

## Councillors question size and height of new winery

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The proposed structure for the new Stone Eagle Winery will cost around \$40 million and be one of the tallest wineries around, thanks to a 10-metre centre cupola.

The facility, to be built on Niagara Stone Road near Niven Road, “will create 100 jobs within the town,” planner Mary Lou Tanner

*Continued on Page 3*



## NOTL Adapts: Town unveils climate change action plan

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Flooding, torrential rain, windstorms and suffocating heat — these are just a few of the climate change-driven threats Niagara-on-the-Lake is preparing to deal with in its newly released climate change adaptation plan.

“This body of work represents a significant effort towards the town’s envi-

*Continued on Page 4*

# Coyotes get **too close** for comfort

Foraging predators chasing people and pets in daylight | **Stories on Page 2**



Garrison Village residents say foraging coyotes, similar to the one pictured here, are a threat to people and pets in their neighbourhood. Experts say the problem is food being left out for easy access. See our stories on Pages 2 and 3. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/CHRISTOPHER BRUNO

## For the Simpsons, health care is a **family legacy**

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

Sean Simpson, owner of two pharmacies in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is the third generation of the Simpson family helping keep his community healthy.

Just shy of 100 years ago, Sean’s grandfather graduated from the University of Toronto College of Pharmacy and joined a pharmacy in Welland.

Sean’s father, Ward, followed suit in 1972, eventually opening what is now Simpson’s Pharmacy in 1977, in the Niagara

“There are lots of people falling between the cracks in the current (medical) system,”

SEAN SIMPSON  
PHARMACIST

Medical Centre, the former private hospital on Niagara Stone Road, across from the old high school, where it remains today.

Sister Lisa joined the family business after her graduation in 1994 and Sean followed in 2006.

“I don’t know if this is a

legacy or a curse,” offers Sean, with just enough of a smile to make you guess what he really means.

If busy-ness is a measure, it’s easy to understand why.

He’s got lots on his plate running two pharmacies in town — the family opened the Simpson’s Apothecary on King Street in 2010 — but his current consuming focus is making sure people who aren’t registered with family doctors have access to care.

“There are lots of people falling between the cracks

*Continued on Page 10*



The Simpson’s family pharmaceutical legacy: Ward Simpson, founder of Simpson’s Pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road; daughter Lisa, now an investigator for the Ontario College of Pharmacists in Toronto, and son Sean, the proprietor of the NOTL operation. TIM TAYLOR

**Peninsula Flooring Ltd.**  
13 Henegan Road  
Virgil Business Park  
(905)-468-2135  
www.peninsulaflooring.ca

**MONARCH PLANK**  
HARDWOOD FLOORING  
**SALE**

Serving Niagara Since 1977  
**SIMPSON'S**  
 Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400  
 Shop from the comfort of home [www.simpsonspharmacy.ca](http://www.simpsonspharmacy.ca)  
 In-store | Curbside pick-up or | FREE local delivery | \* Orders over \$15

**FREE Regional Delivery\***

Join us for monthly Customer Appreciation Days:  
 Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month  
**Customers 60+:**  
 Every Last Thursday of the Month  
**ONLINE & IN-STORE**

**Curbside Pick-up Available**

# Garrison Village residents living in fear of coyotes

## NOTLers say predators have become brazen, but worry town isn't doing enough to stop them

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Roaming coyotes have harassed and sparked fear among people living around Garrison Village after several harrowing close encounters over the past few weeks.

Stories have ranged from coyotes picking through people's garbage to one incident where a coyote apparently had a small dog in its mouth before the dog was rescued.

And residents are worried about walking and enjoying the neighbourhood they live in as the coyote menace seems to be lurking around every corner. Some dog walkers have been seen carrying large sticks and baseball bats.

Several accounts of encounters have been posted on social media and coyotes are the first topic of conversation among many people out and about in town.

Resident Stephanie Penman said she chased a coyote off her neighbours' front porch, only to see the canid return 30 minutes later and continue prowling the neighbourhood.

"I would understand if it was looking for food for pups, but it's not where the pups would be," Penman said in a Facebook message.

Margaret Mancuso recounted the story of a coyote attack on a small dog in a Facebook post.

"It got the dog in its mouth and proceeded to shake him – the dog was on a leash and the woman was unable to pick the dog up," Mancuso wrote.

"The little dog was wearing a coat and it flew out of its coat while the coyote had it in its mouth, shaking it."

Mancuso wrote that the coyote was generally fearless of humans.

"Please understand that yelling, honking of car horns and moving vehicles did NOTHING," her post read.

"I can't stress enough how awful this was.

Please be careful if you



Far left: Garrison Village resident Helen Gadsby photographed a coyote "strutting his stuff, not worried at all" along the sidewalks of several neighbourhood streets at 10:30 a.m. on March 30. Left and below: Realtor Angelika Zammit caught a coyote in action going for a bag of garbage near John and Victoria streets, not far from her office. SUPPLIED



are out walking in Garrison Village."

Everyone involved in the incident and the dog were safe, according to Mancuso.

On Tuesday, Selma Pacheco made a Facebook post saying a coyote chased her German shepherd right up to her house.

The coyote was not afraid of her husband, who was screaming at it, and the animal stared at him for a while before walking away.

"Please spare me your 'we need to co-exist comments.' This is an awareness post for the neighbours to continue to be vigilant, even if walking a large dog," she wrote.

"Pretty sad it's coming to a point in time where I no longer feel safe taking my

kids for a walk without carrying a weapon," Facebook user Jenn Jones commented on a video of a coyote lunging at a woman and her dog posted by Penman.

One Facebook user asked if people "miss the hunters yet" and another wrote "I am an animal lover but this is ridiculous and has to stop ...it is unsafe for our pets and children."

Garrison Village resident Helen Gadsby said a coyote followed her and her two dogs right up to their backyard gate.

It happened twice in a row, she said, and her husband Garth tried to scare it off with a broom. "We don't want to hurt it because then you've got a mad coyote on your hands," Gadsby said.

The coyote crossed the

street and then returned as soon as things quieted down, she said. "It has no fear."

"When you have a coyote, or a couple, who have no fear of humans and the humans aren't even comfortable walking their dogs now — what has to happen in order for something to happen?"

"I am nervous. I don't mind looking at them but when they follow me right up to my front gate, I know they want (my dog) Marnie for breakfast or lunch."

Gadsby said she hopes the coyote can be relocated and is not in favour of any violence.

Some of the online rhetoric rings true for her, such as the idea that extensive development has uprooted the coyotes and caused them to

embrace unconventional ways of searching for food.

But she also said that type of criticism is redundant, since the development is done and can't be changed.

As well, she doesn't want people to assume all coyotes need to be removed or relocated.

"It's not all coyotes, no. It's just these two rogue coyotes that have become a problem," she said, assuming there are two coyotes sourcing their meals from Garrison Village.

But some of the commentary online has been unfounded and rude, Gadsby says.

"There's people going, 'Oh, you guys are from Toronto.' Well, I'm not from Toronto, I came from

way up north and I didn't even have this problem up north," she said.

Gadsby said she agrees that people in Garrison Village need to work together to mitigate anything that may be attracting the coyotes into the neighbourhood.

"There's total responsibility on the residents," she said.

But she also noted residents of NOTL pay high property taxes and she expects the town to do more.

Gadsby encouraged people to stop putting out bird feeders and only to set their garbage out on the day of pick up.

"I think everyone needs to understand that we are all on the same side. We're just trying to find a solution to make people feel safe."

**BROCK BUILDERS INC.** CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS + RENOVATORS  
 905 262 0895 BrockBuilders.ca  
 Niagara-on-the-Lake



Angelika Zammit - Local Expert  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Luxury Realty Team  
Corner of Mississagua and John St., Old Town | 905-468-8777



## Gently down the stream

The Niagara River was awash in ice after the Lake Erie ice boom was dismantled. This photo was taken from near Brock's Monument, looking northward as the ice moves down the river and into Lake Ontario. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

## Town doing **all it can** to address coyotes: CAO

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Brazen, foraging coyotes are again a regular sight on the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake, especially in Garrison Village, and some people have taken to social media to urge the town to do more to control the wild animals.

