



The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 13

Niagara-on-the-Lake's first independent newspaper

April 4, 2019

RESIDENTS FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE

'Immigrants welcome' posters appear on bulletin boards in Old Town.

Richard Harley
Editor

Hate speech posters are becoming more prevalent in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but people are starting to fight back.

After last week's story about hate speech posters being put on bulletin boards in town as far back as 2017, a number of residents have reached out to the paper about the issue.

Someone has started putting up opposition posters that say "Immigrants welcome," outside of the post

office. The posters say "The border does not divide one world from another."

We got our hands on four new posters, all put up in Old Town within the last week.

Some of the posters are prints which identify two groups, Canadian Culture Society and the Canada First Immigration Reform Committee. Some include the name Shawn, saying "may I please take a few moments of your time?"

Others are unsigned handwritten posters which attack the Liberal party and Prime

Minister Justin Trudeau, and contain derogatory and erroneous phrases like "Justin Trudeau is a traitor to Canada just like his self-admitted communist father Pierre Trudeau."

Nobody has come forward to take responsibility for the posters, as far as the paper is aware.

A manager at Hendriks Valu-Mart told the paper store staff have been looking at the video cameras to try and find out who is putting the posters up, but due

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After The Lake Report's story last week about hateful anti-immigration posters circulating in town, residents have taken the initiative to put up posters of their own, welcoming immigrants to Canada. SUBMITTED PHOTO

SORE and Two Sisters meet in court

Residents packed into a St. Catharines courtroom Wednesday morning to hear SORE and Two Sisters lawyers argue about citizen group joint legal action

Richard Harley
Editor

More than 60 people packed a St. Catharines courtroom Wednesday morning to hear lawyers present arguments in the latest episode in the battle between local activist group Save Our Rand Estate and Solmar Development.

SORE wants the court to name it as an official party in legal proceedings between the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar Niagara 2 Inc. — commonly known as Solmar Development Corp.

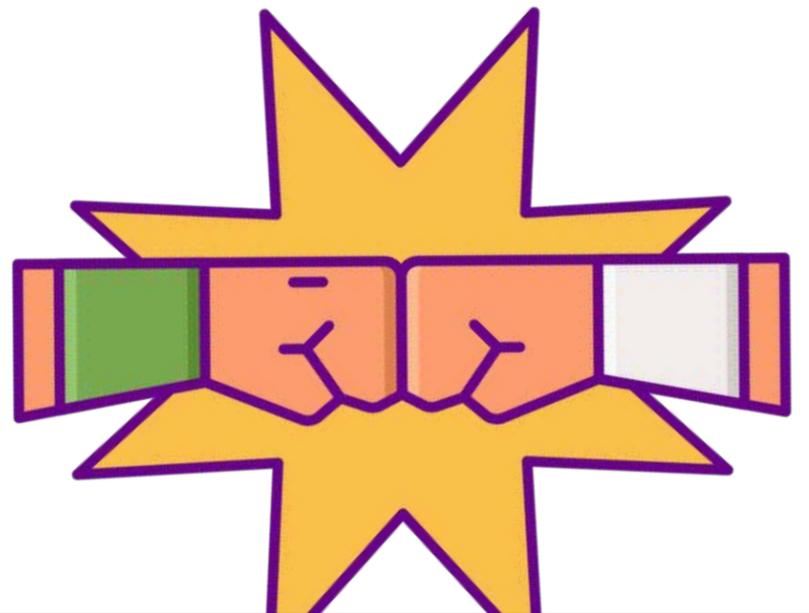
The decision was reserved for a later date as the judge reviews the evidence pre-

sented.

The morning was filled with case law arguments, as Two Sisters' lawyer Michael Melling squared off against SORE representative Richard Stephenson.

Stephenson outlined a number of reasons SORE thinks it should be granted

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Lord mayor, residents want to know what Niagara Regional Police call hate speech

Continued from Front Page

to the high volume of traffic at the times they're being posted, they're unable to get a clear image.

Tony Hendriks, owner of the store, has continued to remove the posters from the bulletin board.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she hasn't seen the posters, but that the town is currently having discussions about what to do about them.

"We actually had a discussion about it yesterday," said Disero during a phone interview Wednesday afternoon.

"It is unfortunate that someone is putting these posters up," she added. "It's not something that I believe the town supports. We're going to keep an eye to see if more are going up. At some point I'd like to have a conversation with the regional police on what to do."

"This is not something that is acceptable in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We are a welcoming community who were given awards for our friendliness and our community spirit. This is not something that should be happening in (town). We're trying to figure out how to put a stop to it."

She said she doesn't "have a timeline" on contacting the police and taking action but it is something that is "top of mind."

Rohan Joshi, an Indian international student from Niagara College, didn't know the posters were being distributed.

Upon seeing them he said "if I wouldn't have seen this poster, I wouldn't have believed it. I am an immigrant myself, I'm here to study. I've been here for eight months now and only twice have I experienced something I would call racism.

He said he "can't count" the number of times strangers have been "sweet" to him or helped him out in



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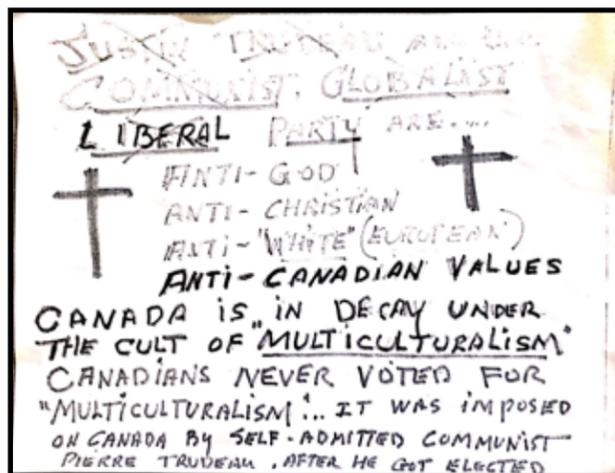
Does John Tory hate Canada's European culture and heritage?

Is Mr. Tory automatically guilty for being born white?

Is he ashamed of being a white Anglo Saxon Canadian citizen?

Thank you for your time, Shawn.

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The three posters above were taken down from Avondale in Old Town in the last week. SCANNED IMAGES

The Lake Report understands publishing these images may offend some people. We believe it is important for people to see them to understand the full extent of the alt-right movement creeping into Niagara-on-the-Lake. This type of racist propaganda is not condoned by TLR.

This hand-written letter criticizing the Liberal government's immigration policies was taken down from the bulletin board at Hendriks Valu-Mart on Friday. SCANNED IMAGE

some way.

"People here are very welcoming, I can't let a few (people) tell me otherwise."

Stephanie Dell, who was born and raised in Canada but has Swedish roots, pointed out most Canadians are immigrants.

"Everyone came down here one time or other. The parents or grandparents of the people behind these flyers would also have come here a few decades or centuries ago," she said.

"It's very difficult to leave your perfectly settled life and family and shift to another country and learn every new way of living from the top. It takes a lot of courage. The least we can do is be supportive and caring towards the immigrants we get from all around the world. If you try, you can learn a lot from them."

Akashdeep Singh Dhaliwal, a student of Hospitality, Hotel and Restaurants Operations at Niagara College, upon seeing pictures of the posters, says, "I appreciate the efforts these guys put into spreading hate. I don't go for grocery shopping sometimes because I am lazy, but they anonymously print these posters, put them out without being noticed, that's too much work. I think they're giving us major goals on how to be more vocal and productive with our positive energy."

Dhaliwal adds, "I don't understand why there are no laws restricting these people from spreading their very derogative ideas. These are signs of potential terrorism."

- with files from Brittany Carter and Arjun Saroy.

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Region completing road projects, reviewing trash pickup, Zalepa tells NOTL councillors

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The widening of part of Lakeshore Road is one of a number of regional projects underway in Niagara-on-the-Lake this spring.

Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa provided NOTL's committee of the whole with updates Monday night on the regional works in town.

The widening project on Lakeshore from Creek Road to Townline Road is in the second phase right now. Zalepa said the project, which includes adding bike lanes and paved shoulders, is "long overdue."

There will also be "enhancements" on Niagara Stone Road from Creek Road to East West Line, said Zalepa.

One of those projects involves installing traffic lights at Field Road in Virgil, at the entrance to the new LCBO and Tim Hortons.

Some of the proposed projects include adding left-turn lanes through Virgil in 2021 to "keep traffic moving" and adding street lighting at Garrison Village Drive and in front of Simpson's Pharmacy, for safety reasons.

"The mayor and I also requested the region, town and City of Niagara Falls get together to start talking about Concession 6 and Mewburn Road, and how that links and brings traffic into town," said Zalepa.

A community safety zone in St. Davids has also been brought forward at the region, said Zalepa.

"The zone in St. Davids along York Road where the speed limit drops from 60 to 50 through the village. That would be, at some point, coming towards the stop sign on Creek Road, right through the school zone and then continuing past the stop sign, going east just about where the Lions Club is," said Zalepa.



Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa Jr. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

"What it includes basically is signage to people that the area is in the reduced speed zone and that people need to be more conscious. Much like a school safety zone."

The proposal will first go to the regional public works committee, which will then make a recommendation to come forward, Zalepa told The Lake Report.

As there have been problems with garbage collection, regional council is looking at changes. The new tender will ask for a quote matching the existing weekly service and an-

"I know that you have some inventory of land. I think we need to talk about how we can leverage that and find some solutions."

GARY ZALEPA JR.
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

other for every-other-week garbage collection, so the region can compare options and prices before a decision is made, said Zalepa.

"That way the resources could be allocated to better accommodate the collection across the rest of the

region," Zalepa told councillors. "We're continuing to work with the provider. There are still some issues we're working on but the committee is actively dealing with that."

Two companies currently provide garbage collection services in the region. One is Emterra Environmental, which handles services everywhere in Niagara Region, except Lincoln and West Lincoln. Another company, Canadian Waste Management, looks after Lincoln and West Lincoln.

A request for proposal will be ready by the fourth quarter of 2019 and the contract will be awarded in 2020 with implementation starting in 2021.

The regional councillor also mentioned the Glendale District Plan, saying it's the "biggest thing impacting the town." The plan, coming from the collaboration among NOTL, the region and St. Catharines, is in the second phase right now. Phase 2 includes technical review, component studies and preparation of the district plan.

Talking about regional transit, Zalepa said he was pleased to see the ridership rise 41 per cent compared to 2017-2018 thanks to "route integration." The specialized transit ridership,

which provides services to people with special needs by taking them from their homes to medical appointments, also increased 10 per cent, said Zalepa.

The regional staff has also made a proposal to council to enhance emergency medical service.

"In the past, you call 911, you get an ambulance and they take you to the hospital. We're looking to redefine this," said Zalepa, explaining a new service would allow emergency services to "send a right person" and provide a referral to "the right service as opposed to just taking you to the hospital and you sit and wait around for three hours."

In NOTL, about 6.2 per cent of residents are in need of core housing that is adequate, affordable and suitable, said Zalepa. There is also a six-year waitlist for units in town.

"I know that you have some inventory of land. I think we need to talk about how we can leverage that and find some solutions," he said.

Zalepa also noted the province is looking for public comments on regional services and encouraged residents to take an online survey to share their opinion on the matter.



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Editorial: Keep public meetings accessible

The Lake Report

Kudos to members of Niagara-on-the-Lake council and to town clerk Peter Todd for taking a strong position against a request to not publicly broadcast meetings of a town committee's public meetings.

The suggestion by the town's irrigation committee to allow its meetings to be held without cameras present is understandable, if misguided.

Some people who appear before that committee – and other municipal bodies – might feel uncomfortable about seeing information about them or their business publicly disseminated. That is natural, especially for people who might not be used to dealing with a municipal government.

We are not suggesting for a minute that the irrigation committee is trying to hide anything or stop the public from attending its meetings. But it is incumbent on

all such public institutions to abide by the rules of the Municipal Act and do their utmost to make their operations easily and openly accessible to the public.

