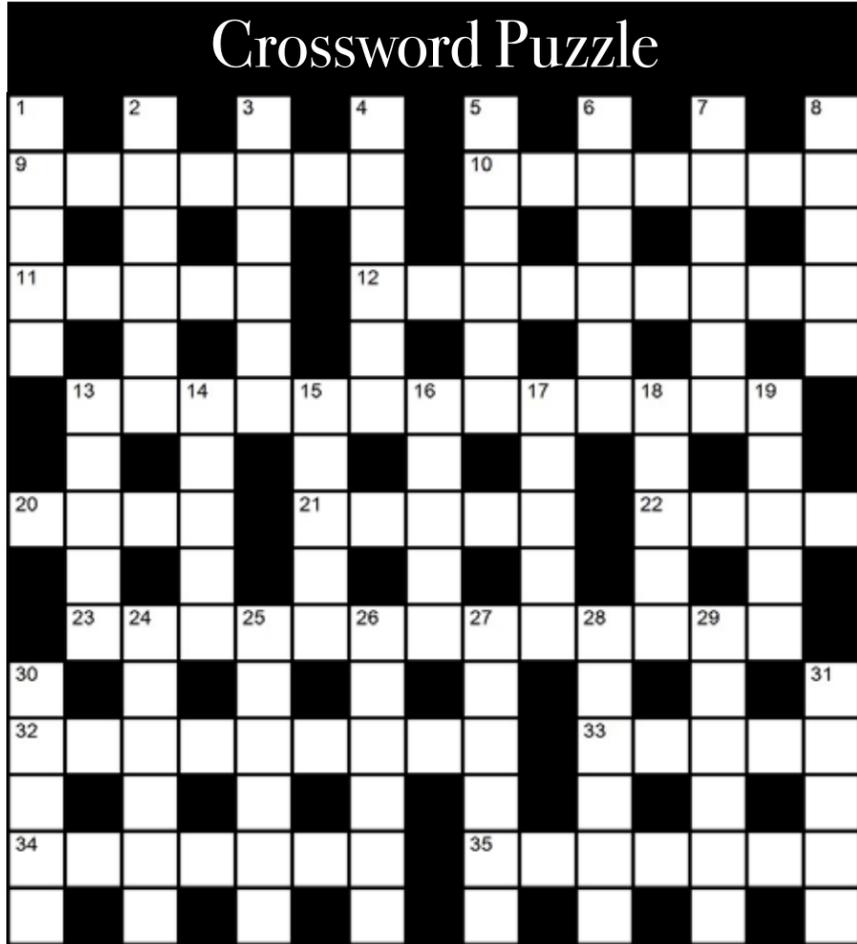
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- Across**
- 9. Photograph taken at very short range (5-2)
 - 10. Kind of illusion (7)
 - 11. Relating to sound reproduction (5)
 - 12. Holy Communion (9)
 - 13. Dog with wavy silky hair (6,7)
 - 20. Leg joint (4)
 - 21. Graded (5)
 - 22. Wife of one's uncle (4)
 - 23. Reflection (13)
 - 32. Doctor (9)
 - 33. Cost (5)
 - 34. Typical (7)
 - 35. Petite (3-4)
- Down**
- 1. Fragment (5)
 - 2. Black magic (6)
 - 3. Make over (6)
 - 4. Become visible (6)
 - 5. Steel boot reinforcement (6)
 - 6. Filter (6)
 - 7. Operational (6)
 - 8. Vigorous attack (5)
 - 13. Sarcastic doubter of sincerity and merit (5)
 - 14. Unsoiled (5)
 - 15. Strange and mysterious (5)
 - 16. Organization (3-2)
 - 17. Per --- ad astra (R A F motto) (5)
 - 18. Resident of e.g. Basra (5)
 - 19. Russian revolutionary leader (5)
 - 24. One-fifth of the atmosphere (6)
 - 25. Ethnic (6)
 - 26. Posted (6)
 - 27. Yearner (6)
 - 28. Warning (3-3)
 - 29. Source (6)
 - 30. Atomize (5)
 - 31. Conical tent (5)