"The town needs to do something. If they don't, they obviously don't care," Facebook user Shelly Vandermeulen commented on a post about a coyote in Garrison Village. At a council meeting Monday night, Lord Mayor Betty Disero tried to assure residents the town takes the matter seriously.



A coyote roams in the Commons. JANICE WHITE

And chief administrator Marnie Cluckie said, "Public safety is of the utmost concern to us and we are taking these reports very seriously."

She outlined some potential solutions and their legal

parameters, noting relocating a coyote is not a viable option.

Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, "removal or relocation of wildlife further than one kilometre is illegal," she

said. "And, unfortunately, if you take them only a kilometre away it does not take them long to find their way back."

Cluckie said the town has authority to intervene "only when necessary due to an immediate threat."

She suggested a few measures people can take to deter coyotes.

"Garbage should not be put out before 5 p.m. the day before and preferably not until the day of (pick-up)," she said.

She stressed that garbage containers need to be properly sealed and said the town will be working with the Region of Niagara to ensure residents follow garbage pick-up rules.

## Killing coyotes is **not the answer**, expert says

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Removing coyotes is ineffective unless residents also change their behaviour, a coyote expert says.

Coyote Watch executive director Lesley Sampson stressed that she understands the fears of people in Garrison Village and thinks they are justified in their concern for the neighbourhood.

"The killing of coyotes, people want to jump to that and I get it. I totally understand it, but it's not effective," Sampson said in an interview on Tuesday.

Food is the only reason coyotes are wandering the

streets of Garrison Village, she said.

"Once a coyote is navigating through a residential area then they are looking for food. They are foraging," Sampson said.

She is not aware of the coyotes being directly fed by anyone but said direct feeding is nearly always a factor in these types of scenarios.

But coyotes can become "food conditioned," which means they begin to associate a human settlement or humans as a source of food, through indirect feeding as well, Sampson said.

Indirect food sources for coyotes could be unattended garbage, unsealed trash, pet food left outside, fruit

trees or vegetable gardens that are unsecured, bird feeders and even small outdoor pets like cats.

All such sources need to be addressed by residents in order to teach the coyote that it cannot find an easy meal in their neighbourhood, Sampson said.

A coyote will often view a dog as a threat to its territory rather than as a meal and could attack the dog to defend what it perceives as its home.

Sampson said it is fairly clear the coyote that has become the star of numerous videos and pictures around Garrison Village has gotten food conditioned and sees Garrison

Village as an easy meal ticket.

"All wildlife, in particular canids, will conserve energy when foraging and hunting. Low energy output for the highest caloric gain is a bonus," she said.

"Coyotes will return to the areas (where they find food) until they are shown otherwise. A coyote's not going to go into a residential area unless there is food."

There is a seemingly simple solution.

"If there's no food there, the coyotes have no reason to go there," Sampson said.

"They're not going to waste the energy because they have to eat to survive and if there is nothing there then they will move on."

**COUNTDOWN**

**121 DAYS**

**NIAGARA 2022** **JEUX DU CANADA GAMES**

**AUGUST 6-21, 2022**

**St. David's** VETERINARY CLINIC [stdavidsvetclinic.com](http://stdavidsvetclinic.com)

Is your pet protected?

House-calls available ☎ 905.262.8777

**airway CPAP inc.**

**NOW OPEN** for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

**Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.**

Curbside pick-up available at 111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL.

For appointment call 289-868-9212.

**HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA**

**TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.**  
NIAGARA FALLS

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 4056 Dorchester Road, Suite 107, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9, Tel: 905-353-9590  
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 48 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S4, Tel: 905-871-9991  
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA, TONYBALDINELLI.M.P.CA

**St. Davids-Queenston United Church**

1453 York Rd. St Davids  
905-262-5242  
[www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca](http://www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca)  
Minister: Rev. YongSeok Baek

**Sunday Worship**  
10:30 a.m.  
Also online  
Visit our website

**Ginger RESTAURANT**

**NOW OPEN!**  
Thursday - Sunday, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Dine-in and take-out  
Tel: (905) 468-3871  
390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere



**Join us for  
The Masters  
this weekend!**

**Great homemade pub favourites!  
Pizza, wings, burger menu, fish and chips  
OPEN 11 to 1 a.m.**



**Eat in / Take out**  
905-468-8727 | 358 Mary Street  
Menu at sandtrappub.com


**Proud to support  
local news!**

Please also support our local  
businesses by buying local!



**Wayne Gates**  
MPP Niagara Falls Proudly  
representing Niagara-on-the-Lake  
905-357-0681

**Did you know?**  
The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry-leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.  
The ink is also vegetable-based.



**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)

## Goals and Prioritized Actions



- Integrate Climate Change into Plans, Policies, By-Laws and Standards**
  - Update Official Plan to align with climate change adaptation goals.
  - Review and update by-laws to incorporate climate change.
  - Develop a policy for regular interval updates to infrastructure design standards to reflect climate change projections and green infrastructure technologies.
  - Incorporate climate change projections into Engineering Design Standards.
- Urban Forest Resiliency**
  - Develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan.
  - Create canopy coverage mapping to establish measurable goals.
  - Include trees as a part of the Town's asset management plan.
  - Develop mapping of invasive species.
  - Promote planting of native vegetation along creeks, rivers and lakes.
  - Consider partnership with local Colleges, Universities and research centres.
- Reduce Flooding Risks**
  - Engage a Stormwater Management Plan.
  - Review and update floodplain mapping.
  - Create a flood preparedness and evacuation plan with flood alerts and mapping.
  - Increase public awareness of clearing of catch basins.
- Incorporate Climate Change in Design and Construction**
  - Incorporate climate change considerations into the Town's Asset Management Plan.
  - Ensure climate change impacts are incorporated into project risk management framework.
  - Explore projects suitable for Low Impact Development (LID).
  - Create a Stormwater Management Inspection Program (high risk infrastructure).
  - Leverage available grants for both built infrastructure and asset management.
- Minimize Health and Safety Risks to Community Members**
  - Increase shade coverage in urban areas.
  - Investigate ways to improve storm water discharge to creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Both quantity and quality.
  - Promote active transportation and improve the safety of bike lanes.
  - Implement warming and cooling centers.
- Support Public Awareness and Education**
  - Engage Town Staff and the Public to develop a Natural Assets Plan.
  - Educate the Public and Town Staff of standing water concerns and develop a guide for remediation.
  - Develop a social media campaign to target climate change initiatives.
  - Utilize Town website to convey climate change and adaptation information.

The town has set out this list of goals to address climate change in Niagara-on-the-Lake. SOURCED

## NOTL Adapts: Town unveils climate change plan

Continued from Front Page

ronmental sustainability," chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie said when introducing the plan to council last week.

"I think we can see the impact of climate change in the last few years, even right here in Niagara with warmer, wetter weather and impacts to our infrastructure."

The plan arose out of three years of work in tandem with Brock University's Niagara Adapts program and the town's environmental advisory committee.

Environmental advisory committee member and Lake Report environmental columnist, Kyra Simone, said the plan provides a good starting point for the town.

"But it is imperative that these measures actually be implemented as soon as possible," Simone said.

The plan provides insight into some of the changes affecting NOTL. It estimates that by 2051, average annual temperatures could be 14.7C, up from 8.9C between 1951 and 1980.

By 2051, we could have 45 days annually with temperatures above 30C, compared to the roughly 10 to 13 days experienced now.

Likewise, the number of days under -15C is expected to decrease to six from 21 by 2051.

The plan also claims a potential 10 to 20 per cent increase in rain and wet days as well as more frequent melting and freezing

cycles, which put a particular strain on infrastructure such as roads.

The climate change plan lays out six main goals for the town: to integrate climate change into policy, to build a more resilient urban forest, to reduce flooding risks, incorporate climate change into construction, minimize risks to the community, and support public awareness and education.

Some of the items are intended to mitigate the acceleration of climate change (such as an increased focus on planting trees) while others are intended as ways for the town to adapt to the changes, such as new development and construction policies.

The town's plan provides extensive details on how it will approach those six categories.

Some examples include: considering trees as municipal assets and building a comprehensive tree map of the town, the creation of a detailed stormwater management plan and flood preparedness/evacuation plan, and a focus on low-impact development strategies.

Low-impact developments are construction projects that seek to mimic natural processes to handle stormwater. These processes protect water quality and natural habitats, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The town's plan considers making low-impact development a priority for all public works as well as implementing low-impact standards

for private development.