It is essential that the public's business, in this case the delegations, debates and decisions of one of the Town of NOTL's committees, be done as publicly and transparently as possible.

The irrigation committee is important to the operation of our town's agricultural sector. While its meetings actually have

never been covered by this newspaper and probably not by any other media organization, the idea of holding its public meetings out of sight of the public by not broadcasting them is simply not acceptable. And the town has said so unequivocally.

The town's business, its decisions and debates, and how those decisions were arrived at are your business. Hence the need for transparency and full accessibility.

editor@niagaranow.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Let's eradicate hate speech

Thanks for bringing attention to the hate speech posters that are placed throughout the town. I first noticed them while walking around Old Town in the summer of 2017 at the Queen Street post office (when I first moved to this region). I was so offended by the posters and would tear them up and throw them in the garbage, but they just keep going back up.

I've since moved to Virgil from Old Town and continue to see these posters placed around town. I always thought, "Doesn't anyone else notice them besides me? Why are these posters still allowed to be placed everywhere? Who is responsible for monitoring what gets posted and finding out who the poster is?"

I thought Niagara was a welcoming place, but I don't feel that way now,

since seeing those posters on a regular basis. I really believe these posters are considered hate speech even though NRPS doesn't believe so. Maybe they need a non-white officer to review these posters to determine if it is considered hate speech. I mean, how can a white person understand how it feels to be on the receiving end of these hate speech posters? Is this a case of white people not acknowledging their white privilege?

How nice is it to be white and walk around town without being exposed to those hateful posters, without being treated differently based solely on your skin colour?

I'd like NRPS to give their definition of what constitutes as "hate speech."

Anonymous, Virgil

No place for hate in NOTL

This letter references a CBC News report from March 29, 2019.

Dear Editor,
Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland recently voiced something that is so evidently true, and so timely.

"The internet and social media know no borders and so we must work together to find ways to address online radicalization."

"The international community must keep a close watch on how hateful messages spread through online forums and social media," Freeland said.

No, NOTL is not New Zealand, but unfortunately it could be, if the average citizen refuses to speak up when cultural diversity is condemned and misrepresented — and when the ideology of white supremacy

is presented in a seemingly innocent poster.

When there is no push back and no instant rebuttal of the sick and hateful messages these vermin promote, the hate is able to spread like disease.

The radical hate posters in NOTL may seem insignificant to some, however this is not just one isolated incident — it is a global epidemic — and with the seemingly unrestricted power of social media it is a frightening problem that will grow unless confronted strongly, repeatedly, with equal force and conviction.

Thank you Richard and The Lake Report for addressing the issue and hopefully generating conversation and discussion amongst the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Well Done.

Brenda Tanfara

You are one of us

Hate Posters in Niagara-on-the-Lake? You can't be serious!! I checked the date to see if it was April 1! However, it was the March 28 issue. If we follow this logic of denying immigration, the native peoples of North America should have had hate posters to stop the "European founding people" from coming to Canada hundreds of years ago!! Immigration is a "way of life"! We have many immigrants from England, France, Poland, Germany, Holland, Yugoslavia, etc. Gordon Lightfoot describes how Chinese people came & helped to build our coast to coast railway system. (The Railroad Trilogy). We all cohabitate in relative peace & harmony.

To the anonymous local resident who "doesn't feel comfortable, welcome or safe in NOTL anymore," I apologize. You are one of us. "Diversity" is a code word for integration of "people" no matter their race, colour, creed, or sexual orientation.

The police may be unwilling to classify these posters as "hate crimes", but they sure are not "love letters" either!! We agree with Mr. Harley in encouraging these "fear mongers" to crawl back under their rock!

Rick & Betty Ann Chandler

Correction

The Lake Report would like to correct a mistake from our March 14 issue. In a profile story about Magdalena Titian, it was mistakenly reported that she would be hosting an art show April 5. In fact, the show will take place April 7 at 1 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Public Library on Victoria Avenue. The Lake Report apologizes for any inconveniences caused by the error.

The Lake Report

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More letters

Town council shouldn't sleep on wetlands

Dear Editor,

As intended, Jim Smith's picture of the Shepherd Boat Works on Ricardo Street brought back many memories, some pleasant, some less desirable. When the Shepherd company closed its doors in 1978, the property was put on sale.

This was the perfect time for the town to purchase a large piece of its waterfront to serve as a park for all residents to enjoy. Instead the Town Council slept through the moment, allowing Eric Moog, a Toronto developer, to snap up the land. After about twenty years he then created King's Point, a nice retreat for a few well-to-do, but a complete denial of even the view of the water for all other town residents.

Some years later Gillingham Marina closed and was offered for sale, and again the town council of the time failed to see the advantage

of acquiring this large piece of waterfront property.

Finally the NOTL Sailing Club purchased it, charging sizable membership fees to defray the costs and barring non-members access to the water. Gillingham had allowed use of its boat ramp to outsiders like me with trailerable boats for a moderate fee.

The point here is that various town councils have failed to serve the greater community, by not recognizing vital decision making moments. (For an example of what can be done, with astute visionaries at the helm, one should look at the Chicago waterfront and read about its history, in contrast with the mess that is lakefront Toronto). What, one wonders, will our present Niagara-on-the-Lake council do?

I notice that the Harmony group are still lobbying

hard to make the old sewage pond area into a designated wetlands area, a seemingly worthwhile endeavour. Yet, one wonders about the motivation. Could it be an attempt to keep the land next to Chautauqua, free of human activity, or development, to the benefit of the homeowners?

I note that council is already bending to their demands. What about the rest of greater Niagara-on-the-Lake's residents? Are there other uses for this land which might be enjoyed by larger numbers of people?

I believe it was long-time town councillor Jim Collard who recommended the building of a boat ramp somewhere on that property's shoreline.

Having a boat at that time, I would have greatly appreciated such access, a norm for most waterfront towns. Instead I was obliged to

tow my boat from Garrison Village to Queenston and later to Port Weller as the Queenston ramp area became increasingly awkward and deteriorated. All that so that I could enjoy boating past our lovely town.

I no longer have a boat, but I have no doubt there are many others who would enjoy such a water access.

And this is only one of many uses to which this large property could be put. While the Niagara Parks Commission (which owns the property) is willing to listen to suggestions from Town Council, let us hope that this council will not narrow the options to one promoted by, and benefitting only, one small but vociferous group.

Just like the Shepherd Boat works property, once we have lost it, we will not get it back.

James Tupman

Is the town actually enforcing rental bylaws?

Dear Editor,

My name is Alison Hepburn and I live in the Old Town. My husband and I have a number of concerns with regards to the short-term rentals in Niagara-on-the-Lake. By short term rentals I mean bed and breakfasts, cottage rentals, villas, country inns and Airbnbs.

What got us really thinking about this was the article in the March 7 edition of the Lake Report about the town possibly revoking B&B licences. We live in a part of Old Town that is dominated by all of these types of short-term rentals as well as homes owned by what we call "weekenders."

Out of curiosity I printed off the list of short-term rentals from the town website. I did some cross-referencing. I have found several discrepancies.

In no particular order:

The most obvious one was the number of rentals that

you can find online that are not on the town's list. There are several cottage rental websites; VRBO, Niagara Vacation Rentals, canadastays.com and of course Airbnb just to name a few.

There are a few places that are listed as B&B but don't offer breakfast.

There seems to be some confusion between villas and cottage rentals. The town's list goes by the number of bedrooms but the actual cottage is advertised as sleeping significantly more. For example a rental has three bedrooms but advertises that it sleeps up to 10 people because there are two fold out sofas; which also brings up questions with regards to fire safety, not to mention parking and noise.

According to the article there are 145 B&B's in NOTL. The list of short term-rentals has over 300 rentals.

Do the other 150+ rentals

not pay a licensing fee? Or perhaps they are all paid up?

The town doesn't seem to be able to "police" the rentals they have on the list, so what about all of the ones flying under the licensing radar?

I would also be curious to know if they take the owners at their word about the type of property they have or do they actually go out and inspect? I know there is a country inn in my area that doesn't have enough parking when all their rooms are booked. The by-law says that there should be one parking space for every room in the "house" plus parking for every car owned by the people living/working there. There are four rooms and the owner also has a car (up until recently two cars) and only four parking spots. I'm not sure how they managed to get the licence.

Alison Hepburn

Potholes, potholes, and more potholes

Dear Editor,

Every year we see those gaping holes in our roads and if we miss seeing one or two we end up with a bent rim or an out of aligned front end and further damage to both front tires. Then we see the repair team out filling in those holes and then tamping them down with a shovel or a metal stamper. Neither of which keeps the asphalt in the hole for more than a couple of days. It usually ends up on our tires or on the sides of our cars. Whatever happened to the steam roller they used to use to get the holes filled in to last. They used to put hot tar in the hole before putting the asphalt in. Then the heavy roller would role it flat and voila! The hole was repaired and it lasted.

Tom Thornton

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Disero, who are you really condemning?

Dear Editor,

When I read a condemnation of bullying from Lord Mayor Betty Disero then I nod and say, "Fine work! Good going! Well done!"

And if Lord Mayor Disero had condemned bullying in her actual letter, I would have been happy to do and say just that.

But the title "Disero condemns bullying" didn't quite fit the letter. For one thing, Disero doesn't actually condemn bullying — she condemns bullies and that is something else entirely.

I'd rather she had named names. Although she hints at something I suppose we're all supposed to already know about, the closest thing to detail she allows is when she refers to "something that came up during International Woman's Day." If you don't know what that might be then that's too bad.

Disero refers to "the issue of bullying and a common strategy used by bullies," cautioning us that the worst thing is being "pulled in to siding with a bully."

To start with, I must insist that there is a critical difference between condemning "bullying" and "bullies."

One can use the substitution method with Disero's letter to see what I mean. Substitute your family name for "bullies" and the letter still makes sense — because Disero is condemning a group of people first, and their strategies second.

It is enough to say bullying is wrong and when you bully, you become a bully (as well as everything else you are). Disero goes further than is required when she says "friends or communities can become extremely divided by the actions of a single person. That isn't fair or right."

Firstly, we can and *do* sometimes become extremely divided by the actions of a single person — I just don't believe in Disero's "we," one which must be defined as a perfect unity.

Secondly, that single person might be Socrates, Jesus or Gandhi.

There is no "we" that

cannot be divided by the principles of an individual. Sometimes we're wrong and sometimes we're right. It's pushing the envelope really far to say that when we are wrong we are "bullies" and when we are right we're the good guy. But the Lord Mayor's idea is that "bullies" are wrong on purpose. As such, "bullies do not add to the outstanding quality of life we live here for."

There's that "we" again. It's a rather pointed "us vs. them" where "we" are like Disero and "them" is the bullies.

Might I point out that as a representative of all of us, Disero represents the people who bully us too? That it might be expedient to recuse herself from this conversation?

I too believe bullying is undesirable, which is not to say "bullies" are undesirable or irredeemable.

I mean, gangs are undesirable, hucksters are undesirable, so are quacks and hacks. These undesirables have actual gang names and snake-oil brands that we can refer to. Does raising awareness about "them" and ostracizing "them" address the actual gangs or snake-oil out there?

I think this is where the funniness comes into it. Disero has confused the concepts of identity and category. Used properly, "bullies" aren't an actual group of people with a common identity. They aren't identifiable by their common strategy. They don't have factions and board meetings (usually).

What happens when the We Bullies movement starts? One that raises awareness because in 2019 we didn't have the capacity to truly understand Bullies' needs? I mean, hypothetically. What then?

All that could be said of Disero's letter in that case would be that she has inappropriately singled out a group of ill-defined people

and publicly condemned them.

Even in a children's book nobody dislikes ogres in general, but ogres in particular. No great children's book ever taught the child to condemn ogres. Or ogre-ism. The best of them teach that someday one of us might come upon a challenge akin to meeting an ogre and to prepare yourself. To learn as much as possible and to try to make wise decisions.