Have some fun

The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Crossword Puzzle



Last issue's answers

1	A	P	P	L	A	U	D	5	P	A	S	T	O	R		
2	L	I	N	E	R	C	L	8								
3	A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	10	U	N	D	U	E	
4	R	O	A	N	J	L	T	I								
5	M	A	T	S	12	D	U	M	P	L	I	N	G			
6	I	A	P	14	R	D	T	M	N							
7	S	U	L	T	A	N	A	16	I	S	R	A	E	L		
8	T															
9	T															
10	16	W	I	L	I	T	21	E	A	S	I	22	E	S	T	
11	23	S	A	I	L	D	S	X	E							
12	24	H	A	Y	M	A	K	E	R	25	E	T	N	A		
13	26	A	S	M	T	X	27	T	I	L						
14	28	D	R	I	V	E	29	R	E	M	B	R	A	N	D	T
15	30	Y	D	E	A	A	I	C	H							
16	31	B	E	A	T	U	P	31	S	H	O	R	T	L	Y	

Sudoku

4	6	2				1	5	
		8	6					
	5				7	8		
				5	2		3	
		7	3	2	1	9		
6	3		7					
		6	1				2	
					2	3		
8	1				4	9	7	

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Leon Perel and Forum Antiques

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The Lake Report

When you walk into Forum Antiques on Niagara Stone Road, you're not just browsing carefully curated items and beautifully preserved memories; you're there for the experience.

Antiques expert Leon Perel is a certified appraiser by the Canadian Personal Property Appraisers. In the business of antiques since 1969, he takes an expertly trained eye to determine the value of your prized possessions and family heirlooms. Not simply addressing the value of your articles, he provides history, ensuring a full understanding of the worth and significance of the piece you're interested in parting with.

He won't stop with items brought into the store – Perel, referred to as Leon by customers and friends – also offers in-home appraisal services. He will diligently and carefully comb through the items in your estate to provide an accurate, informative account of the monetary worth of each item. He will also inform on where to sell and best disperse those pieces.

His insistence that you keep an item – simply because it holds more nostalgic value than monetary – shows his commitment to customers. He'll purchase the heirloom if pressed, but he wants his customers to know that sometimes, the amount of money gained from the sale of an item won't match the familial or historical

personal significance.

He's been known to send visitors to another dealer with a better understanding of the antique's worth if he is unable to determine its value. That isn't necessary often, though.

He doesn't know everything – and he's the first to admit that. But any knowledge he lacks he knows where to find. He's connected with experts around the world. No item is too small or too expensive: art, jewelry, weapons, coins, military, documents, aborigine, watches – the list is long.

It's his years in the field, building relationships with colleagues and travelling abroad at least two or three times a year, that command so much respect in the antiquing world. He



Leon Perel owns Forum Antiques on Niagara Stone Road. BRITTANY CARTER

says it's important for a dealer not to make money necessarily, but to be able to move an item quickly. With connections around the globe, quick sale is within his grasp.

When you come to Perel, you're there for the trust and conversation; respect for his customers is evident. People have walked into the store with questions about an item's worth and ended up staying for several hours, caught up in the conversational atmosphere and

detailed stories about the artifacts on display.

Browsing the beautiful items in the store, you might even leave with something you didn't know you wanted.

You don't buy these items out of necessity; no one needs another teacup. You buy them because they offer emotional, nostalgic or personal joy. You do it because you want to know the story and the history that goes along with the antique.

Perel provides more than a service, he creates an

atmosphere that elicits a mutual trust between consumer and retailer.