All in, there are 27 implementation items associated with the plan, scheduled to be carried out between 2022 and 2024.

One of the main roadblocks for municipal projects — money — does not seem to be an issue at this point as the immediate implementation projects are already being funded.

"At this time there are no additional funds being requested," town treasurer Kyle Freeborn said.

"There are a number of approved 2022 projects that align with the goals and actions presented."

Future funds will be requested on a project-by-project basis, said Victoria Steele, executive assistant to the lord mayor.

Several projects included in the capital budget already will be among the first issues addressed.

Examples include: a \$200,000 pollution prevention control plan, a \$215,000 rehabilitation of the Garrison Village storm sewer and \$100,000 for repairs to the inflow and infiltration system at Mississauga Beach and into Chautauqua, according to the report.

Steele said more immediate action items will be determined in co-operation with the environmental advisory committee in the coming weeks.

One of the main goals of the plan is to increase public awareness and education about the impact of climate change.

"Education and training will ensure that we leverage opportunities to build internal and community awareness of climate change," Steele said.

Coun. Allan Bisback raised concerns the plan does not pursue funding from other levels of government.

"It is certainly intended to seek upper level funding where possible," Steele responded.

After speaking with local insurance providers, Coun. Wendy Cheropita said she learned that the biggest claims in NOTL are due to water and wind damage.

She encouraged Steele and town staff to consider increasing wind storms as an important part of the plan.

Steele said that was a part of the team's considerations but will examine working more closely with insurance providers as the plan gets implemented.

Coun. Norm Arsenault, who serves on the environmental advisory committee, said the team was committed to ensuring the plan moves forward and that details on some of the first items to be implemented would come before council soon.

Steele reiterated staff's commitment to following through with the plan.

"There are many next steps when it comes to this plan. We are very determined that it's not just going to sit on the shelf once it's approved," she said.

# SIMPLY WHITE INTERIORS

PLATINUM AWARD WINNER | PEOPLES CHOICE | INTERIOR DESIGN BUSINESS 2021

Residential + Commercial Design

347 Airport Road | Unit 4 | Niagara-on-the-Lake | [www.swi.design](http://www.swi.design) | 905 708 4784



**Proud to support our local news!**



**Wayne Gates** MPP Niagara Falls riding proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905-357-0681 | www.WayneGates.com



More than a dozen young athletes gathered at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil last Friday for the first Star challenge exhibition in two years. Top left: Samantha Frydryk performs a challenging spin. Top right: Darah Adeyiwola finishes her routine with an elegant pose. Bottom left: Ophelia Xie recently finished eighth in the provincial championships. Bottom right: Jamie Ducet glides across the ice as the audience cheers her on. EVAN SAUNDERS PHOTOS

## NOTL figure skaters **back on ice**

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The Meridian Credit Union Arena was bursting with youthful exclamations and sparkling uniforms on April 1 as figure skating made its post-pandemic comeback.

“It feels amazing to be back,” Amelia Stephenson said as she prepared to hit the ice on Friday night.

This was Amelia’s first-ever figure skating challenge. She was originally supposed to make her competitive debut in 2020, but her it was cancelled because of the pandemic.

As a result, there has been a prolonged period of waiting for the day to show off her moves.

“It’s both scary and fun,” she said.

Amelia said one of her best skills is her spirals and

she sure showed them off when she hit the ice.

But a skater’s gotta skate. “I couldn’t get on the ice very much during the pandemic. Mostly, I was roller skating.”

Girls were gathered at the arena on Friday for the first Star challenge held in NOTL since the pandemic began.

“This is a time for pre-junior, junior and Intermediate Star Figure Skaters to practise their skate routines, in a safe and non-competitive environment,” Lara Davidson said in an email on behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club.

“For the first time in two years, eager skaters will have a chance to showcase all they’ve learned the past few months to friends and family.”

In an interview at the arena, Davidson said it is vitally important that young athletes are able to start practising again.

“2020 was the last time

they were getting ready for a (Star challenge) and then it got cancelled and 2021 was kind of a bust,” she said.

“So, now it’s been two years and this year has been a little bit better — more consistent. But, it seems like they’ve lost a year.”

Heather Whitson said she was really happy to see her daughter back on the ice.

“It’s wonderful. This club makes these girls feel so special. They’ve been anticipating this for weeks, years, even,” Whitson said in an interview.

She said her daughter Taylor was able to get on some outdoor rinks over the last two years but lacked the structure provided by the multi-level Star skating program.

Taylor shyly said it was good to get back on the ice and that she missed figure skating during the pandemic.

She shared some wise

words to explain why she loves to skate.

“It’s because you can learn new things every day,” the seven-year-old said.

As Taylor was being interviewed, a group of seven-year-olds was standing nearby watching intently. After the interview, they ran over and said, “So, are we going to be in the newspaper, too?”

When told they could pose for a picture, the group lit up like a Christmas tree and struggled to figure out who should stand where for their photo-op.

“It’s just fun to figure skate,” Norah Palmer, who was given the most sportsmanlike pre-junior skater award, said.

“I like jumping,” her friend Kayla Thwaites added. Kayla was awarded pre-junior skater of the year.

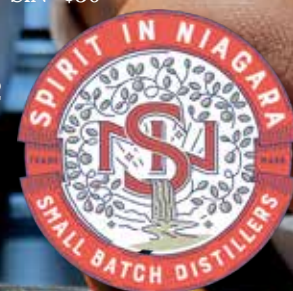
“It’s just the movements that I like,” Everett Opredek said.

### IN THE BEGINNING

CHEESE PLATE - 3 for \$15, 5 for \$22  
CHARCUTERIE BOARD OF SIN - \$30  
SiN DIP PLATTER - \$15  
CROSTINI PLATTERS - \$18  
SiN PICKLED VEGGIES - \$12  
DUCK PÂTÉ - \$16  
SiN DEVILLED EGGS - \$7  
VOL-AU-VANT - \$10

### SECOND COMING

CAESAR SALAD - \$14  
HOUSE SALAD - \$9  
SPRING SANDWICH - \$13  
VENISON TARTAR - \$15  
VICHYSOISE - \$14  
PERCH SANDWICH - \$14



SUN - THURS  
11 - 7

### (THE LAST) SUPPER

PERCH - \$19  
TRUFFLE SOUP - \$12  
DUCK - \$22  
PICKEREL - \$19  
BRRRBN SHORT RIBS - \$22  
STUFFED CORNISH HEN - \$22  
RAVIOLI - \$15

FRI & SAT  
11-8

### THE CONFSSIONAL LOUNGE

905 934 1300 | spiritinniagara.com



### Holy Week at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

323 Simcoe St. Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

April 10 – Palm Sunday at 11 a.m.

Holy Communion will be celebrated. Special Musician – Cynthia Vermeer, Flute

April 14 – Quiet Prayer in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m.\*

April 15 – Good Friday at 11 a.m.

This service will reflect on the Last Seven Words of Christ

Special Musicians, Quintessence Ensemble: Miriam & Abigail Cacciaccaro, Violin, Hannah Cacciaccaro, Cello

April 17 – Easter Festival Service at 11 a.m.

All are welcome. Special Musician – Nathan Pol, Trumpeter

\*Quiet Prayer in the Sanctuary is held each Thursday at 11 a.m.

#### Did you know?

The Lake Report’s printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry-leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

The ink is also vegetable-based.



Advertising inquiries?  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)



## FINE COLLECTIBLES BY THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND



WWW.UPPERCANADANATIVEART.COM | 905-468-6464 | 109 QUEEN ST.



**Editor-In-Chief:** Richard Harley  
**Managing Editor:** Kevin MacLean  
**Publisher:** Richard Harley  
**Design & Layout:** Richard Harley  
**Advertising:** Megan Vanderlee  
**Contributors:** Evan Saunders, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Joanne Young, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Elizabeth Masson, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Kyra Simone, Gail Kendall, Patty Garriock, Bill Auchterlonie, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Maddy Gordon, Penny-Lynn Cookson, Janice White and many more members of the NOTL community

**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 104**  
**Region active cases: 1,259**  
**Region deaths: 527**  
**Region total cases: 36,605**

*\*April 6 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**  
 "My advice is, do not try to inhabit another's soul. You have your own."  
 - Jim Harrison

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

**Email:**  
 Letters: editor@niagaranow.com  
 Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com  
 Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com  
**Phone**  
 Newsroom: 905-359-2270  
 Advertising Department: 905-932-5646  
**Office Address**  
 496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.  
**Mailing Address**  
 PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0  
**Have a lead on a story?**  
 Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com

## Doe, a deer – or four

Nine-year-old Aspen Ziraldo captured this image of deer along East and West Line near Peller Estates.