And these days it is as likely that the story is about an ogre that redeems itself.

I'd like to think that

your garbage man? Or the best plumber in town?

I mean, I don't hate bullies. I can't abide bullying, but I don't hate people who bully! I'll go as far as to say I can work with a bully until they start bullying. After all, you have to deal with all sorts if you want to get on in life.

And here's another thing the Lord Mayor fails to understand — what she calls a "bully" is more like someone who declares war on you. When it's undeserved we shout, "Bully!" — like someone burning shouts, "Fire!"

by a bully you should not push back.

How should we treat bullies? For those of us too timid to adopt the philosophy put forward in *The Art Of War*, I suggest that if you can, you should try and get away.

A relationship with a bully is like being caught in a bear-trap. Gnaw off your foot if you have to. If you have to engage a bully, attempt to deescalate the situation.

It bothers me a little bit that Disero thinks that if you defer to her way of thinking than you have the power to "combat" bullies.

Well not *you* yourself.

"When we or someone acting on our behalf has the guts to stand up to them, the bullies get put in their place," she says.

Which is as much to say people being bullied must not have the guts. If they did, or had a friend with guts, the bullies would all be in their proper place.

But what if someone declares war on you and you're not a war-like individual? Do you want or need a warrior to come to your rescue?

She says "we" or "someone acting on our behalf" can do it. Which is to say a gang can beat a bully.

Is it helpful to exclaim, as Disero suggests, "I see what your doing, and it's going to stop?"

Isn't this exactly what a bully waits for and hopes for? The response to which the bully has been fulminating since the bullying began? Speak up and you're not only bullied but you're condemned as paranoid!

So, in Disero's first "tactic" to identify bullies, she says they "pretend to be experts."

Sparring the irony in Disero's expertise on bullying, this isn't the definition

of a tactic it's the definition of a person that is fake, self-interested, ignorant of facts and who happily sows discord.

The only problem is that sometimes when a great idea is introduced into a society it is attacked by detractors as fake, self-interested, ignorant and discordant. You know, like the planet revolving around the sun was challenged.

To Disero, the strategy of a 'bully' is actually a mimicry of the strategy of persuasion. Surely we aren't fortifying ourselves against the necessary and healthy act of being persuaded? And since the two strategies are identical, who's to tell the bully from the persuasive leader? Disero says you can "see" the bully. Which isn't very helpful.

In the end, after personally assuring us that she knows what "bullying" is and knows how to beat the bullies, Disero says we will: counteract chaos with calm, neutralize misinformation and calm fears. One, Two, Three. Just like that she's done it. But has she? What effect has her letter had on the two duelling newspapers, *The Lake Report* and *The NOTL Local*?

The Lake Report does the journalism.

The Lord Mayor has sent issue and here's an editor that saw fit to publish it. The overall effect of her letter's placement in *The Lake Report* is that the matter was weighed and published accordingly.

Penny Coles, the editor of *The Local* responds in a peculiarly enthusiastic mode that, "There are bullies among us," and that "it could be anyone of us being bullied."

But just think of how differently the effect of a letter called, "Disero forgives bullies," might have played out.

That's all folks. Perhaps it's better to just say, "Fine work, Good Job! Well done!"

Sincerely,

Jesse Lepp



Disero's bullies, like ogres, reveal themselves only within the imagination for us, so that we can deal with reality, which is more complicated. I'd like to think it, but Disero seems to really want us to go about our daily lives identifying ogres — I mean, "bullies".

She should have just condemned an actual "bully" so at least we can see a "bully" for real and see if it fits our definition of a bully.

I have to entertain the thought that even a "bully" might be able to contribute to the undertakings of our municipality.

Suppose one of them cures cancer? Or writes a book about Picasso? Or is

Disero claims to know of a "strategy" consisting of "three particular tactics"

1: (Bullies) create chaos and spread misinformation. 2: They use fear as a tool. And 3: They encourage victims to distrust the authorities.

First off, a strategy to what? I'll supply the answer: Bullying hurts people. She then, unbelievably, gives the following advice. "Speak up and push back."

Which brings up the real issue, What should be done with bullies? Should we bring back the stocks and pelt them with rotten fruit?

Whatever the solution, I am sure when you're pushed



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Town moving forward with official plan update

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake might spend extra money in hopes of completing the town's new official plan.

And Lord Mayor Betty Disero says the town will not heed a provincial suggestion that municipalities hit the pause button on some major planning decisions.

On Monday night, the committee of the whole approved allocating additional funding toward the completion of the official plan, which has not been fully revised since 1994.

The cost for doing extra work on the plan is \$45,820. That's in addition to the initial estimate of \$54,000 to \$56,000 before disbursements and HST, approved by council in February 2018.

A staff report said there will be no impact on the budget as the money would come from development charges, corporate studies and the Ontario Municipal Board reserves.

Some of the extra work



Coun. Clare Cameron sits in as chair of the committee of the whole meeting Monday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

that has to be done includes meeting with the agricultural committee and other stakeholders, preparing a summary of comments with recommendations, revising policies and mapping, responding to regional comments and preparing a final plan for adoption.

"Staff is of the opinion that the additional tasks and revised budget accurately reflects the necessary work involved in consulting with and responding to concerns addressed by the public and

commenting agencies," the report says.

NOTL has received over 115 comments and due to "complexity of issues, volume of submissions and outstanding comments," it won't be possible to have a special council meeting on April 15 to discuss the official plan, according to the staff report.

The town needs to be ready with the official plan when the provincial government makes changes to its development ap-

proval process, Lord Mayor Betty Disero told The Lake Report.

"There's lots of work to do," Disero said in a phone interview last week. "If we stop everything and do nothing, then we're going to have another six months of work later on. I want to be ready when any provincial announcements come out."

The town received a letter in February from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As Ontario is planning to "streamline the development of approvals system," Minister Steve Clark encouraged town council to consider taking "an interim pause on some planning decisions."

Disero's reply, released on the town's website on March 28, states NOTL will continue to move forward with the official plan despite the province's suggestions.

"I want to be ready when any provincial announcements come out," said Disero. "I don't want to start redoing the whole thing again."

Parks Canada to remove hazardous trees at NOTL historic sites

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Parks Canada's work to remove hazardous trees at Niagara-on-the-Lake historical sites will begin this month and continue into the summer.

No official start date has been confirmed, but work will begin this month, Rae Kingdon, public relations and communications officer of the Southwestern Ontario Field Unit of Parks Canada said in an email response.

Work will take place at the Commons, the Barracks and Fort George National Historic sites, which will remain open during the operations. Areas being worked on will be closed while work is completed. An information bulletin



Fallen branches on tree at near Fort George. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

released by Parks Canada on April 1, said that visitors are advised to exercise caution and respect all closures.

None of the trees to be removed fall under the species at risk classification, the bulletin said.

Inspections of trails and parking areas at each site were performed by Parks Canada staff, who identified the hazardous

trees that are now scheduled to be trimmed or removed. All Parks Canada projects are subject to environmental assessments to ensure appropriate ecological protection measures are in place, Kingdon said.

The hazardous trees are unhealthy and/or dying, with weakened branches causing potential risk to public safety. Kingdon said

many of those trees are ash species that have succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer.

A revegetation plan is in place which states each tree removed will be replaced by a native species in the spring. While no final decision has been made about specific trees to be replanted, Kingdon said there are several species appropriate, such as native oak.

"Where possible, locally sourced trees will be used. Traditionally this area was oak savannah, a type of vegetation community that would have historically be found here," she said.

The tree removal is scheduled for outside of the nesting season to mitigate impacts on migratory birds and wildlife.

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Calling all chefs!

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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SORE and Two Sisters meet in court

Continued from Front Page

party status. He said, hypothetically, if Two Sisters was not a part of the proceedings already, being so heavily affected by the decisions, it would easily be granted third-party status.

He also argued that SORE supporters, living directly in the vicinity of the proposed developments, would be greatly affected by the proposed developments of a hotel, conference centre and a planned subdivision.

If given party status SORE would be entitled to full party rights and access to cross-examination.

Melling presented a number of reasons he doesn't think SORE should be granted party status.

Among his reasons was that SORE does not have any different arguments than the town, pointing out a number of cases in which groups were denied party status for not bringing new,

relevant information to the table. He cited a number of situations where groups, some national, which he believes have more credibility and a better track record of getting things done, have also been denied party status in similar cases.

Stephenson agreed that in some cases parties were denied status because they did not bring any new information to the table.

However, he said he doesn't believe the same should apply to SORE, rebutting Melling's argument by reiterating that SORE members would be the most directly affected by the developments.

"Period. Stop. End of sentence."

Melling noted that SORE has acknowledged that as a group it does not have the right to speak for residents of town, but only for its own members — a small party of people who are strong supporters of the group's agenda.

Their motivation is to fight a development because it is close to their own backyards, Melling said.

SORE's lawyer Patrick Little was in attendance, though he did not address the court.

He said the points brought up were "very technical arguments on the efficiency of SORE as a group," but that in his opinion Melling failed to acknowledge that SORE could have a large number of residents sign a petition saying they agree with what they're doing.

David Bell, a member of SORE, said he was impressed with the turnout of SORE supporters, noting that with only one day's notice a large crowd found their way to the courthouse for the hearing.

Bell said he was "very happy with the way the case was put forward."

Developer Benny Marotta, owner of Two Sisters and Solmar, was not present.

Private family matter causes brief lockdown at Crossroads on Wednesday

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Crossroads Public School was under lockdown for 45 minutes on April 3. Niagara Regional Police were on scene Wednesday afternoon in response to a private matter regarding one of the families of the school.

Brett Sweeney, communications officer for the District School Board of Niagara, said the lockdown was brief, from approximately 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

"For about an hour, and then after that the school was able to lift the lockdown and school resumed its normal activities for the day without any disruptions," he said, adding that school operations went quickly back to normal.

Lauren Davidson, a Grade 7 student in class at Crossroads during the lockdown, said an announcement came over the speaker informing

students and faculty that the school was under lockdown and no one was to leave the classroom.

"We just kind of sat there for half an hour not knowing what was happening. Half an hour later they said we were still in a lockdown and just a reminder to stay



in our classrooms. Then after that, a few minutes later, we were not in lockdown anymore," Davidson said.

She said the school has conducted lockdown drills in the past, so the students knew to remain in their classroom.

There was no information given about the lockdown while it was taking place, she said, adding that her teacher didn't have his cell-phone so he couldn't communicate with the office.

An information sheet went home with students at the end of the day stating that principal Jodi Gates initiated the lockdown as a proactive measure to support student safety. While Gates couldn't release information about why police were called to the school, she said in the notice that families are encouraged to call the school with any questions or concerns regarding policies in place for student safety.

"I would like to assure you that students were safe at all times," Gates said in the notice.

The Lake Report has reached out to the NRP but hadn't received a response on the matter by press on Wednesday.

Annual hunt for golden egg about to begin

Richard Harley
Editor



It's become an Easter tradition local kids look forward to every year — and it isn't the bunny trail, though it does involve an egg hunt.

For a ninth year, local real estate sales representative Stefan Regier will be doing a little something extra for the kids in town, by hiding a single golden egg somewhere in town as part of a challenge for all.

The winner takes home a whopping \$500 prize.

With the stakes so high — and the allure of the golden egg — it has morphed into something even Regier didn't see coming, jesting he's even been stalked by a gang of 10-year-olds.

"As we're going for a walk, I hear this clanging. I look back and just over

a half a block behind us, there's this army of kids, like six or seven kids, on their bicycles. As soon as I turned around, they jumped into someone's yard. I thought, (wow) these kids are following me."

After telling his wife of his suspicions, she told him "these kids aren't following you."

But shortly after dinner that night, Regier went for a walk with his own kids.