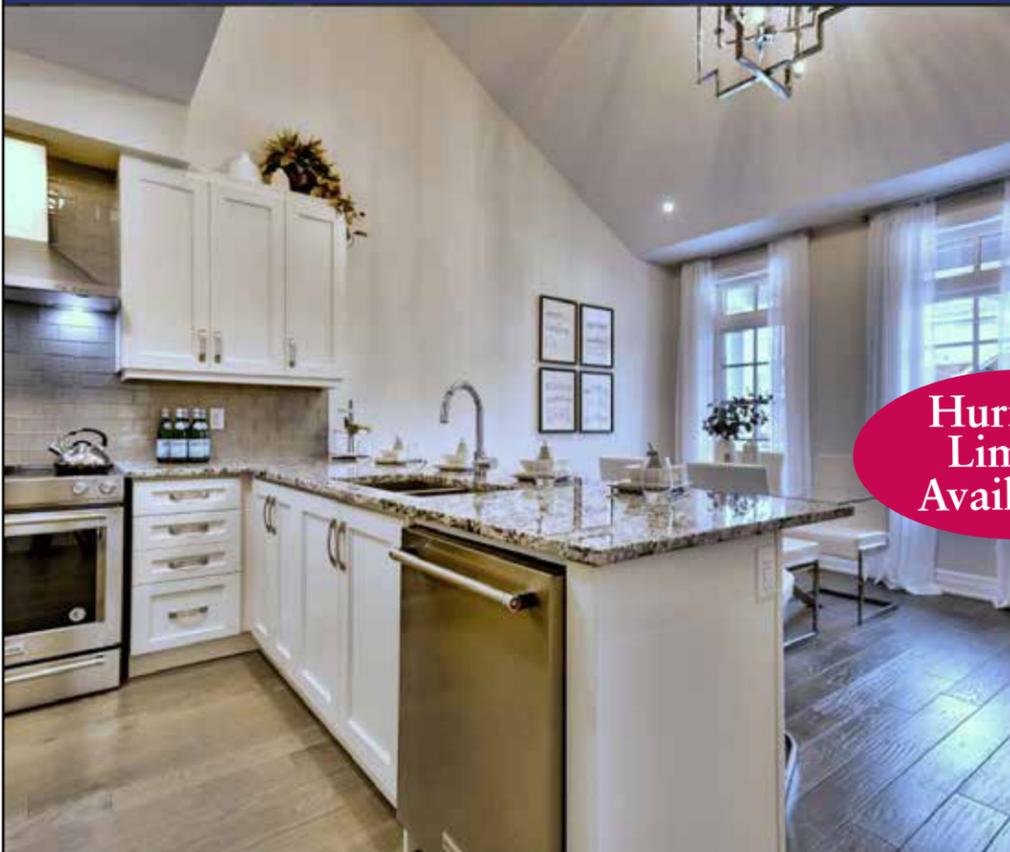
For 13 years, Forum Antiques was located down the road in the Red Barn, which he sold to Oast Brewing Company, moving to the present location at 1547 Niagara Stone Rd. in 2013.

Forum Antiques is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed on Tuesdays. To contact Perel, visit the store or phone 905-321-1918. He can also be reached by email at leongperel@gmail.com.



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Corporal West's Adventures

By: Richard West

Corporal Dick West served in the British Army, Royal Artillery during the Second World War, while his wife Winnifred (Winn) struggled with the war in London, England. They were my parents. These short stories are derived from them telling me what it was like in those times. All the characters except for Corporal West and his wife Winn, are fictitious.

Dick was first called up in 1938 during the Munich crisis. He returned to civilian life in 1939 only to be called up again in late summer as the Second World War broke out. He was finally demobbed early in 1946. These stories are in chronological order.

Editor's note: This story will be published as a series of 10 short stories. This is part five. Check the paper weekly to keep up with the series.



CLIFF TOP

Once the Luftwaffe started bombing London the unit was hastily moved back to the city. Dick hoped they would be close to Greenwich. Winn was staying with her parents there. Too much to hope for?

The guns and searchlights were set up on Hampstead Heath. Why? Dick failed to understand why.

Smoke from fires in the docks could be easily seen to the east of the city. The units job seemed to be, try and shoot down aircraft as they turned back towards France.

As soon as the Observer Corps signalled the bombers were over London all the searchlights turned on and swung their beams across the dark sky.