**Calling all NOTL photographers: send us some of your interesting, evocative, quirky images of life around town and we'll consider them for this space on our editorial page. Email images (1 MB or more) to editor@niagaranow.com.**



## Editorial: Another shot at defeating COVID

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

COVID-19 is a stubborn foe, as we all know from the turmoil we have endured over the past two years.

Whenever we let down our collective guard during that time, the insidious virus found a way around our defences. The result was wave after wave of illness, hospitalizations and, too often, death.

COVID is not an opponent to be taken lightly. This is not fear mongering; it's a fact.

We all want it to be over, of course, so that we can continue to rewind life to some semblance of what it was B.C. – Before COVID.

A week ago, Niagara's acting chief medical officer

of health warned that the region was seeing a resurgence of COVID as the long-predicted sixth wave washed over the region.

That's the bad news.

In some quarters – notably on social media – some people have vocally and virulently taken issue with Dr. Mustafa Hirji's statements that we all need to continue to wear masks indoors and more people should get their vaccine booster shots.

Yes, without formal mandates, we are all able to choose whether to don a mask. Or not.

Many people wanted a choice as opposed to mandates, so now they have the opportunity to make a choice.

We hope they choose sensibly.

The good news is that the vast majority of people appear to be making the more sensible choice of doing what we've been doing since the start of the pandemic.

In our travels around Niagara-on-the-Lake and through Toronto and the GTA, everywhere we look most people are opting to wear a mask in public settings.

That is encouraging and a reflection of taking a sensible approach to protect ourselves and others from the invisible enemy that is COVID.

As well, we have to agree with Hirji, on the subject of vaccines and boosters. More people need to get them.

Ontario just this week has started to make available a second booster for older residents, starting Thursday (the fourth shot, for those who have lost count).

But, in the meantime, the number of people getting their third shot has waned, as Hirji noted, perhaps because they feel the worst is over. We hope it is, but science and experience tell us that in order to protect everyone most effectively, more people need to get boosted as soon as possible.

With the fourth shot coming, we have another opportunity to help ourselves and others in the fight against COVID.

So, please make the smart choice – get the shot.  
 editor@niagaranow.com



## Yet another commercial development in Old Town

Dear editor:  
 Saturday night, while driving down Queen Street, I was amazed at a new shopping plaza being built behind many old homes along Gate Street.

As someone born and bred in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the site of this was enough to make one weep.

I feel as though bait and switch has been taking place. First we had the Rand Estate, then we had the possibility of subdivisions and then Parliament Oak in the Old Town. Now we have this huge development

behind these once lovely residential homes.

What a travesty! Creeping, creeping through the streets, hollowing out the residential areas, and all that will be left will be a town called "Business-on-the-Lake".

While we are here, let's talk about the elephant in the room. This runs counter to another reality.

Local residents with families who have lived here for generations are directed to consult with the planning office to do anything with their own property and rejections

rates are anecdotally noted to be very high.

This, while the planning office permits all kinds of other things to happen that are detrimental for Niagara and the folks who live here.

It's fine so long as it is commercial in nature.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has chosen to opt out of affordable housing for Niagara Region's Planning and Development Services, which addresses that pesky issue of ordinary folks living here.

Just curious: is there a Wendy's or a McDonald's

in the works too, along with Big Box Stores? How will all the traffic that generates be good for the large population of retirees? More traffic is dangerous.

One positive aspect of all this will be that no one will be able to drive here as Highway 55 will just be a parking lot.

So very sad. I am glad I won't be around in 20 years to see the death of the once beautiful town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. So hard to comprehend.

Elsie Lailey  
 NOTL



ontario's largest independant family owned & operated bottle shop  
 over 400 different wines | retail pricing  
 open daily 12-8 | 289-272-1242



# There is no housing supply problem. There's a **social and financial** problem

Dear editor:

Contrary to what Premier Doug Ford, Housing Minister Steve Clark and the real estate and development industry maintains, there's not a housing supply problem. There's a societal and financial problem.

In my 43 years as a real estate broker I have witnessed the commodification and financialization of housing.

Successive governments at both the federal and provincial levels have backed away from their responsibility to plan for, regulate and fund housing as a basic family and human right. Instead, as part and parcel of the financialization of virtually every facet of Canadian society, the governments of Canada and Ontario have abandoned almost all direct investment in community housing and regulation of the industry.

The name "Ontario Housing" used to suggest projects that were called unsatisfactory and unwanted by many across Ontario, suggestive of crowding the "poor" into ghetto-like buildings.

Instead, today we have tent cities in public parks, thousands and thousands of homeless families and individuals who can afford



Robert Bader says housing supply isn't the issue.

at best a tiny basement apartment or rooming house after their time is up in the "homeless" shelter.

Back in the day of Premier Bill Davis we had innovative leased land developments, like most of Bramalea, that provided good affordable family housing for low-income families, co-operatives and public housing for seniors and people with disabilities, and effective landlord and rent controls, which prevented gouging and evictions.

We also had municipalities working with developers to produce planned neighbourhoods like Don Mills, Meadowvale and Erin Mills. These provided a range of housing centred on transit and community.

Today we have the government of Ontario echoing the real estate, finance and development industries'

mantra to dismantle all planning controls and regulation so that industry can fix the "supply" problem.

No Premier Ford and Minister Clark, what Ontario needs is more government leadership, not less.

How about re-establishing effective rent controls and tenant rights under provincial law to preclude eviction to jack up rental rates?

How about some direct investment and leadership into innovative projects like land lease developments, co-operatives, subsidized public housing for the needy, built in co-operation with the federal government and municipalities.

What about encouraging churches and community groups to develop more non-profit seniors housing, which has proven far more beneficial to seniors than private profit centres?

The best part is that all of these initiatives could be funded through an effective speculation tax; not just 15 or 20 per cent on "foreign owners" but maybe a flat 50 to 75 per cent on all speculators, domestic and foreign.

Additionally all short-term rentals, like Airbnbs, should be taxed at the commercial rate equivalent to hotels and motels and not as residential property.

In many areas fully 10 to 15 per cent of all residential housing stock is devoted to weekend tourist traffic, which would alleviate the lack of residential housing if taxed appropriately such that long-term rental was encouraged.

No, Mr. Ford, what we need in Ontario is a government that recognizes housing as a basic family human right and works to encourage local initiatives such that adult children don't have to live their entire lives in their parents' basement and the less fortunate aren't forced to live on the street.

We need more regulation and leadership of real estate development and banking industries – not less.

**Robert Bader  
NOTL**

# Health system needs fixing, but **not privatization**

Dear editor:

In the March 17 edition of The Lake Report, I read in your editorial that with an election on the horizon, now is the time for council to act on short-term rentals.

Tackling the proliferation of short-term rentals sounds good locally, but provincially, I would suggest we need to be focused on health care.

With this ongoing pandemic, we seriously need to look at saving our health care system.

The number of health care issues — backlogged surgeries, cancer screenings, routine health checkups with doctors, etc. — are starting to make

people think we need to privatize our health care so that we can clean up the backlog.

If you can afford to pay, you can go to the front of the queue. This leads directly to a "have/have not" scenario in health care.

Those who can afford to pay, get the services immediately, while those who cannot afford it, must wait.

We cannot allow this to happen. The provisions of the Canada Health Act state all persons must have access to health coverage without cost.

Privatization of our long-term care facilities also must be addressed.

"For-profit" care means just that, "profit." Shareholders must be appeased by increasing dividends on their investments.

As a result, personal support workers make low wages, have no benefits, and until the pandemic, had to work several different jobs to make a living wage. Bill 124 also restricts wage and benefit increases to 1 per cent per year. This must be repealed.

Our seniors deserve the best of care and their caregivers deserve "a politician's compensation."