"When I opened my door there was a kid out in the

middle of the road on his bicycle. As soon as he saw me he bolted," he chuckles as he tells the story.

Later he learned the kids had planned a sleepover so they could trail him as he hid the egg. So, naturally, he decided to go hang out in a decoy park for a while.

"When we got home I told my wife, I said I'm a really bad person but I have to do this. So, everyone went in the house except for myself. I went back and went down Rye Street and went to Rye Street Park. I could see these kids, they were following me. So I went into Rye Street Park and I hung out for like 15 minutes in the dark and then I came back out. I saw all these bicycles on the front yard and they were frantically talking to their grandmother. Let's talk about my

golden egg.

"They were convinced that this egg was in the park," he recalls.

I felt guilty so I went to this old town candy shop and picked up five or six baggies of candy. I felt bad they were so crestfallen."

Regier plans to hide the egg somewhere on Easter morning this year. For those who may try to follow him, he warns that he can be tricky.

"This year there's going to be a couple people going out at the same time and no one's going to know who has the egg ... I may have the egg, I may not have the egg."

People will know when it's happening though, and he plans to run an ad in The Lake Report leading up to the challenge.

For Regier, events like

this bring him back to his youth.

"When I was a kid, the big Easter egg hunt used to be at Simcoe Park, not at the community centre. For the kids they used to throw the eggs on the ground, but for the bigger kids, they had to actually go through the park and look for eggs, and not everybody got everything. It was sponsored and there were prizes, if you found a gold egg, like you won a bicycle or something like that."

He said next year he and his real estate partner Michelle Reynolds plan to bring back the Easter egg hunt at Simcoe.

"I've already got my special events permit from town," Regier said.

In the end, it's just supposed to be something fun for the community, to get

them out enjoying the town.

"I've always been active, not hugely active, but big on doing stuff in the community. Like people coming out and doing stuff ... We've got such a gorgeous town, and if you don't spend time in town, you don't know what you've got and then when it's gone everyone's gone. Enjoy what we have, we've got such a tremendous lifestyle out here. A lot of people maybe take it for granted or don't realize it. I know for myself, I didn't realize how great life was down here, 'til I moved to Toronto for school ... You don't realize how great life is down here.

"Because of this golden egg these kids are having this sleepover and planning this event to follow me at night."

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Reviewing the Situation

Hermine Steinberg
OPINION

In January, Ford's Progressive Conservative government announced that it was undertaking a review of regional governments in order to save money and provide better servicing to taxpayers.

Michael Fenn, a former deputy minister and one-time chief executive of Metrolinx, and Ken Seiling, the recently retired chair of Waterloo region, were appointed to conduct the research and make recommendations by July. It is unclear why such a short timeline was imposed but Ford has stated that although he is waiting to hear what Municipal Affairs Minister Steven Clark will recommend, he wants to take action by the end of the year.

If the goal is better use of taxpayers' dollars and making it easier to access or improve municipal services than why do Ford and Clark seem to have already made the assumption that reducing the number of local representatives is an effective way of cutting costs prior to the consultation with regions being completed and without any public input? Many people are concerned that Ford will impose amalgamation which, if the PCs were using an evidence-based decision-making model, they would clearly see that past experience and research have clearly shown it to be a failed strategy.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Regional Councillor Gary Zalepa Jr. both agree that the best approach is to take the government at their word – that the end goal of this review process is to improve the effectiveness of local and regional government. People should not focus on amalgamation but on the opportunity to develop a service delivery system that best meets the needs of our growing population.

The region and twelve local municipalities have decided to work together, forming 'Team Niagara' to consult with the public and

create a made in Niagara solution that they plan to present to Queen's Park. Disero along with town councillors Gary Burroughs and Stuart McCormack have also formed a committee to formulate an official response from the town.

Zalepa stated that although he is concerned about the speed of the process, he feels there are inefficiencies that need to be addressed and restructuring of certain administrative functions could bring real benefits to residents. He believes a hybrid solution that recognizes the unique characteristics of the town and the region should lead to a solution that respects local government.

Both Zalepa and Disero also agreed that the cost associated with retaining the positions of town councillors was minimal compared to the entire budget and should not be a major concern. Councillors are part-time employees that earn \$13,000 per year and perform an important function in our local democracy.

The Lord Mayor said that during her meeting with Fenn and Seiling, they acknowledged the special attributes of Niagara-on-the-lake, although she added "that and a cup of coffee doesn't necessarily mean anything" in terms of the final recommendations they will make. However, she remains optimistic and hopes that taking a proactive approach will lead to improvements that the provincial government will support while retaining local autonomy.

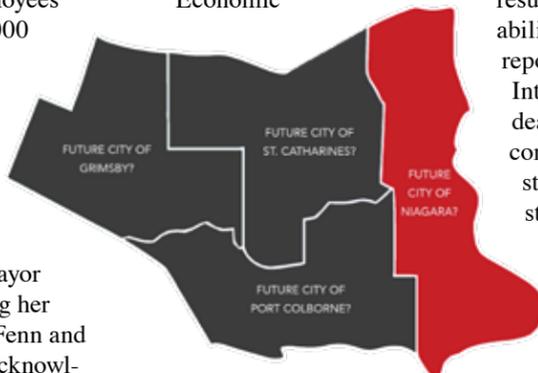
Disero also stated that she remembered from her days on Toronto Council the greater inefficiencies and increased costs that were associated with amalgamation. In addition, downloading of services from the province without providing tools for raising additional money to fund these new responsibilities

ultimately led to reduction of services.

This experience has recently been mirrored in Toronto when Ford impulsively imposed a reduction of Council without consultation with local politicians or residents. There were no greater efficiencies experienced but resulted in less accessibility and hiring of additional staff to manage increased workloads.

Zalepa feels that Niagara residents should pay close attention to this issue and participate in the consultation process. He also said that at this point he has faith in Fenn and Seiling as they are well respected individuals with extensive Ontario municipal governance experience. However, he strongly maintains that Niagara is a unique region from the perspective of our history, agriculture, and environment and we must preserve our small-town identities.

Economic



growth should be built upon these strengths.

But what do the experts say about how to achieve the goals of better service delivery, more effective governance, and reducing financial waste? The conservative based Fraser Institute reviewed the issue of amalgamation and municipal or local governments in 2015. The conclusion of the report was "consolidation has failed to produce cost savings, rarely leads to more efficient service delivery, and reduces the ability of citizens to be involved in the life of local governments."

Many other studies have come to the same conclusion and in fact some have raised the issue of whether

municipalities being "a creature of the province" with no inherent powers or ability for self-determination makes sense in the 21st century. When the Constitution Act was passed in 1867, 84 percent of Canadians lived in rural areas. Today, over 80 percent of Canadians live in urban areas which deliver the majority of daily used services to their residents. Despite a radical shift in the importance of towns and cities, provinces retain total control over revenue and even their right to exist.

While Ford claims that he wants to create a more financially sustainable model of governance for taxpayers, all the research points to the fact that if he was really serious about the province being 'open for business', he would be listening to experts around the world who have pointed to the fact that increasing local fiscal autonomy results in greater accountability and efficiencies. A report from the Economist Intelligence Unit which dealt with the future competitiveness of cities stated that "there is a strong correlation between

the quality of a city's institutions and its overall competitiveness." They went on to say that a city's ability to tax, plan, legislate and enforce laws" is critical.

In fact, it may seem odd that a conservative government would move toward centralizing control of municipal duties and promote big government, pushing decision making further away from residents.

That is not to say that local governments should not work together, coordinate, and even share responsibilities on a voluntary basis when it serves the best interests of their residents. What is does say is that top down decision making has never proven to be beneficial to 'the people', with the exception of bureaucrats, technocrats, and special interests that have the ear of those in power.



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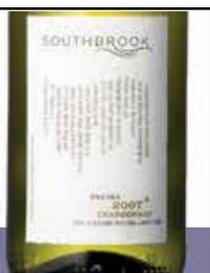
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Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Debbie Krause is the embodiment of a community engagement co-ordinator, working for the community at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

She has been working at the library for five years, stumbling on a job listing for the children's librarian position in 2014. Since then, her role evolved into planning events and community involvement until she became community engagement co-ordinator in 2016.

She has since settled in nicely and her focus is on bringing the library to the community, connecting with residents of all ages in town.

"As a library your mandate is to provide service and resources and information to every member of the community."

Crediting the entire library team with collaborating on ideas for initiatives and events, Krause takes the lead when it comes to planning and organizing the follow-through.

A natural introvert, she says the job takes her out of her comfort zone, but you can't tell that when speaking with her. Her passion for the job and the community shines through, dispelling any notion that she wasn't built for the role.

She studied to be a teacher, but after some substitute work and taking time for her family - husband Kevin and their three children, Amanda, Jordan and Noah - she wasn't sure she could carve out a career for herself in the school system.

"I am a certified teacher. I spent a lot of years supply teaching when my kids were growing up with the intention of starting full-time once they were a little bit older."

It was tough to get into the school system full-time, but she still wanted to put the skills she developed to use. She says it got to the point where she had to decide if she was willing to essentially start over to earn a teaching contract. Instead, she pivoted in a different direction.

It was an interesting journey, she recalls.

"As a qualified teacher, but not in the teaching industry, what are you quali-



Debbie Krause, community engagement coordinator for the NOTL Public Library. BRITTANY CARTER

fied to do? You're pretty limited. I have the skillset that I think is valuable, but there aren't a lot of places, other than schools, where I could do that."

Upon discovering the children's librarian posting, she says she immediately knew it was the job for her.

"I had no doubt I could do this job. I knew I could do it, and I could do it well."

At the helm of the library-organized events, she tries to think outside the box, finding new and innovative ways to bring the community together and into the library.

Fay and Fluffy, Toronto-based drag-queen story tellers, were brought in to the library in September. In anticipation of some possible push-back, and to see what they were all about, Krause went to Toronto to see the show before deciding to book them, and she says she's so happy she did.

"That was incredible. I had never experienced a drag-queen story time before either ... That's their thing, so they're good at it."

She says Fay and Fluffy are all about kids. Both with backgrounds in children's education, she says the drag-queen part is secondary; it's all about the story time.

Working through scheduling at the moment, Krause

says she will definitely book them again,

"To me, especially as a children's programmer, (a focus on the kids) is really important to me. In the end I want a really good children's program."

Wine and Words, a monthly gathering at an area winery with well-known authors, was in place before Krause took the role. Under her leadership though, the program has gained momentum and consistently sells out. Beer and Books is another adult program that takes residents out of the library and into the community, this time as a book club at The Old Winery Restaurant. Both events take a hiatus over the summer, starting up again in the fall.

Libraries are often seen as quiet and stale institutions. Krause is bringing the NOTL library to life - infusing it with constant activity, community events and a sense of belonging - while maintaining a sanctuary for those quietly working to remain undisturbed, most of the time.

"They know already that 'Debbie likes to make it noisy' once in a while."

She says she tries to limit activities hosted during opening hours in the common space, but when

they do happen, library patrons are generally accepting and receptive -- like the drum circle that took place in February.

"I had people sort of bouncing around the library. There's a real acceptance of that."

Born and raised in NOTL, Krause says she moved away for five years, but made her way back 22 years ago. She has been raising her family here, in a town that people tend to fall in love with, she says.

"I think what you find with people from Niagara-on-the-Lake is that they're in a hurry to get out but then when they do, they realize how good it was, and they tend to come back if they can."

"It's such a great place. It's a nice combination of rural with the amenities of a town."

Her position at the library opened her eyes to what the town really has to offer. While she knew NOTL and called it home, she says she never truly understood what it was all about until she dove into her role reaching out to the community.

While the library is out of the way for many residents in the different villages of NOTL, Krause says a lot of thought goes in to bringing services to the community.

Building another branch isn't feasible, Krause says, but she does what she can to reach out to those other areas of town. Book lockers are in place around town, with plans of expanding the service.