In theory, they were to catch an aircraft in the beam, then the gunners would target it. In practice it is difficult to find an aircraft in so much sky and hold it in the searchlight beam. It's more of an art than a science. But every night they tried.

"Have you noticed, Corp. It doesn't seem to matter if we find an aircraft because the guns are blazing away regardless."

"I've noticed Stinky. "Ours is not to wonder why." Keep your eyes peeled and hope you can find one of those bombers."

For ten nights they engaged the Luftwaffe, with no results, as far as Dick could see."

The "All Clear" sounded at six that morning so they put the searchlight to bed and headed for their tents, to sleep.

"Corporal West."

"Yes, Sir."

"At ease Corporal."

"Yes, Sir. Thank you Sir."

"We are going to try something else Corporal."

"Sir?"

"One searchlight from each unit is being released for a special job. You will pack up the light and everything you need to keep the squad going for a week."

"Yes, Sir."

"Hitch the light up to a three tonner and go to Dungeness on the Kent coast. There you will be joined by the other teams. This is the rendezvous point."

The Captain handed Dick orders with the address. The orders were marked "Special Operations."

"Be there by fifteen hundred hours today."

"Yes, Sir."

"Good Luck."

"Thank you Sir."

Dick marched over to the tent, interrupting his lads preparations for kip.

"Sandy, Jonesy and Stinky. Prepare the searchlight to move. Everyone else, pack tents, stores and anything we may need to be self-sufficient for a week. I'll collect the lorry. Move. At the double."

Two hours later they were squeezed into the lorry along with as much gear and as stores they could lay their hands on.

Dick drove southeast across London. He crossed Tower Bridge and headed for Sevenoaks. Jonesy was excited as he had never seen the Tower of London before. From Sevenoaks he knew the roads to Dungeness.

At each security checkpoint he showed his orders and was passed through, although more than once the sentry jibed, "London's the other way. Corp."

As they entered Dungeness a Lieutenant waved them down and changed their destination. "Take that road Corporal and drive to the cliff top."

Dick put the lorry in gear and crawled up a steep hill to the South Downs. Another officer directed them on to grassy Downs and almost to the cliff's edge. Dick got down from the lorry and reported to a Sergeant. He could see France across the English Channel. Presumably the Germans could see England from there. They seemed very close.

"Corporal West."

"Yes, Sarge."

"Listen carefully. Don't get the lorry or the searchlight too close to the cliff edge. Never know if it might collapse."

"Position the searchlight so it can point out over the Channel. Not pointing up but down. Got it."

"Yes, Sarge."

"Any of your lads ever used a Lewis gun?"

"No, Sarge."

"When you are set up, assign two of them to learn how to use one. Send them to me for instruction. The lorries cab will make a good gun platform."

Once all was ready they had a good kip. At 21:00 hours the sergeant woke them and ordered their searchlight to be kept ready pointed out over the sea. It had to be turned on immediately once the order was given.

That night they stood ready but nothing happened. It was the same for the following two nights.

On the fourth night they were again ready at their stations. At midnight the telephone rang. Dick listened to the control officer.

"Stand ready lads. They think it's going to happen."

Ten minutes passed, then they heard a rumbling noise. "Pay attention."

The noise grew louder. They knew it was aircraft engines, but the noise wasn't coming from above. It was below them.

A red flare went up.

"Turn on the searchlight." Dick ordered.

The beam shone out over the Channel and Jonesy started to switch the shutters on and off, so the light blinked brilliantly out over the dark sea.

Moments later the noise grew louder. Aircraft roared over the cliff top not far above their heads.

Dick heard the clatter of the Lewis guns shooting up at the racing planes. Some of the aircraft were clearly flying at odd angles, probably trying to avoid the glare of the lights as they hurtled towards the cliffs.

In less than two minutes the aircraft were gone and the searchlights were turned off.

The next three nights nothing happened.

The Sergeant came to them the following morning.

"Report to the barracks at Woolwich and hand over all your kit there. You are being reassigned."