My husband and I are in our early 70s and we often

say we have lived through the best years in history.

We must remain on guard to protect the hard-won benefits our ancestors acquired for us. One of the hallmarks of being Canadian is our health care system.

We must preserve it for our children and grandchildren because once the "for profits" get their hands on it, we will have a great deal of trouble getting it back.

Yes, there is an election on the horizon. We must make our politicians aware of our expectations for the future.

**Betty Ann Chandler  
NOTL**



**tree amigos**  
LANDSCAPING INC.

**BOOK NOW**  
For SPRING cleanups, gardens & lawn care



**Call us now to make plans for spring and summer!**

[www.treeamigoslandscaping.com](http://www.treeamigoslandscaping.com)  
905-468-9557 | [info@treeamigos.ca](mailto:info@treeamigos.ca)

**Hear Better Niagara**





Niagara-on-the-Lake  
1630 Niagara Stone Rd.  
905-468-4999


100% Independent & Locally Owned      Payment Plans Available

**Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test**  
905-468-4999


**Did you know?**

The Lake Report's printer sources 100 per cent of its paper fibre from industry-leading paper mills, which use quick-growth, sustainable, renewable plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

The ink is also vegetable-based.



**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)



van noort flower studio

**Outdoor Grab & Go Market now open daily**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Sundays)  
Local tulips \$12/bunch or 2 for \$20

Proud supporters of The Lake Report

1634 Four Mile Creek Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake | 905-468-7815 | [vannoortflowers.com](http://vannoortflowers.com)



# \$40M winery would be one of tallest in NOTL

Continued from Front Page

of NPG Solutions told town councillors during a committee of the whole planning meeting on Monday.

The high-end operation will be owned by the co-proprietors of Two Sisters Estate Winery, Angela Marotta and Melissa Marotta-Paolicelli.

It is intended to build on the Stone Eagle brand introduced at Two Sisters 10 years ago.

“That started back in 2012 with a very small production of Stone Eagle and in many ways it was an experiment,” said Dieter Unruh, sommelier magister at Two Sisters.

The winery aims “to really push the envelope of what it’s possible to create in Niagara, taking everything to the highest possible level and making the best possible wine,” he said.

Unruh said excellence is the driving goal behind the new winery.

“It is going to be ultra-premium, super-premium — that most exclusive category of wine,” he said.

The facility will include a restaurant and Coun. Wendy

Cheropita wondered if the restaurant would be open to the public.

Marotta confirmed it would be and that the venue also would host events.

The winery will sit on about 40 acres and, after a question from Coun. Erwin Wiens, Tanner assured council that more than 30 acres were already planted with grape vines.

Salisbury noted the application seeks a much greater area be set aside for secondary uses than is permitted under town bylaws.

Generally, a single secondary use area should not exceed 139.3 square metres and be capped at 400 square metres, Salisbury said.

Stone Eagle is requesting an amendment that would allow more than 1,600 square metres for items such as a kitchen, wine-tasting area, the restaurant and a covered terrace.

Tanner justified the total coverage of secondary uses by comparing Stone Eagle to other nearby wineries.

“The average percentage for secondary uses that we sampled — and it was a ran-



A rendering of the proposed Stone Eagle winery. SOURCED

dom sample— was 2.15 per cent of the (total property size),” Tanner said.

She said Stone Eagle’s intended coverage is 1.04 per cent for secondary uses.

“I see that there’s certainly a precedent there,” Coun.

Norm Arsenault responded. Lord Mayor Betty Disero questioned Tanner on the proposed height of the building.

With its 10-metre cupola, the building rises 22 metres, higher than all the other

wineries in the area. The building without the cupola is nearly 12 metres, Tanner said.

For reference, nearby Stratus is 10.67 metres and Jackson-Triggs is 12 metres tall.

The tallest nearby building is the Garrison commercial centre, which reaches 15.22 metres, she said.

Town staff will prepare a report on the application and present it to council at a future date.



## SPORTS WALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame was established in 2003 to honour and recognize men and women who have made a significant contribution to sports in the Niagara-on-the-Lake community. Be they an athlete or builder in nature, their leadership and accomplishments have enriched us all. It is with great pride and satisfaction that we are again able to share in their achievements. With this recognition, we ensure their efforts are not forgotten, and they remain an inspiration.

The recipient must be an individual who, through his/her energy, enthusiasm, and talent, has made a significant contribution to the Niagara-on-the-Lake sporting community or has attained a significant athletic achievement. The individual must have been a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake while initiating his/her athletic endeavour. Nominations can be submitted in two categories:

- **Athlete** - Athletes to be considered for admission must be or have been outstanding in their athletic field of endeavour.
- **Builder** - Builders are trainers, coaches, officials, or executive members whose volunteer work for Niagara-on-the-Lake sport over an extended period has been outstanding.

For those individuals and groups wishing to submit a nomination for this year’s Niagara on-the-Lake’s Sports Wall of Fame, the deadline is **May 6, 2022**. Nomination forms are available on the Town’s website [www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com), at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre (14 Anderson Lane), or at the Town Administration Building (1593 Four Mile Creek Rd.).

Each year a committee selects a maximum of two individuals to be honoured on the Wall of Fame at the Meridian Credit Union Arena located in Virgil. Recipients of the award remain on the wall permanently, and a ceremony takes place in August of every year.



# Easter sunrise service returns to NOTL's tiny Wayside Chapel

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, Niagara-on-the-Lake's tiniest house of worship will again hold an Easter Sunday sunrise service.

"Everyone is welcome" to come out April 17 for the 7 a.m. service, says Rick Meloen, as the Living Waters Wayside Chapel on the Niagara Parkway celebrates Easter, one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar.

The six-seat chapel, beside Walker's Country Market at Line 1, was originally built by the Faith Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in

Niagara Falls as a place for travellers to stop for a rest and a brief meditation.

In the mid-1970s, sunrise services were started to celebrate Easter. Prior to COVID, they continued every year, except one, when rain forced it to move into a nearby barn, Meloen said.

About 10,000 visitors stop by the tiny chapel annually, he said, and most sunrise services attract about 40 people.

Meloen, who will be involved with the service along with Pastor Brian Ross, noted it is a short affair that lasts about 20 minutes. It will include some readings and hymns, and a message delivered by Ross.



Rick Meloen, at the tiny Living Waters Wayside Chapel, located on the Niagara Parkway. KEVIN MACLEAN

**NIAGARA R&C ENTERPRISES**

DECKS/FENCES • PERGOLAS • HOT TUB ENCLOSURES • RENOVATIONS  
• SIDING • TREE TRIMMING AND CUTTING SERVICES



**289-690-0202** FOLLOW US  
NIAGARARCE@YAHOO.COM  



## Get your car fixed by a **trusted** local mechanic today!



# CAUGHILL

UTOMOTIVE

FULL SERVICE REPAIR SHOP

905-687-9456 | www.caughillauto.com  
256 East & West Line, Niagara-on-the-Lake

### SEASONAL TIRE CHANGE SPECIAL!

Tires on rims \$39.95  
Tires installed & balanced \$89.95

- General Repairs • Brakes & Suspension
- Electrical Diagnostics & Engine Light Scans
- Batteries & Tires

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED.  
SERVING THE NIAGARA AREA SINCE 1947.



## Club House open for the season

Course opens April 8th

905-468-3424 | www.notlgolf.com | 143 Front Street | Niagara-on-the-Lake

# First Simpson's Pharmacy opened in 1977

Continued from Front Page

in the current system," says Sean. "Ever since the early 2000s, with the family health team model, doctors' rosters of patients top out at a certain level.

"I'd guess 25 per cent of people fall through the medical cracks."

Cracks his company is attempting to fill.

Firstly, he's actively campaigning to allow pharmacies to provide more acute care treatments. He compares it to the evolution of the role of nurse practitioners, who, over time, have taken on a larger role in day-to-day health care.

"I'm talking about diagnosis and treatment of minor ailments. Things that can be more efficiently dealt with in the pharmacy network."

His next target is taking aim at the many ancillary medical services that aren't readily available in the local community.

"Our current plans include walk-in/urgent care for locals and tourists. We are also exploring X-ray and lab services, physiotherapy, naturopathic care, chiropractic, massage, and any other health-related service that makes sense.