She says there are also plans in place to bring kids programming out to the community. Wi-Fi hotspots for migrant workers are in the works as well, she says, adding that the library is ironing out the details.

The town has a lot of need, but she says that need may look different than it does in other communities.

"There's a lot of loneliness in this town. People, you know they have their own wifi and their own books, but they're coming in for other reasons. I think that we play a huge role in that, as just part of people's daily routine. That connection."

It's being able to provide that connection to the community that Krause says is so rewarding for her.

"The core of my job really is to just reach as many people in the community as I can and just make an impact. It's finding the needs and how to fill them."

Krause notes the library provides something for people from infants all the way up to seniors -- though she admits it's been hard

to reach the teens in town, especially since there is no high school. She says she is open to ideas for programs for teens.

It is important to Krause that programs remain free, or as low-cost as possible. Any fees the library charges for programs are to cover operating costs, and sometimes fees are enough even to cover that.

"If I do charge it's going to be cost-recovery, and even then sometimes not. And I love that, to be able to offer stuff for free to people."

Focusing a lot of her energy on community outreach, Krause says she was surprised how much she loves the role. If asked if she thought she was a good fit for the role before she started, her answer would have been very different, she says.

"It's something that I'm finding incredibly rewarding. It was a nice surprise to find out that it was something that I could do, and I could do relatively well, even though it wasn't in my box."

With the success of adult programs such as the hugely popular Wine and Words it's evident Krause is succeeding in the role.

"It's nice to find those things about yourself a little later on in your life."



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Front-Simcoe road bottleneck an accident waiting to happen, resident warns

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Tour buses are a big part of NOTL's booming summer tourism trade, but they're also a big headache for some residents and the municipality.

For Kenneth Porter, they're a major migraine.

Porter lives at the Front and Simcoe streets where the road takes a sharp 90-degree turn. With tour buses, regular traffic, parked vehicles and the occasional horse-drawn carriage, it gets really busy and will lead to an accident, said Porter.

"The buses come too fast. There's too many of them," he told The Lake Report. "It's noisy, accidents are going to happen. I'm just very, very concerned there's going to be an accident, real soon."

Turning buses, which don't have much room because there are parking spaces on both streets, also end up going over the curb and onto Porter's property.

"It's twice now the buses gone onto the boulevard. Those big tires have gone and ripped out my sprinkler system and broken sprinkler heads from my lawn," he said in an interview. "Once it almost hit my fire hydrant."

If the town removes the two last parking spots on Front Street and two last spots on Simcoe Street, it would make for an easier turn, said Porter, adding that he still doesn't want to have buses coming down that way.

"And people are going to say, 'Oh, you're eliminating four spots.' I'm eliminating an accident that is going to happen," said Porter.

Sometimes buses even park along Simcoe Street while dropping off people, he said.

"I really can't believe that we're in the year 2019 and we're having a conversation that big buses are allowed to come into our little quaint town and race around corners."

Porter said he is against

buses coming along Simcoe, Front and up King Street into town altogether and suggested instead of driving along these streets, buses should use East West Line to travel to bus-only parking lots.

Porter said he has spoken to Coun. Norm Arsenault about the issue and he was "very good about taking the information and bringing it to council" and has "done a great job doing that."

But Porter said he's not letting the issue drop, no matter how long it takes or how much he has to spend.

"I want this eliminated because it's just not good for the town," he said. "And if it's not eliminated, shame on the people that allowed this to happen when there's going to be an accident."

On Monday night, NOTL's committee of the whole rejected a staff plan to prohibit heavy vehicles entering town based on their registered gross weight, putting up signage indicating the restriction and allowing

staff to monitor the Front-Simcoe intersection to determine if parking spaces on that corner need to be removed to allow for more room for turning buses.

The negative impact of buses on the environment as well as residents' complaints about an increasing incursion of tour buses on Front, Simcoe and Prideaux streets prompted town staff to seek solutions for the influx of heavy vehicles into the Heritage District.

Coun. Gary Burroughs questioned why the committee was "even contemplating" reducing parking spaces on the Front-Simcoe intersection as there are "big retailers" in the area.

"People do come there and want to sit and look out over the lake from either the Oban Inn or the golf club," he said.

Arsenault told councillors the weight-based restriction is "ideal" and said he fully supports it, but he wasn't in favour of removing a bus stop near the Front-Simcoe intersection,



The intersection of Front Street and Simcoe Street sees lots of traffic, says Kenneth Porter who lives on the corner of two streets. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

across from the golf course.

"The cost of actually removing that particular space doesn't make any sense to me," he said. "I'm in favour of leaving that space alone because it's a transit stop as well."

Coun. John Wiens, who operates the NOTL Golf Club, said the businesses near Front and Simcoe streets could be put "in dire straits" if the restriction included delivery trucks because they wouldn't be able to service his properties.

"I certainly don't think we want to be putting busi-

nesses out of business, especially what they provide for the community," he said.

Sheldon Randall, the town's director of operations, replied that delivery and construction vehicles would be exempt from the restriction.

"This is just to prevent the buses from going on a cruise through the Old Town, sightseeing and just being a nuisance on the streets," said Randall, explaining buses coming into the area for regular business or just dropping people off would still be allowed.

Candid on camera: Committee meetings must be broadcast, town says

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Some NOTL councillors spoke out strongly Monday against a request by the town's irrigation committee to hold its meetings "off-camera."

The irrigation committee, with Kevin Buis as chair and Walter Konik as vice-chair, asked the town not to broadcast its meetings to the public as the committee often has to deal with local growers' confidential and personal information.

The committee also requested its meetings be held in the operations board room instead of the council chambers.

Coun. Stuart McCormack said a motion to approve

the request contravened the Municipal Act which states, "All meetings should be open to the public."

"I appreciate that at times it will make life difficult for them but, nonetheless, there's a statutory obligation for a public meeting and they just have to structure their meeting the same way that we're, unfortunately, forced to structure ours and do their in-camera business at some point in time," he said.

While legally, most meetings must be open and transparent, the act allows municipal organizations to hold parts of their meetings in private, but there are strict and specific guidelines for doing so. Among the reasons for holding so-called in-camera meetings

are: security issues, personnel matters, litigation or trade secrets.

Coun. Allan Bisback agreed with McCormack.

"While I understand, there are certain sensitivities, they should be able to manage those sensitivities with an in-camera meeting," he said.

Coun. Clare Cameron spoke strongly against the idea, saying it "really concerns" her.

"I see no need how these concerns that have been described cannot already be met by provisions in the Municipal Act," she said. "It's Ontario law."

"Part of my concern about this motion comes from the desire to protect the people that come forward and offer their time on these commit-

tees," Cameron said.

"I would never want to see someone who has offered their time as a volunteer be subject to an ombudsman's investigation because a member of the public was suddenly concerned, 'Why is this so hard for me to watch this one on a webcast, why can't I find out what's on their agenda?'" she said.

"So, for that reason, I would strongly encourage that this motion not be supported and that instead the irrigation committee be encouraged to use the powers that are available to them under the Municipal Act to move into closed sessions when necessary."

Municipal clerk Peter Todd said town staff agrees with Cameron's position that the committee's meet-



Town's irrigation committee requested to meet off-camera but committee of the whole defeated the motion Monday night. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

ings should be available to the public online.

Coun. John Wiens had a different opinion.

"If we need to tape it, we certainly can tape it over there (in the operations board room) as well if need be. The irrigation chair and committee were hoping it would be status-quo as what we were doing the last number of years," Wiens said.

The irrigation committee has never held its meetings in the councils chambers, Wiens told The Lake Report.

"They've always been

either in Centennial Arena or in the operations (room)," he said in an interview.

"It's always been open to the public. It's always been open to the irrigation community and farming community. It's not private or not being held secretly. It's always been listed and open. Just there are sometimes sensitive issues that need to be discussed quietly, I guess, or in-camera."

Cameron motioned to remove the recommendation from the irrigation committee's minutes and that motion was carried.



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The Lake Report

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Davids Lions Club Fish Fry, April 5, April 19 - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1</p>			
7	8	9	10
<p>Cupcake Decorating - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p>25th Anniversary Celebration Party at Niagara Pumphouse - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara</p>	<p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Town Council Meeting - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: 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>Golden Age Club - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Irish Beer Pairing at The Irish Harp - 6:30 p.m. - The Irish Harp Pub</p>	<p>St. Andrew's Lectures: 225 Years: The Cross Movers and Shakers in Canada - 10 a.m. - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Beyond The Myth: Leonardo da Vinci in America - 7 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Centre</p> <p>InfoHealth: The Truth About Ovarian and Pancreatic Cancer - 8:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange Brewery (Spring League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - 8:30 p.m. - Niagara Community Centre Campus</p>
14	15	16	17
<p>Donuts or Doughnuts - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus</p> <p>Battle of the Brains: Beer Bingo Trivia - The Exchange Brewery</p> <p>Dig our Roots: Brunch and Bubbly - Konzelmann Estate Winery</p>	<p>Lawn Bowling - 1:45 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Monday Night Teen Hang Out - 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p> <p>Beer & Books: The Best Kind of People by Zoe Whittall - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - The Old Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar</p>	<p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Mini Garden - 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Easter Floral Workshop with Van Noort Florists - 6:30 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery</p> <p>Paint Nite - 7 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery</p>	<p>Simpson's Seniors' Luncheon - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Simpson's Community Centre</p> <p>Lawn Bowling - 1:45 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange Brewery (Spring League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - 8:30 p.m. - Niagara Community Centre Campus</p> <p>Wine & Words: Joanna Whittall - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4 Niagara Golden Age Club: Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Opening Reception of Common Ground Exhibition: Daniel Pigeon & Julie Ponesse - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	5 Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara An 1812 Officers' Dinner - Fort George Beef on a Bun Supper (\$15) - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Grace United Church Yellow Door Theatre Project: Coffee House Youth Series - 7 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project	6 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Healthy, Green Lawn Care - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Free Tax Clinic - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library How to Build Your Story: Plotting novels & writing short stories - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Children's Day at St. David's Vet Clinic - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - St. David's Vet Clinic Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara - A Taste of Niagara
10 Series Books Family: Books in Upper St. Andrew's Seeing in 2019 - 2 Museum ughies: atic Cancer - 2 Public Library ge Brewery (ek 3) - 6:30 Brewery - 7 p.m. to College, NOTL	11 Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Niagara Golden Age Club: Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre 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	12 Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Bravo Niagara! Presents Cheng Duo - 7:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards Humour & HOPS Anniversary Show - 9 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery	13 Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Spring Garden Essentials - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Lawn Bowling - 1:30 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre Bravo Niagara! Presents Nat Cole: A King's Centennial - 7:30 p.m. - Stratus Vineyards The Greatest Songwriters You've Never Heard - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project
17 Day - 8:30 son's Pharmacy 5 p.m. - Mori Community Centre ge Brewery (ek 4) - 6:30 Brewery - 7 p.m. to College, NOTL anna Goodman m. - NOTL	18 Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Spring Opening Reception at RiverBrink Art Museum - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Social - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre Art & Fashion Lecture Series: Back to the Future-the Museum and Deaccessioning - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum	19 Spanish Conversation Group - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre Good Friday Dinner at Caroline Cellars - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Caroline Cellars Winery Mahjong Game Drop In - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre	20 Niagara Nursery School Annual Bunny Trail - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre Mori Gardens Seminar Series: Discovering Herbs - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens Daddy & Me - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library Lawn Bowling - 1:30 p.m. - Mori Room, NOTL Community Centre Easter Junk Food Pairing at Konzelmann - Konzelmann Estate Winery

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Bill Maartense



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Bill Maartense has been a volunteer firefighter since 2017. SUPPLIED PHOTO/TOWN OF NOTL

**Bill Maartense
Station #4**

My name is Bill Maartense, I am 54 years old, and I was part of the 2017 Recruit Campaign. I heard a rumor, but cannot verify, that I may be the oldest new recruit to come through the program.