"We are Sarge?"

"Yes, Corporal. You and your lads are going to Aldershot to train with a Bofors gun."

"You mean we'll be shooting at the planes in future?"

"Yes. Maybe at other things too."

"Thanks Sarge. But can I ask what we were doing here?"

"That's simple. The Germans figured if they cross our coast as low as possible our Radio Detection Finding Stations wouldn't be able to tell where they were headed until a lot later. This little stunt was designed to make 'em think twice about doing it. Pity though. We'd hoped some of them might crash into the cliff. Still. We think they won't be as keen to do it again in the future. Having those flashing searchlights in their eyes gave them a terrible shock."

"Fancy that. Thanks Sarge."

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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

QUEEN STREET C. 1973



Queen Street had fewer cars, as seen in this picture circa the spring of 1973. Three businesses are visible here. The first is The Corner Store, which used to be Mulholland's clothing store and today is Taylors Bakery. The next little store used to be Gus Tranter's barber shop and is now called Frankie Sez. The last building is the Brock Theatre as it looked before being taken over by the Shaw Festival. Before the Shaw renamed it the Royal George it had been owned by the Canadian Mime Theatre.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



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Design echoes

Brian Marshall
Featured

Do you love the look of 19th-century houses but remain hesitant to shoulder the potential challenges of living in an "old" house?

While the reality is generally much less onerous than imagined, there's no argument that accommodation must be made in buildings of venerable age. If this is not your cup of tea, you are not alone. In fact, the desire for a modern home that looks historical is common enough that it fuelled development of the New Traditional architectural style.

More often than not, New Traditionals are based on design styles of the early 20th century (Eclectic,



The New Traditional in our photo is a perfect case-in-point with every detail working in concert to evoke the historic Canadian interpretation of the Queen Anne style.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/BRIAN MARSHALL

tic, Prairie and Craftsman, etc.), although Victorian or Romantic forms are not uncommon. While architects who specialize in this style can create a residence virtually indistinguishable from period houses, it's far more likely that their design will result in a home that is immediately recognizable as, but subtly divergent from, its historic antecedent.

A New Traditional design truly works when someone looking at the house

assumes it is original to the era of the style. The New Traditional in our photo is a perfect case-in-point with every detail working in concert to evoke the historic Canadian interpretation of the Queen Anne style.

Consider elements like the asymmetrically placed curved porch wrapping the corner tower, the two-storey bay, the use of paired divided windows, shingle cladding of the tower and front gable, among other

details. Consider it a tribute to the architect's skill that the design elements used which diverge from historical accuracy (e.g. the Palladian window in the front gable) do not detract from the Queen Anne feel but actually accentuate it.

So, next time you are out and about, ask yourself whether that's really an "old" house you see or is it one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's fine New Traditionals.



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Queenston: Civic life in a small village

Linda Fritz
Niagara's History Unveiled
Exclusive/The Lake Report

By the end of the 19th century, the governance of towns and villages in Ontario was changing. The days of the autocratic land grant owner were fading, partly because men like Robert Hamilton and Thomas Talbot were dying, but also because settlers were no longer willing to accept such authority without some form of representation.

Talbot had been particularly notorious. Even though his settlers completed their duties of building homes, clearing the land and helping to build roads, many of them were faced with the results of Talbot's habit of pencilling their names onto the survey map of the area. If he didn't approve of a particular settler, he erased their names from the map or "forgot" to pass the information on to the government.

The Queenston of Hamilton's day was gone. The thriving port with docks, warehouses, taverns and even a post office was making way for the Welland Canal. The old portage route from Queenston to Chippawa was no longer necessary. The docks, along with the jobs provided by them, languished. The population of the village declined.

In 1911, Queenston became a police village. These were created in Ontario under the Baldwin Act of 1850. This method of managing small communities had been created during the 18th century in Catherine the Great's Russia. They allowed for "Boards of Police" in villages that were not large enough to have an elected council – those with more than 150, but fewer than 500 people. Amherstburg, Ancaster, Belleville, St. Davids, Fenwick and Caleton are among the many other municipalities that were incorporated as police villages.