He is collaborating with a nurse practitioner who, according to the plans, will be available Saturdays at the King Street pharmacy and Sundays at the Virgil store, starting in April.

He is also hoping people will let him know what medical services they want here in town. "We are open to hearing what the com-



Since November 2020, Simpson's pharmacy has administered more than 10,000 COVID tests. Owner-pharmacist Sean Simpson is seen here completing a rapid antigen test. TIM TAYLOR PHOTO

munity thinks the needs are."

Sean, 46, and his wife Stephanie have two children ages 9 and 11. They live in Garrison Village, in the house where his parents, Ward and Oresta, raised the family. They bought the house from his parents in 2011.

He attended St. Vincent de Paul elementary school, later moving to Stella Niagara, an independent school in Lewiston, N.Y. Then off to Denis Morris Catholic High School in St. Catharines.

Sean worked in sales for two major pharmaceuti-

cal companies, until the call of the family business drew him back. He joined the family firm immediately after graduating from U of T's pharmacy program

Sean's sister, Lisa, four years his senior, graduated as a pharmacist in 1994, and joined the family team at the tender age of 22. Lisa admits it seemed inevitable after spending her spare time and summers working at the pharmacy from aged 13 that she would simply move on to help her father in the business.

"It just made sense," says Lisa. "And I liked it.

No regrets. I can't think of anything I would have enjoyed more."

"Dad made it look so fun. And he's so fun. He was such a role model in the way that he built relationships."

After 18 years on the pharmacy side of the business, Lisa switched gears and joined the profession's regulating body, the College of Ontario Pharmacists in Toronto.

"It (the job opportunity in Toronto) was just kind of fortuitous. Sean had come and joined, so we weren't short-staffed by my leaving. I was looking

for something else in both my personal and professional life."

After completing different assignments, Lisa is now an investigator, helping the college fulfil its role as the province's pharmacy regulator.

Here's an odd little factoid about the Ontario College of Pharmacists: It also operates the historic Apothecary at the corners of King and Queen streets, on behalf of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The Niagara Apothecary is an authentic museum restoration of an 1869 pharmacy as part of a practice that operated in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1820 to 1964.

But back to the Simpson's ...

You can take Lisa out of the pharmacy, but it's hard to take the pharmacy out of Lisa.

"You develop relationships. In the 18 years that I practised here, I watched my patients have babies and by the time I left they were heading off to university."

"It tugs at my heartstrings. I follow the local newspapers and Facebook and I read the obituaries."

And she visits a couple of times a month to buy her fresh eggs and visit family and friends.

Ward Simpson is now 78. After a smooth ownership transition to his son's leadership, he was ready give up the helm.

"I had mixed emotions. I really enjoyed my work and I enjoyed the contact with the public. I had such wonderful, loyal,

long-serving staff. It was fun to go in to work. I could feel the heartbeat of the community.

"But the government interference is stifling. The more they tried to make things easier, the more difficult it became."

"On my 70th birthday, I waved goodbye and was out the door."

Ward is the youngest of nine children, born in Welland and basically raised in his father's pharmacy. At 13, he was making deliveries on his bike and taking out the store garbage.

He describes his high school performance as modest. So, he tried different things, mostly hard work at a couple of manufacturing jobs.

Lesson learned. By 1972 he'd graduated from pharmacy and started working in Hamilton; then back to Welland. It was his wife Oresta who encouraged Ward to explore the possibility of his own business.

He and Oresta had come to Niagara, on the trail of available retail space and been wooed by the doctors at the 12-bed private hospital on Niagara Stone Road.

Fast-forward to November 1977, to the opening of the Niagara Community Pharmacy. He admits it wasn't a very catchy name.

"It wasn't long before everybody just called the pharmacy, Simpson's," he says with a chuckle. "So, I changed the name."

Ward, who moonlights in a red suit for the annual Santa Claus Parade,

  
**LIDA KOWAL**  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT  
1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2  
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0  
905-468-5300  
Monday to Friday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
\*Accounting \*Taxation \*Business Services \*Estate Planning

**Art at the Pumhouse**  
Juried original art show & sale  
July 30 & 31, 2022, 10 AM-5 PM  
Online Show: July 9-Aug 7, 2022  
  
**Call for Artists & Artisans**  
Learn more: [niagarapumhouse.ca/events](http://niagarapumhouse.ca/events)  
Application deadline: April 29, 2022

**Warren**  
RENOVATIONS  
905.468.2127  
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

  
PROUDLY SERVING THE NIAGARA AREA  
CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY!  
289-501-0682  
@CRYSTALCLEARCLEANINGNIAGARA  
CRYSTALCLEARCLEAN17@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.CRYSTALCLEARCLEAN.CA

  
**Ravenshead Homes** INC.  
www.RavensheadHomes.com  
Renovations ~ Additions ~ Inspections  
289 969 5991

  
kvcontracting@hotmail.com  
905-380-4264  
*Kevin Van de Laar*  
**CONTRACTING**  
For all your construction needs...

# But legacy spans a century

is proud of both his pharmacist-children.

Sean took over in 2010, just as the Apothecary was opened on King Street.

“The transition (to Sean’s ownership) has been very strong. Part evolution of what was and part new ideas. Sometimes the machine needs a different kind of oil.”

Ward praises Sean’s approach to the COVID pandemic. “I give Sean a hundred thousand credits for maintaining the business through the pandemic. I’m not sure I could have handled it as smoothly as he did.”

Sean admits he wants to manufacture time to get it all done.

He’s been on the board of the Ontario Pharmacists Association, president for two years. He’s also been involved over the years with numerous community organizations, including the United Way.

And he’s working toward his minor hockey coaching designation. “Being out on the ice is definitely a good escape.”

But now he spends most of his time responding to changes in the business.

Firstly, he needs to mind his marketplace. “With four pharmacies in town, you can get caught in the trap where you think everybody knows you. We have to keep getting the message out.”

And the business itself has evolved.

“Business has changed a lot. There is a lot of government regulation, especially affecting pricing. Margins have compressed a fair bit. We’ve seen a lot



Above: The founder of the Simpson Pharmacy dynasty, Sherman Simpson, in his graduation photo from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1923. Below: A label from the Welland Pharmacy started by Sherman Simpson. SUPPLIED

of changes just in the past few years.”

Sean contends the primary care funding model needs an overhaul.

“The last major rethink happened almost 20 years ago. Clinical services

are increasingly evolving online because they are simpler to access.”

“These are great enablers. But I don’t think practices have shifted effectively to reflect the advances.”

Not surprisingly, Sean wants his pharmacies to be part of those advances.

And maybe, just maybe, there will be a fourth generation Simpson in the pharmacy business to help him.



**I can be seen in the middle of March and April, but not at the beginning or end of either month. What am I?**

Last issue: What kind of coat is best put on wet?

Answer: A coat of paint

Answered first by: Susan Hamilton

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Bob Stevens, Becky Creager, Mary Ann Enns, Terry Nord, Margaret Garaughty, Rob Hutchison, Emily Franzo, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Wiens, Claudia Grimwood, Sadie Willms, Jennifer Siverns, Wade Durling, Margie Enns, Dennis Blake, Sandra Sutherland, Jane Morris, Sheila Meloche, John Venables, Gary Davis, Josh Langendoen, KC King, Greeba-Ann Birch, Maria Janeiro, Doug Bruce, Betty Knight

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

Love games? Join us for music trivia “Name That Tune with Lee” every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Irish Harp Pub. Details at [www.theirishharppub.com](http://www.theirishharppub.com)

**J&S Performance**

**HUSTLER**

905-468-9735

Sales & Service

**BEAT THE RUSH ON SPRING TUNE-UP/SERVICE**

Service & Repairs to all makes and models



901 East/West Line, RR2, NOTL

## D-Handyman Services

“Pass me the Job Jar, enjoy your spare time.”  
289-929-handD (4263)

PO Box 1088  
Virgil, Ontario  
LOS ITO

Denis Curtis  
Proprietor

<http://dencurtis.wix.com/d-handyman>



## UPPER CANADA MECHANICAL

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

905-651-0470

KeepRite



## GRACE UNITED CHURCH

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO  
222 VICTORIA ST. 905-468-4044

We’re back - Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
COVID protocols are in place  
[www.graceunitedchurch.com](http://www.graceunitedchurch.com)

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

Book a complimentary hearing test today at  
905.468.9176

A global leader in hearing healthcare.