I am a lifelong resident of the Niagara Region, but have only lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake since 2014. My son is a full-time firefighter in Burlington. I have always had an interest in Fire Services, but life took me in a

different route.

The Fire Services in Niagara-on-the-Lake offered me an opportunity, through the Volunteer Firefighter program, to become an active part of my community. I also have the privilege of being a part of a group of likeminded men and women (new friends) that also serve the community they live in. In the last year I have learned, not only about firefighting, but about responding in general to a multitude of situations. It has been a fantastic experience, and challenging both physically

and mentally.

I started training January 2018 and completed basic training in June. Besides normal calls, we meet and complete further training on Monday nights. New recruits receive the equivalent of basic training to someone in the full-time firefighting service. As a firefighter I tend to think more about my general fitness, and have more of an awareness to things happening around me.

I feel that the NOTL Volunteer Firefighter program is a perfect opportunity to

learn a new skill set, meet others in your community, and give back, just that little bit, to the beautiful community we live in. This is not just for the young, but also the young at heart, and anyone with a passion for people and their community.

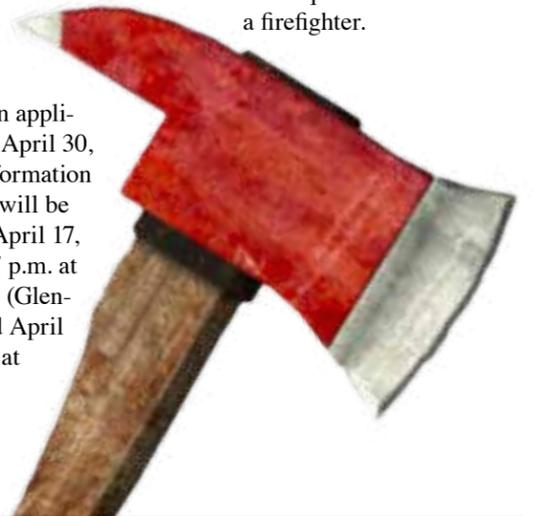
Like any volunteer program, the NOTL Fire Services depends on committed people willing to get involved. Give it a shot, fill out an application, and talk to someone about it. We need you!

Interested in joining Bill

and becoming a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake? Visit www.notl.com and apply today!

The deadline to submit an application is April 30, 2019. Information sessions will be held on April 17, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Station 5 (Glen-dale) and April 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Station 1

(Old Town) for interested parties and their families to learn about the application process and the amount of time required in the role of a firefighter.



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Pancake Sunday



The 38th annual pancake breakfast took place Sunday at St. Davids' Lions Club. The goal was to raise money for 1st St. Davids Scouting group. Claire Vanderlee, left, and Teia Epp. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Kallan Hillis serves up some fresh pancakes. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Edward Elgin said it's been 25 years since he was a beaver scout himself. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



The club has 12 cubs, 8 beavers, 11 scouts and one venturer. Travis Pearsall, the only venturer scout, was helping at the kitchen making butter. Pearsall said he likes cooking. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Ben Foster, Aiden Harber and Jack Clarke. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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Going mobile: Resident wants to operate pedal pub in town

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Pedal pubs would make a great addition to the booming bike tourism business in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a local resident says.

Tony Visca made a presentation to NOTL's committee of the whole Monday night and pitched the idea of opening a pedal pub business in town.

Visca has been in the hospitality business for 25 years and operates several businesses in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, including Johnny Rocco's Italian Grill, Cracker Jacks Bar and Grill and Mick and Angelo's Sports Bar and Eatery.

A so-called pedal pub provides a "team-building" experience, he said, and can be used for

touring the town and special occasions such as birthdays, bachelorette parties or corporate events.

Each party bike has up to 16 seats. There are 10 pedalling seats, five non-pedalling and one driver. Riders pedal while the pilot steers the bike.

A two-hour tour would allow riders to experience NOTL while making stops at local shops, restaurants, bars and wineries, Visca told councillors.

One of the proposed routes would start from 319 Mary Street and make stops at Niagara Apothecary, the Olde Angel Inn, Peller Estates Winery and Jackson Triggs Estate Winery.

Another suggested route would have stops at Strewn Winery, Konzelmann Estate Winery, Palatine Hills

Estate Winery and Stratus Vineyards.

On the third route, stops would include Jackson Triggs Estate Winery, Big Head Wines, Strewn Winery and the Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

The average speed of the bike is 8 to 10 km/h. Each one is equipped with LED front, tail and brake lights, music speakers, canopy lights and blinkers.

Visca said a pedal pub in London, Ont., became successful in its first week of business. He said he would like to start with two bikes and would plan to have four bikes over the next four years.

Pedal pubs would create jobs for locals earning and each pedal tour would bring over \$500 to local businesses, he estimated.

Coun. Erwin Wiens wondered where the bikes would be parked on Queen Street and what liability insurance the business would have.

"We would talk to restaurants... or any side streets where we can drop people off safely and they can come back where the bike is parked on the side street. We're not going to park at a restaurant that has no parking," said Visca, adding the business would carry \$5 million in liability insurance.

Coun. Allan Bisback said he went on a couple of such rides in Buffalo and suggested hiring a local resident as a pilot.

"Whoever you hire as a pilot, they can become a huge, huge advantage to tourism in this town



Tony Visca. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

because we learned so much from the pilots. They knew everything that was going on," he said. "So, I encourage you to train them well and hire a local."

No decision has yet been made on Visca's proposal as he was just informing councillors about his idea, Coun. John Wiens told The Lake Report.



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Jason Hoadley "kind of expected (snow) at this time of year. "Always get a nice snow storm at the end of March," he said. EUNICE TANG

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Shaw Festival, Box 774

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- Across**
- Husky (7)
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 - Opening (8)
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 - Foretells (8)
 - Fleet commander's vessel (8)
 - Chaise longue (6)
 - Having no money (4)
 - Writing materials (10)
 - Large amount of electrical power (8)
 - Stoppage (6)
 - Profound (7)
 - Nervous (7)
- Down**
- Member of the Indian majority (5)
 - Unpaid (5)
 - 8th letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
 - Lay out too much (9)
 - Motherhood (9)
 - Table napkin (9)
 - Fabulous story-teller (5)
 - Permit (3)
 - Eve of All Saints' Day (9)
 - Source of sweetness (5,4)
 - Recipients of one of St. Paul's Epistles (9)
 - Braid (5)
 - Fuss (3)
 - Relative by marriage (2-3)
 - The dark (5)
 - Achieve (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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11		12				13	
14	15	16	17	18			
19				20	21	22	
23			24		25	26	27
28					29		
30					31		

Last issue's answers

1	C	O	B	W	E	B	2	N	E	P	A	L	E	S	E
3	M	A	R	I	O	A	T								
4	H	A	I	R	B	A	L	L	5	S	U	N	T	A	N
6	H	A	S	T	E	T	O	I							
7	M	A	T	H	S	12	I	M	P	L	I	E	D		
8															
9	P	R	O	P	R	I	E	T	O	R	17	N	E	O	N
10	E														
11	A	C	I	D	20	S	U	M	M	E	R	C	A	M	P
12	E	R	E	P	M	A									
13	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	23	S	P	L	A	Y		
14	S	S	T	P	I	I	K								
15	B	I	S	T	R	O	28	L	E	N	G	T	H	E	N
16	O	I	W	E	T	A	L								
17	A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	30	O	I	L	M	A	N

Sudoku

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

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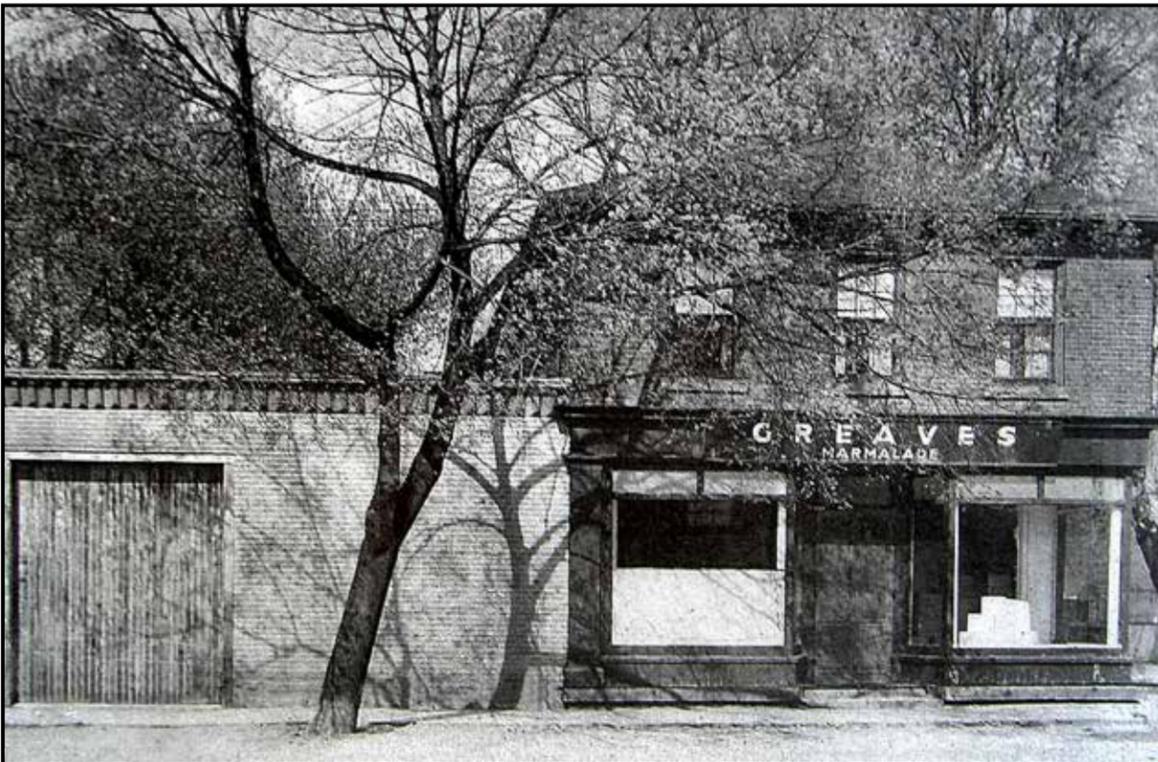
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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

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SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH

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Safe not Sorry

Brian Marshall
Featured

Driving home from Queenston last week, I passed a gentleman spraying an orchard while a following wind blew clouds of fungicide around him.

The sight made me think about a restoration/renovation project that I recently consulted on. The house is typical of many old homes scattered across Niagara; a small settler's dwelling which had major additions in both 1870 and 1950, and multiple renovations/remodels over its lifetime.

The current owner wished to renew the home with an eye to preserving the remaining original features while respecting the



Proceed with caution. SUPPLIED

heritage of the house in the design/renovation process.

On one of my early visits, I found the owner and most of her volunteers busy doing 'demo' on the second floor. They had pulled up late 20th century carpeting and were about to start removing the 1940s tile which had been found below it. At the same time, others were busily picking away at removing the multiple coats of paint that covered the late 19th

century embossed tin ceiling and crown molding in the dining room. Much to the dismay of the owner, I immediately called a halt to all their efforts because they were all running an unacceptable health risk. Fact is we (and/or our antecedents) blithely used products which are "silent killers". In Canada, all paint prior to 1960 contained lead; exterior paint to 1990 probably has lead, and interior paint prior to 1990

may contain lead. While asbestos was a component in a plethora of building materials that included pipe wrap, heating duct wrap, plaster-board (drywall), insulation, ceiling tiles, adhesives and floor tile. Provided it's not disturbed, no problem, but during a reno all bets are off.

Be safe... Tests for lead and asbestos are a cheap way to ensure the "sins of the father are not laid upon the children!"