Instead of an elected



An illustration of Queenstown, Upper Canada, on the Niagara River, now known as Queenston, Ontario. Painting by Edward Walsh circa 1803 and 1807. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

council, the villages were governed by boards of trustees who were allowed to deal with issues such as street lighting and safety concerns. In 1911, the trustees included a Mr. Shepard and a Mr. Digweed, names that are familiar in Queenston today. After 1965, police villages were no longer created, and by 1973, the village of Queenston became a part of the newly formed Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

There have been times when villagers believed Queenston was being neglected, but more often than not, they feel that they're overwhelmed by government. Besides the town, villagers often have to deal with the Niagara Parks Commission, which

is responsible for maintaining the Niagara River Parkway and the south end of Queenston Street. As well, the Niagara Escarpment Commission looks after part of the river bank, which sometimes frustrates homeowners who would like a clear view of the river. On the other hand, people who live in Lewiston, N.Y., have been known to comment on how much they like the forest-like aspect of their river vista.

In the early 1970s, the villagers were aware of the changes that were coming to Queenston's governance. At the same time, the village's post office was threatened with closure. In February 1970, the villagers thought it wise to form an association that could be

used to help preserve the village's uniqueness. The objectives of the Queenston Community Association were to:

- Preserve the name of Queenston and to encourage the study of Queenston history, the collection of historical records and the preservation of relics and buildings important to the history of Queenston and the surrounding area.

- Assist and promote social, educational and cultural activities with the young people of the area.

- Encourage the study of all government (federal, provincial and municipal) plans and directives that will affect Queenston and area, and to take action on any legislation or taxation the association feels is

detrimental to good government and not in the best interests of the residents of the Queenston area.

- Study, review and act with foresight on land development plans, building codes, pollution, police and fire protection, and all other matters that are apt to affect the well-being of Queenston and area.

- Maintain close affiliation with the school administration and to be well informed about the total educational structure of the country.

Today, the Queenston Residents' Association keeps up much of the work of its predecessor. The dues have jumped since the 1970s, but villagers appreciate the work done by the group in its efforts to keep

the village a livable place. The annual Christmas bake sale and the biennial art show and sale have been going on for decades. This year's annual spring cleanup attracted more volunteers than it has for some time. Most recently, the association helped to establish the village's first park. Adults and children enjoy the space and visiting cyclists use it as a resting place and picnic ground.

Queenston, a village that has maintained its population of about 400 for well over a century, continues to thrive.

More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagaranow.com





COMMUNITY

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Send your submissions to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to be featured.



Fog strikes Niagara
Submitted by Tony Chisholm



Artifact of the Week: 18th Century Powder Horn



Answer: This week's artifact is a powder horn dated c.1790. It is believed that the horn belonged to Chief Thayendanegea, or Joseph Brant, who gifted it to his interpreter, Jean Baptiste Rousseaux around 1794. Rousseaux was a merchant and fur trader. Working his father's trading post at the mouth of the Toronto (Humber) River, Rousseaux learned to speak the Mississauga and Mohawk languages. This ability led Rousseaux to become a Captain and translator for the British Indian Department. He was also a Militia Colonel and fought in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. He died in November of 1812 in Niagara and was buried in St. Mark's cemetery. This horn is decorated with birds, leaves, plants, animals and repeating geometric designs. It appears to be made of two separate pieces that are joined together in the middle.

The Artifact of the Week column is submitted by the Niagara Historical Society & Museum, exclusive to The Lake Report.



Can you guess next week's artifact? >

Clue: Shall we grab a small bite to eat?