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

**amplifon**

2207 FOUR MILE CREEK RD



**WE’RE HIRING TIRE TECHNICIANS AND SALES ADVISORS APPLY TODAY!**

(905)-468-4233

## J&S CONSTRUCTION

**PUTTING NIAGARA RESIDENTS FIRST!**

Renovations • Additions  
Custom Homes • Kitchens  
Decks, Fences & much more!



289-697-5757 | [JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA](http://JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA)

## NOTL Arts Collective members showcased in new Pumphouse exhibit

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

As Niagara-on-the-Lake increasingly becomes a town recognized for its cultural offerings, local artists are working to put the town on the map as a centre for the visual arts.

“There’s the theatre, wineries, history — but the visual arts is kind of off to the side here,” artist and gallery owner Ruth Aspinall said in an interview at the new NOTL Arts Collective’s exhibition on Sunday.

“There are so many visual artists here in town but we don’t have a forum and visual arts as a whole doesn’t really have a forum.”

Aspinall owns Art Space 106, a gallery on Queen Street.

She celebrated the NOTL Arts Collective as the beginning of a new life for the visual arts in NOTL.

“There is an incredible amount of talent in this town and the art collective is a way of working together

to try and promote and support each other,” she said.

Aspinall’s piece, titled “Our Melting World,” was the largest painting on display — the canvas was nearly five feet tall.

“I do like working on big canvases but they’re a tough sell so I do try to scale down and paint smaller pieces too,” she said.

Her piece is an abstract commentary on climate change and features a gush of white down the middle of the canvas, evocative of a melting glacier, as other colours were drowned out on its sides.

“With everything that’s going on with the environment, our infrastructure, climate change — this just kind of happened as a representation of the Earth and the melt,” she said.

Aspinall said she often sits down at a canvas and lets the colours and movements of the wrist take her away. Other times, as was the case with “Our Melting World,” she has a general idea of what she wants to



Left: Lynn Weiner with her painting “Balzac’s Cafe.” Weiner said the beauty of NOTL provides her with inspiration. Right: Ruth Aspinall, painter and owner of the Art Space 106 gallery, with her painting “The Melting World.” EVAN SAUNDERS



do but will still discover the painting during its creation.

She said she often has multiple paintings on the go and finishes them as inspiration moves her.

Nancy Wardle’s paintings provided a relative contrast to those of Aspinall. Wardle’s two pieces were both portraits of real individuals.

One was of an older woman Wardle met while in Florida, evoked with a very colourful palate.

Wardle, who just returned from down south, said she went to an Art in the Yard sale and met the elderly artist.

“She was all hunched over and her fingers were quite gnarly. Her whole house and her yard is an art studio. It was just so eccentric and she was so colourful and we

just started talking,” Wardle said.

Her other painting was of a well-known internet picture of a soldier with tears in his eyes.

Wardle actually got in touch with the British soldier, Fin Doherty, and learned his story first-hand.

“This was a ceremony. He had just finished his paratrooper classes and they were presenting him with the marine beret that his brother had worn in 2008 before he was killed in Afghanistan,” she explained.

The image was particularly powerful for her as war rages in Ukraine and Wardle said she was brought to tears on several occasions while working on the painting.

Wardle said she has been creative her whole life but

wasn’t able to focus on her talents until she retired and moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lynn Weiner had a realistic painting on display of a well-known locale in NOTL — Balzac’s on King Street.

“I love living here because I find a lot of inspiration,” Weiner said.

“Like, this is just a Balzac’s cafe but there’s flowers, there’s nature — I always find something to paint here.”

Weiner has been drawing and painting since she was a kid. One of her earliest art-related memories is of her father taking her to the zoo.

“My dad would take me to the zoo and put me in front of a cage and let me doodle. So, I started drawing animals at a very young age,” she said.

“I remember mostly drawing bears. But, he would take me there and he would just leave me there,” she said with a fond laugh in remembrance.

“He would walk around and give me all the time I wanted to draw. It was wonderful.”

Weiner lived and worked in Los Angeles for many years. When she moved to NOTL eight years ago she started taking classes at the Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Now her art is on display for everyone to see. The NOTL Arts Collective’s current exhibit will run until April 24.

At the beginning of May, a new series of works will be on display in the Pumphouse’s Joyner Gallery, chair Lise Andreana said.



# DEV’S INDIAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

Offered every Thursday  
Order Online for Curbside Pickup

*The*  
GATE HOUSE

905.934.9797 | [treadwellcuisine.com](http://treadwellcuisine.com)

# Niagara Lions hold **food drive** for Newark

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Lions Club is hosting its annual food drive for the Newark Neighbours food bank on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Goods and donations will be collected at the two Independent Grocer stores in Niagara-on-the-Lake – Hendrik’s on Queen Street and at Phil’s in Virgil.

Both financial and non-perishable food contributions will gladly be accepted.

Any cash donations will be used to buy additional food to stock Newark Neighbours’ cupboards.

Catharine Wickabrod, past-president and current secretary for the Niagara Lions, said the organization has been hosting food drives for Newark Neighbours for more than 25 years.

“Due to COVID-19 we were unable to host the annual food collection,” she told The Lake Report.



Lions Bob Sebastian, Erwin Wiens, David Priestley and Steve MacSween receive the Helen Keller Fellowship Award for their community work. SUPPLIED/DOROTHY SOO-WIENS

“However, we were still able to purchase food to fill their cupboards. We are grateful that we have established such a good relationship with Newark Neighbours and they know they can count on the Niagara Lions when in need.”


“Hosting the food drive helps raise awareness to the critical problem of hunger within our community and with serious challenges in both high- and low-income

homes hunger knows no borders.”


There is a long list of items the food bank at Newark requires, including: canned salmon, flakes of ham, chicken or turkey, canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli, canned beef stew, Habitant or chunky soups (beef or chicken), canned red kidney beans, canned ham, corned beef or Spam, canned tomatoes/tomato sauce, canned mixed

vegetables, rice, mac and cheese, Sidekicks and Mr. Noodle packets, soda crackers for soup, peanut butter, oatmeal, any kind of cereal, granola bars, canned baked beans, Jell-O (any flavour), jams, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, green relish, sugar, flour and baking ingredients, coffee or tea, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, paper towels and toilet paper.

**Saturday June 11, 2022 10am - 4pm**  
Featuring 8 fabulous private gardens in beautiful and historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.



A self-guided tour where you can linger as long as you like, ask advice of Master Gardeners, and enjoy creative and unique garden design and plantings.



Tickets and garden locations at [shawguild.ca](http://shawguild.ca)

**Advertising inquiries?**  
Email [advertising@niagaranow.com](mailto:advertising@niagaranow.com)




**NIGHT AT THE PUB**  
CHARITY EVENT FOR THE RED ROOF RETREAT  
**APRIL 13 @ 7:30PM**

**SIGN UP NOW**

JOIN US FOR BINGO NIGHT AT THE PUB AND HELP US SUPPORT A GREAT LOCAL CHARITY AND TRY YOUR LUCK AT A CHANCE TO WIN GREAT CASH PRIZES!

**\$50 FOR 15 GAMES - 3 CARDS PER GAME**

MUST PRE-PURCHASE BOOKLETS TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
**THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM**  
**(905) 468-4443 • RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**



**NEW TO MARKET.**

1163 LINE 1 ROAD  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON  
\$2,595,000

If you are looking for privacy, this 3000+ sq. ft. property located on an acre of land surrounded by orchards and vineyards could be your next home. There are 6 bedrooms and 6 baths, an in-law apartment and generous office space that accommodates our new work from home lifestyle. Please check out the video on my website and call me for your private viewing.

Learn more at [nancybailey.evrealstate.com](http://nancybailey.evrealstate.com)



Nancy Bailey, CIPS • Engel & Völkers Oakville, Brokerage  
Broker • Private Office Advisor  
226 Lakeshore Road East • Oakville  
Ontario • L6J 1H8  
905-371-4234  
[nancy.bailey@evrealstate.com](mailto:nancy.bailey@evrealstate.com)

**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**  
**NANCY BAILEY**

©2022 Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Each brokerage independently owned and operated. Engel & Völkers and its independent License Partners are Equal Opportunity Employers and fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act.