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Naming Evil

By: *Hermine Steinberg*

My father recognized his name immediately. But that wasn't surprising. As a holocaust survivor, having fought in the resistance during World War Two, and arriving in Canada in 1952 when anti-Semitism was a fact of life, remaining politically aware was a matter of survival.

But I spent my formative years in the 1960s and early 70s when social change was the mantra of every respectable young person. They were weird and wonderful times; youth were hyper critical of traditional institutions but oddly innocent and optimistic at the same time. Civil rights protests, peace demonstrations, and women's rights marches filled the growing media presence in our lives, and in our consciousness. And maybe that's what also made us feel arrogant, worldly, and self-righteous beyond our experience or real understanding of the world.

The name belonged to a man that was in my Sociology class at the University of Toronto. He was older than the rest of us; gaunt, sullen, and weary. He was also in my tutorial group with whom our left leaning Italian TA loved to challenge us, and we rose to the occasion, often continuing our debate at the local pub after our sessions ended. It was on these occasions we learned that the man liked to drink, ultimately ranting and raving about unidentified enemies, tricksters who robbed him of his pride and power, and governments that conspired against their citizens. The day after one of these outbursts, the man hesitantly came into our lecture hall and asked if he could sit with me. John expressed his desire to get to know me better and hoped that he had not offended me. He looked pitiful, and although he was at least six feet tall, he appeared slight and vulnerable.

But when I asked him why he thought he offended me, the power of his name left me speechless. At first, I thought the name was just a coincidence but he unabashedly confirmed he was the

John Beattie, the founder of the Canadian Nazi party, and the man responsible for the re-emergence of organized neo-Nazi activity in Canada since its demise after World War two. He was the man The Toronto Star recently claimed was the most hated in Canada.

I remember fumbling over my words. "I'm Jewish," I declared. "My parents are holocaust survivors and I don't want to know you, I know everything I need to about you."

He nodded in agreement. "I've abandoned Nazism and have disbanded the party," he claimed. "I've been beaten up numerous times, served six months in prison, and am considered social pariah." He went on to tell me that he has been consumed by self-loathing and the only relief he has found was at the bottom of a bottle. John also was eager to let me know that he was actually not a racist but foolishly allowed himself to be used as a pawn. He was ashamed to admit that 'they' simply made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

I felt disgusted. "What do you want from me," I demanded.

"I don't really know," he said quietly. "Maybe I just wanted you to know who I am, just a damaged human being, not a demon." He stood and went to sit at the back of the lecture hall.

John and I spoke a few more times that semester. I saw him as an impotent being that had made a terrible mistake. I didn't particularly like him but there were times I pitied him.

I can still remember that sanctimonious sigh I often released when my father spoke about the real prejudice and hatred that still existed in the world, and his warning not to confuse idealism with naiveté. But the day I brought that name into our house I saw a look that rarely crossed my father's face; not anger or frustration or resentment or even the sadness that sometimes overcame him. It was an expression of utter defeat. It first shocked me, then cut me to my core, and finally angered me, all within an

instant. It was more than a simple rejection of my ideas but a look of utter failure in him not being able to raise a daughter of whom he could be proud. I experienced a whole life worth of insecurities in a single moment; coursing through my veins like a violent storm.

When I told my father that I met John and of his story about a conspiracy, how pathetic he was, and how I believed he was paying for his mistakes, it was my father who was now speechless; visibly crushed. He shook his head. "After everything, you've learned nothing," he mumbled and walked away.

I was sure that it was him that couldn't possibly understand, that it was his hate that coloured his judgement, and that he was living in the past. I convinced myself that I resided in a new world that he simply couldn't comprehend.

My father passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Shortly after his death I came across an article about John Beattie. He was running for office, as the deputy reeve in Minden, Ontario. The article stated that while Beattie claimed to renounce Nazism in 1972, he continued to promote his racist views; on his radio show, on YouTube and other forums where he spreads hate. He also hosted 'Aryan Festivals' at his home which celebrated the growth of white pride.

I now know why my father experienced such disappointment when I spoke of John Beattie. He had learned the hard lesson that he had hoped I would have understood. If we confuse ourselves by believing that atrocities are only committed by monsters that are very different from ourselves, we can more easily abdicate our responsibility or fail to act. "Never again" can't be achieved if we don't remain vigilant. The Holocaust as all genocides, all terrorism, is not an accident in history or an aberration. They are manmade and we must not shy away from identifying or make excuses for evil wherever it may exist.

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 de-mobbed 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 three. Check the paper weekly to keep up with the series.

SENTRY DUTY

Dick pulled the blanket more tightly around him. He shivered and swore under his breath. His nose was frozen and hurt.

God. This weather is terrible. I've never seen snow or cold like this. Stuck in the Sussex countryside under canvas doesn't help. Being close to the searchlight has made coping with the weather a grueling challenge. Tents are not warm enough in this lot.

Hell. The war has been on for four months and this is the biggest challenge we have had to face.

"Corporal. Come quickly please."

What now?

Dick struggled into his wool tunic and greatcoat. His clothes were freezing. It will take a long time for them to warm up.

He stumbled out of the tent into eighteen inches of snow. They had carved channels through the snow between the tents. Sandy stood waiting for him to appear.

"What's the problem, Sandy?"

"Jonesy went to relieve the guard and couldn't find Stinky. He's gone, Corp."

"You think he deserted?"

"Don't know, Corp. He just isn't on guard."

Dick and Sandy followed a crude path through the snow to where Jonesy was stomping his feet to keep them warm. Dick smiled to himself. Jonesy looked almost comic, stomping away with a rifle slung over his shoulder.

"Corp. I searched for him but he's gone." Jonesy reported.

"OK. Jonesy, you do guard duty and we'll look for him."

Dick surveyed the ground around the tents. The snow had been churned up by the sentries walking around, trying to keep warm.

"Right. Sandy. You look over there and I'll go towards the gate. Let's see what we can find."

"What are we looking for, Corp?"

"If he went somewhere he should have left foot prints in this bloody snow."

"Yes, Corp."

They parted and walked slowly look-

ing for a trail of footprints. After five minutes Sandy called out.

"Over here, Corp."

Dick reversed his trek and walked through deep snow to where Sandy waited.

A row of footprints extended across the snow for another fifteen yards and then stopped. Sandy shrugged his shoulders and gave Dick a puzzled look.

Dick stared at the disappearing tracks.

"He couldn't have flown away."

After a few seconds he shouted.

"Stinky."

They listened.

"Stinky."

They heard a strangely muffled noise.

"I think that's him, Corp."

They both looked at each other and slowly walked forward. After ten yards they could hear Stinky yelling more clearly.

"Gawd. He's down in the Lane under the snow." Dick was worried.

"What, Corp?" Sandy asked.

"The Lane at this end of the field is about eight feet lower than the field itself. The snow has drifted into the depression. He walked over the hedge and onto the Lane without realizing he was on deep snow. Then the snow gave way and down he went."

"Gawd blimey. You mean he's buried under the snow. How long do you think he's been there?"

"Yes and probably a long time. Go. Raise the lads, bring shovels and rope. We'll dig him out and hope none of us join him down there."

Two hours later Stinky was examined by a medic in the nearest house.

"He has hyperthermia. A day or so of a warm bed and he'll be back, Corp."

"Thanks. We'll leave him under your care until then." Dick said.

"Stinky, behave yourself," he added.

On the way back to the tent Sandy said, "He was lucky, Corp."

"Lucky! No one but Stinky would ever have managed to do that in the first place."

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Wallbangers season ends with good fun and high spirits

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

Sportsmanship, competition, nice goals and inexplicable gaffs marked the final game of the 28th season of Wallbangers old timer hockey at Meridian Arena.

Very early last Sunday morning, bedroom lights lit up in NOTL, St. Catharines, Welland and Fort Erie as players stumbled out of bed, psyched for the big game. According to Commissioner Bill Dickson, the season series was tied at 8 wins for Blue team, 8 wins for Red team, with 2 games tied or still under protest.

It was a story book drive to the rink, reminding me of my early days in Kirkland Lake and Winnipeg, with evergreen tree branches heavy laden with fluffy white snow. The sun was rising in the eastern sky, over the still slumbering vineyards. As my Dad often said on canoe trips in Algonquin Park, "Sunrises are so beautiful. Why did God make them so darned early?" The players trickled in to dressing rooms number 1 and 3. Several players choose to put their equipment on with the other team, which makes it harder to get a "real hate on."

After an unorganized, somewhat rag tag warm up, it was time for the annual Losers Buy Breakfast Final Game,

Just before the Face-Off, there were appropriate ceremonies. At 7:05 a.m., a flag party marched onto the ice, from the 809 Newark Air Cadet Squadron. These sharply uniformed young people added a sense of je ne sais quoi to the morning, as they performed a short military routine. Richard Wall, son of Wallbanger

Co-Founder Dave Wall, dropped the ceremonial puck between Blue Team captain Mark Shantz and Red Team captain Carl Glauser. Roger Doucet, the magnificent tenor voice du Forum de Montreal, passed away several years ago, so a player lip synched O' Canada.

Michael Frena, a rookie Wallbangers forward, used his audiovisual talents to present a fairly emotional pre-game routine. He later set up Ricky Watson who set up Joe Doria for a beauty of a goal.

In an attempt to even up the teams, an inter-league loan had been worked out between the Wallbangers and the NOTL Hot Tub Oldtimers league. The ever smiling B.I. Litke, a Top Five forward, was loaned to Blue Team for the final game. A rental player to be sure, but he fulfilled his role as a power forward and 210 foot player. B.I. is a really good hockey player.

The game was fast, so to speak, right from the opening face-off (not puck drop, face-off.) Both teams scored near the mid-point of the game, and with ten minutes left in the contest, Blue team defenceman Mike Bruce took a seeing eye pass from yer humble scribbler and one-timed a seeing eye shot right along the ice past Red team netminder Rob Vanderperk. Another beauty, eh? This was good pay back, because during the opening ceremonies, Mike had helped out by holding down the mat where the Air Cadets were performing. It would have been dangerous if the mat had slipped out from under the flag party.

There are several enthusiastic sailors playing Wallbangers hockey. They love each other and share a special bond, but



Team captain Mark Shantz holds the prototype Dickson Cup (a.k.a. the D-cup) aloft, surrounded by his players. ROSS ROBINSON

at the same time, compete fiercely within the rules. In this game, Ken "Svenny" Greer took advantage of a rare and egregious error by defenceman Marcel Lounsbury, creating a breakout from the blue line in. He dazzled us all with a move called the talcum cloth wipe. I guess every sport has its own lingo. I have no idea what this means.

With time running out because we had to finish three minutes early to leave time for the trophy presentation, the pace increased. Red team got several pucks on the net, and banged away, but Blue goalie Boomer Manuel was unbeatable.

Two goals in the final minute were both of the lucky variety, with one deflecting in off a player's skate. The other goal was an attempted pass that bounced in off someone's butt cheek.

The traditional "Losing Team Buys Breakfast" at Silk's Country Kitchen is apparently no more. As players were leaving and saying goodbye until the Wallbanger Golf Tournament on April 13, someone asked if the winning team still enjoyed free food. A member of the other team remarked, "No, that tradition is over, now that breakfast has gone up from \$7.00 to \$12.00." Fair enough.

Please allow me now to drift to another important



Wallbangers players enjoy camaraderie at Silk's Country Kitchen. ROSS ROBINSON

subject. Sportsmanship, fair play, and the love of the game. I was appalled a few weeks ago, while reading a local weekly paper, to see a picture of several hockey players, perhaps 12 or 13 years old. The accompanying headline read, "Aussies lose to Niagara." What was someone thinking? The young Australians were on a trip of a lifetime, and had probably only just begun playing hockey. Perhaps the headline could have read, "Aussie hockey players compete hard with Niagara." Why is it that some Canadians have to trumpet our perceived superiority in a sport that very few nations play?