SPRING FLOWERS



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:

Caroline Cellars



Caroline Cellars accepts its Golden Plunger award.
PLUNGER PATROL

Caroline Cellars is a family-owned and operated winery in Virgil. It has a wide selection of VQA white, red, fruit wines and icewines. As you enter the winery, the feel and smell of pine wood permeates the air and gives a cozy charm to this facility, which hosts large and small events. The farmhouse cafe is open every day for lunch and caters special events. The cafe offers a good variety of "nibbles" and fresh foods. The restrooms are situated in a private hallway where the pine wood theme continues to charm. You will find all your comfort needs are met in this well maintained "loo," with ample warm water to wash-up before you enjoy your sumptuous lunch. We enjoyed the full-length mirrors' subtle slenderizing reflection. A pine-terrific time was enjoyed by your Plunger Patrol.

Caroline Cellars
3.5/5 Gold Plungers



RIDDLE ME THIS:

I can fly without wings. At other times I go a turtle's pace. What am I?

Last Week's answer: A joke.
Answered first by "akoelag."
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



Madeline Lancaster hunts for Easter eggs with her family on Sunday on Ricardo Street. EUNICE TANG



The Doucet and Mallet families cycle down the bike path along Mississagua Road Sunday afternoon. EUNICE TANG

Local snaps



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Featured local story

WHERE ANGELS REST

Dog sanctuary provides safe haven for small dogs with nowhere else to go

Christine Van Moorsel, founder of Angel's Rest Dog Rescue and Sanctuary, with two rescues. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

All dogs may go to heaven, but what happens to sick canines nearing the end of their lives?

That's where Christine Van Moorsel comes in. She operates a hospice for dying dogs, Angel's Rest Dog Rescue and Sanctuary on Queenston Road, near York Road.

The service provides a comfortable home for small dogs whose owners have died or can no longer care for their pet due to illness, or rescues and strays picked up by the Humane Society and other organizations, with no hope

of being placed with another family.

Van Moorsel says people need to know to make arrangements for their pets after they die. Too often pets are left alone in empty houses when their caretakers die or are hospitalized for extended care, she says.

The dogs can experience real grief while left alone, knowing their owner has left them.

Van Moorsel, 74, started the service casually years ago, picking it up full-time after retirement. When her son died in 1986, she says she went to the Humane Society to pick up a rescue, needing a way to manage her grief.

"After we lost him, I felt like I needed something. I went in and I got a rescue dog, and then it just seemed to blossom after that."

With her husband Nick, the couple continued taking in any dog in need of extra care that crossed their path, transitioning to strictly small dogs after she started housing many at a time – she didn't have the room or capacity to care for large dogs as well.

"The larger dogs, once they were gone, we didn't do that anymore because we're both getting older. They get into fighting, or you have to lift them, it's harder work."

Right now, the couple is caring for 13 small dogs,

though she says her capacity is closer to 10.

"I'm just a softy. The (Humane Society) knows if they have a dog that needs help, I'll drive down and pick it up."

In 2008, the couple bought the house on Queenston Road, operating out of the "derelict structure" on the property until it was fully renovated two years later. Acquiring the kennel licence needed to operate the hospice took some time but Van Moorsel says the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake responded quickly after she wrote them a "sob story" about the dogs and her intentions for the service.

"I applied to Niagara-on-the-Lake, I didn't get any response at first, so I wrote them a letter, a sad letter, telling them that these were not dogs that were going to be a nuisance to anybody they just needed a place to be until they're gone."

The dogs have ample room to live out the rest of their days. The property has a large fenced-in backyard with wire running across the top of the fences to protect the dogs from coyotes and birds of prey. Cribs and baby seats are scattered throughout the main floor to ensure comfort and safety for each dog in the Van Moorsel's care.

Angel's Rest was solely funded by the Van Moorsels until they held a fundraiser in July 2018. She says she decided to plan a public barbecue fundraiser on her property once she discovered she couldn't personally cover all the costs incurred by the service anymore.

Her biggest expense is food and vet bills. After last year's event, she says the organization has been able to stay afloat off monetary and food donations. Donations of wet dog food are welcome any time. She'll be holding another fundraiser this upcoming July with hopes of covering the costs for another year.



Rescues from Angel's Rest enjoy a comfortable life when their owners die or can no longer take care of them. PHOTOS BY BRITTANY CARTER

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