If a Canadian youth rugby or cricket team travelled to Australia, and tried their best during the exhibition game, the Aussies would not run up the score. And, I suggest the headline next to the picture would read "Canadians enjoy rugby game in Queensland." A wise sportsman taught us that if there are eight runners in a race, there can be eight winners. Only one runner can finish first, but if everyone tried their best within the rules, they are all winners. This is not just true in sports. How about academics, politics, you name it.

Back in my rowing days, Coach Bruce Erskine would never ask us how we

finished. He always asked us how we tried.

Forgive me for pontificating, but let's get over the Win Win Win mantra, and encourage everyone to Try Try Try and have Fun Fun Fun.

Thanks for reading. I got carried away.

To summarize our Wallbangers Hockey Final Game, I asked Red Team captain to create a rhyme.

He thought, he pondered, he mused, he ruminated, he castigated (oh, great word...)

"My team wears red, Mark's team wears blue. One team scored three, The other team scored two."

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First Nations Monuments

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

"Indians at Queenston Heights"
October 13, 1812

Warriors of the Six Nations of Iroquois (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras), mainly of the Grand River, fought as allies of the British in this historical battle with the Americans. Speaking different dialects and with different religious beliefs, these Indians were drawn together for the battle by John Norton, a resourceful and courageous commander.

Norton, (Teyoninohokarawen) a man of Cherokee and Scottish ancestry, was a Mohawk by adoption. With John Brant (Ahyouwaeghs), the youngest son of Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea), and John Bearfoot, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, the Iroquois fought for their own survival as a people and in support of the British.

In the mid nineteenth century, the people of Canada chose to commemorate the services of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock with a monument on Queenston Heights. Other heroes, including Major-General Roger Hale Schaeffe and Laura Secord were also remembered; however, these were not the only people who helped to protect Canada from the Americans during the War of 1812. The indigenous contribution as British Allies during the war wasn't recognized until much later.

On October 2, 2016, the beautiful Landscape of Nations was officially opened in Queenston Heights. This collaborative effort of governments, local people and First Nations people created a memorial, a quiet place for contemplation and reflection.

The Landscape of Nations, however, is not the first acknowledgement of the Native allies from the



First Nations monuments at Queenston Heights. RICHARD HARLEY

war of 1812.

During the 1970s a Queenston villager, Margaret Torrance, spearheaded a group committed to honour the First Nations People. It was decided such a monument was to be erected in Queenston near those of General Brock's horse, Alfred, and the stone marker near the Mackenzie Printery which was dedicated in 1861 by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward V). The people working with Torrance discussed the need for a suitable monument, and decided that a simple rock that they found in the area would be appropriate.

Torrance had become interested in the role that John Norton played in Canadian history after reading a review of "The Journal of Major John Norton, 1816" published by the Champlain Society in 1970. Torrance went to Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, England to look at Norton's

diaries for herself and realized how important John Norton was to the War of 1812 efforts.

Later, in time for the bicentennial of the War of 1812, Torrance was instrumental in getting the Champlain Society to republish Norton's diary which is the only publication that the Society has ever reprinted.

The suppression of information about the contribution of indigenous peoples to the war efforts was partially due to the actions of the Family Compact, that powerful group who governed Upper Canada, and later, Ontario. They wanted the lands of the province for settlement so they chose to negate the efforts of the First Nations people by expunging the names of all who were involved in the War of 1812.

This was a less than successful enterprise because Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief who allied himself

with the English during the war continued to be known, even after his death, for his assistance to Major General Brock, particularly during the Battle of Detroit.

As a result of the many efforts to erase history, in spite of the published Norton diaries and the monument in Queenston which named him as a hero, it wasn't until the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, that John Norton's name gained some prominence.

Norton (1784- 1825) was the son of a Cherokee father and a Scottish mother. He had been adopted by a Scottish soldier after the American Revolution who returned to Scotland where Norton was raised and educated. He later returned Upper Canada to serve in the military sometime in the 1790s.

Upon his discharge from the British Army, Norton became acquainted with the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant, who eventu-

ally adopted him. Norton was able to speak English, French, German, and Spanish. He later learned to speak twelve Indian languages and dialects during his life. He translated the gospel of St. Matthew as well as Sir Walter Scott's Lady of the Lake into Mohawk.

Norton worked with Brant as an interpreter and helped to forward the Five Nations Indians' cause with the British.

In 1812, Norton led the Indian supporters of the British regular army at the Battle of Queenston Heights. So valuable was Norton's contribution as a strategist and fighter that General Sheaffe, the British leader after Brock's death in battle, made Norton a captain in the British army.

After the war, Norton continued to live in North America, although he made numerous trips back to England and Scotland on behalf of First Nations

peoples.

His date and place of death are still in question. It is said he died sometime between 1825 and 1831. His place of death is believed to be in New Mexico but again not proven.

The wording on the monument in the village of Queenston opens this article.

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

Linda Fritz is a trusted voice on the history of Queenston. She has written a book about the area's history and will be sharing some of it with The Lake Report.

To get in touch with a story idea, please contact editor@niagaranow.com. If information is disputed, please send us a message.





COMMUNITY

All Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and visitors are welcome to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Please send submissions to editor@niagaranow.com.



Artifact of the Week:

Judge's Bench from
Town of Niagara Courthouse, 1817



Answer: This week's artifact is a measuring pot created in accordance to the British Winchester Measure Standards of Weights and Measures that was passed through the first Parliament of Upper Canada in 1792. The Winchester Standards Weights and Measures were established by King Henry VII in 1485 and, with some alterations, are still in use today. There were eleven districts of Upper Canada, each of which received an approved set of measuring pots and weights in c.1825. Each measure needed to be marked with the District name and the size corresponding to the Standard. This pot is the third smallest in a set labelled, "Q. T. Winc." District inspectors were expected to ensure that honest measures were being used throughout their jurisdiction. Those who were caught using unmarked portions would be issued a penalty or fine.

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: Get with the times.



The sun shining at Ryerson Park.
SUBMITTED BY JORDYN MOTTOLA.



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

Small Talk Vineyards

Down a back country road in NOTL there is a quirky small vineyard called Small Talk. Upon arrival, one immediately sees an array of bright colours, inviting all to come explore its uniqueness. Through the front door the colour journey continues as you taste ciders and chat with the friendly staff. The restrooms are privately located and decorated with a chalkboard wall full of fun phrases. A brightly painted, ornate mirror catches your eye over the single sink. The washroom is fully automated with hand dryers and door openers. This privy is definitely something to gossip about and is sure to provide comfort for all your needs.

4/5 Gold Plungers



RIDDLE ME THIS:

The more you take away from me,
the bigger I shall get. What am I?

Last Week's answer: Your name. (We also accepted doorbell)

Answered first by Britiney Turasz.

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



Ginny, Griffin Data's new puppy. BRITTANY CARTER

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Featured local story

DONNA LAILEY

LOCAL GRAPE AND WINE PIONEER CHAMPIONS WINE AND MUSIC PAIRING



Donna Lailey, Music Niagara board member, and Marcel Morgenstern, Pondview's Director of Sales and Marketing, check over the future site of Pondview's wedding and concert tent. The Music Niagara Festival will host two of this season's 30 concerts at Pondview. TIM TAYLOR

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

After almost fifty years of growing grapes and making celebrated wine at Lailey Vineyards, Donna Lailey has a new passion — bringing wine and music together at the annual Music Niagara Festival.

As a member of Music Niagara's board of directors, Lailey has been quietly nurturing the relationship between local wineries and the Festival, now about to present its 21st season, beginning July 14.

"I am thrilled that we are able to bring wine and music together," says Lailey. "We'll have four concerts at local wineries this summer."

Lailey says her determination to bring wine and music together was born in a very personal experience, almost 10 years ago. A young grade-school-aged violinist was performing for a Music Niagara audience, at Lailey Vineyard. Her five granddaughters sat in the front row mesmerized. To this day her grandchildren remember the music, the setting and the special moment.

"To see their faces, they were just astounded."

From that moment on Lailey made it her mission to bring Music Niagara's world-class music to the special venues of the local wine industry.

Each year she calls on old wine industry friends, searching for ways her two passions can support each other.

She calls her reception at the wineries "amazing". She praises Pondview, Konzelmann and Chateau de Charmes, among the supporting wineries. This summer, the Festival will have concerts at Pondview, Hare and Ravine.

"We want to make sure we represent the quality of the music and the quality of the wines that come from this soil."

Lailey is anxious to ensure the relationship benefits both parties. "We get a unique and special place to present some of our concerts," she says. "They get a wonderful showcase for their wines—and believe me, our audience enjoys good wines."

Marcel Morgenstern, Pondview's Director of Sales and Marketing agrees: "This will be the first season for our new wedding and performance venue among the

vines, overlooking our pond. It is perfect for concerts.

"Music Niagara is a great partner for showcasing our wines. The audience happens to be a lot of our customer base."

Lailey also wants to make sure everyone knows that the Festival presents its 30-plus concerts in many interesting local venues other than wineries—St. Mark's Church is a mainstay. Oast House, Mount Carmel, Simcoe Park, Niagara Mennonite Church, Grace United and Royal Canadian Legion, complete this year's list of concert sites.

For the past eight years, Lailey has been one of 14 local board members who do everything from set up chairs to fundraising for the five-week festival. Each board member brings special career skills to the table.

"Our town is so special. So many wonderful people are coming to live here. They have a real contribution to make." The Music Niagara board includes current and former corporate executives, lawyers, accountants, marketers, writers, diplomats and, of course, a former wine maker.

Lailey has long been an advocate for the industry. As

a vinifera pioneer in the mid-70s, she helped the industry establish a world-class reputation for cold-climate wines.

A former phys-ed teacher, Lailey, and her husband David, moved to Niagara with their six-month old daughter in the early 70s. They started farming their new tender fruit acreage on the Niagara Parkway that first summer. It was just a few short years before they converted their farm to vinifera grapes, opening their well-known winery, Lailey Vineyards, 15 years ago. The couple sold their business in 2015.

Lailey shows evident pride as she describes the leadership role she played in the grape and wine industry and beyond. Over the years, she has been the vice-chair of the Greenbelt Committee, a board member of the Agriculture Institute of Technology, vice-chair of the Grape Growers Board and a member of the Niagara Parks Commission, to name a few.

Lailey enjoys all kinds of music but admits to being particularly partial to choral repertoire. "And the Toronto All Star Big Band, of course. Everyone loves the concert at Ravine."

The self-admitted music buff thinks the new Music Niagara catch-phrase is perfect: Where the world comes to play. "We attract musicians from all over the world. You could hear them elsewhere, but you'd have to go to eleven

countries to do it!"

"We in Niagara are so lucky, she says. "The quality of music is incredible. And we can just walk out our door and go to a concert.

"That reminds me, I better buy my tickets."

Music Niagara's 21st Season

In 2019, the Music Niagara Festival will present some 30 concerts, including more than 100 performers, over four weeks July 14 to August 10, 2019. In addition to Canada, the performers hail from the Ukraine, Belgium, Russia, Scotland, the Netherlands, Lithuania, France, the Czech Republic, the United States and Cuba.

The season kicks off on Sunday July 14th with Countermeasure, a next-level a capella group featuring some of Canada's top young vocal talent. In a very different ensemble concert, the twenty voices that make up the Elmer Iseler Singers will raise spirits on July 24th. More ensemble evenings will spread throughout the summer with the Niagara Proms Orchestra (July 22nd), a return performance of Syrene Saxophone Quartet (July 25) and the always sold-out Toronto All-Star Big Band (August 5th).

This year's line-up of soloists include, renowned concert pianist, Janina Fialkowska (July 21st), One of the youngest Concertmaster of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Wan and Quebec Pianist, Charles Richard Hamelin, will be showcased on July 30th. Julie Nesrallah, singer, actress and broadcaster, will captivate the audience with her engaging personality and her rich, expressive voice on August 3rd.

Find the entire season at www.musicniagara.org.

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