# Spring is here, with traditions and confusion about ‘the cottage’



## Ross's Ramblings

Ross Robinson  
Columnist  
The Lake Report

Spring is teasing us, and even the NOTL dog walkers seem to have a spring in their steps. Dogs are tugging at leashes and dog walker discussions are solving many of the problems in our town and our world.

For many, the first puffed-out and proud robin's breast has signalled that spring is nigh. Or almost nigh.

For me and many other NOTLers, the annual two-day parade of effulgently coloured Whirlpool Jet Boats on trailers says, "Hold on a bit longer, warm weather is coming soon." Company owner, head river guide and chief mechanic John Kinney confirmed the

same livery will be used this year. Purple, yellow, orange, white, aqua blue, green and hot pink.

Who needs a licence plate when your 1,200-horsepower boat is painted purple?

Follow me now, as I ramble about a subject near and dear to the hearts of many Canadians, coast to coast to coast. We are so used to talking about our summer vacation at the cottage, but this simple term causes confusion to many newer Canadians.

In northern Ontario and out west, summer getaway places usually are called "camps." In La Belle Province, it's "le chalet," which sounds somehow a bit classier. Je ne sais quoi?

How about the current kerfuffle after some national newspapers referred to the Harrington Lake estate used by Canada's prime ministers as their official country residence as "Justin Trudeau's country home?" Some Canadians found this description to be provocative and perhaps it was lousy journalism.

Now, to the unintentional confusion and misunder-



What makes a cottage a cottage? PIXABAY

standing surrounding the term "the cottage." As in, "we're going up to the cottage for the first weeks of July." Or, "our family will be at the cottage for the first week of August." Innocent and happy statements, eh?

But a good friend of mine, an American from southern Connecticut on Long Island Sound, who had spent seven years in southern Florida in her twenties, was confused by this innocuous term.

In her mind, it costs a fair bit of money to have a second home, on the ocean, on a lake, or at a ski area. Some of her friends here in NOTL, people of limited

means, kept referring to "going to the cottage."

So many Canadians, so many, talked about the cottage where they enjoyed vacations.

Indeed, a friend of mine in Chautauqua, a proud Irishman and intense rugby fan, recently told me that during his first few years living in Toronto, he thought there must be a summer resort up north called "The Cottage." So many of his work colleagues and neighbours talked about going up to "The Cottage" next month for a few days or a couple of weeks.

No one was putting on airs, or being pretentious, they were just talking Canajan. Eventually, the penny dropped and the situation around "the cottage" became clear to him.

Someone finally said, "We traded our July week at our family cottage with my sister's family for their week in August." Aha! It was explained that the third generation families of grandpa and grandpa, who had built "the cottage" as part of the Canadian dream, sat down each February and discussed who would get to use "the cottage" for which weeks during the upcoming summer.

Now, that made sense.

As we finish up this discussion about "the cottage," let me recount a family conversation from about 1958 in Etobicoke. That summer, I had been invited up to my friend Bob Chapman's cottage for five days. And, the next week, I had been with my buddy Dave Brennen at his cottage for a week. Lots of waterlogged fun, swimming, riding in their boat, bonfires, swatting mosquitoes, exploring the

woods.

"Dad, maybe we should buy a cottage, so I could invite them up to our cottage next summer." Social graces, even then.

My father, who was never judgmental, apparently replied, "Ross, a million Canadians can't be wrong, but our family will never own a cottage. From what I have seen, no one owns a cottage. The cottage owns them. They are obliged to spend every summer weekend there, entertaining friends, doing never-ending odd jobs, fighting traffic to and fro."

"We are saving to take you and Pat for a two-week camping trip to the Maritimes next summer, and in three years, we are planning to go to the Calgary Stampede and to visit relatives out west. If we had a cottage, we couldn't do those things."

So there you go. The good Lord makes chocolate and vanilla, and at least 30 other flavours.

Who knew the simple expression "the cottage" could mean so many different things to so many Canadians?

**JUST SOLD | ST. DAVIDS**



**\$1,275,000**



**NEW PRICE | \$2,488,000**



**JUST SOLD - NOTL**



**\$4,580,000**



**\* #1 FOR A REASON**

**CALL TODAY**

**TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU**





\*Jessie and Evan Macdonald are #1 for highest average sale price in Niagara-on-the-Lake from December to January 2021, according to NAR stats.



**Andrew Perrie, Sales Rep**  
905-380-1158

**289.868.8869**



**Jessie MacDonald, Broker**   **Evan MacDonald, Sales Rep**  
Call or Text Evan & Jessie at 905-380-6754

# Full stream ahead: Preparing our creeks for spring



Keeping it Green 

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

The snow is gone and April rain is soon to bring spring flowers, but there can be downstream effects when all of this water flows through town.

The health of any aquatic environment depends on conditions in its watershed: the surrounding area that collects and directs precipitation and groundwater to the waterway.

Land use in watersheds affects water quality, volume and wildlife in streams.

One Mile Creek and Two Mile Creek both meander through Old Town neighbourhoods, mostly on private property. As a result, the town isn't able to widely

implement solutions to improve the stream's health.

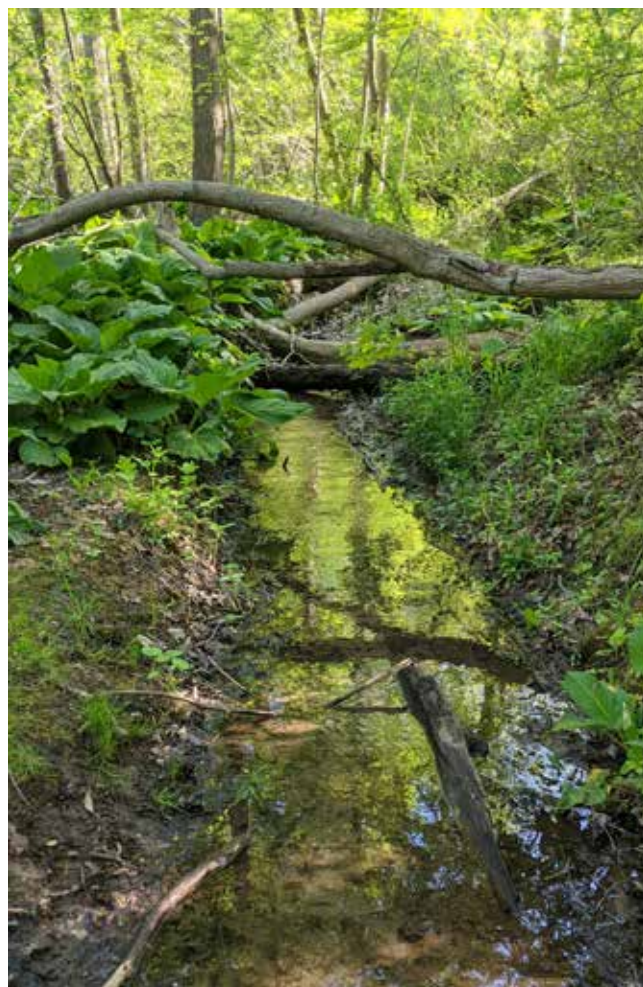
So, it's up to neighbours to understand how their actions affect local water quality.

Many local watersheds are already urbanized and development around streams means precipitation doesn't easily seep into the soil. Because of impermeable surfaces like roads, driveways and roofs, large volumes of water run over pavement into storm grates.

This means the creek is more likely to overflow during storms and erode the banks or flood buildings and basements. It helps to increase the amount of permeable area, for example by installing walkways with smaller stones instead of concrete.

Stormwater and snowmelt also pick up sediment, automotive oil, fertilizer, road salt and pet waste. Some aquatic species can't survive when water gets too salty and high nutrient levels from fertilizers can lead to harmful algae blooms in lakes.

Blue-green algae blooms, which are dangerous to



Valuable streambank vegetation holds soil in place and reduces flooding and water contamination. GREGARY FORD

humans and pets, caused the closure of several Niagara beaches last summer.

Homes that back on to a stream can make a big

difference by using more naturalized gardens near the banks, instead of lawn area. And, if water is pooling in a section of the

lawn, it can be an opportunity for some strategic landscaping.

Low-impact development techniques that slow runoff and allow it to be absorbed before reaching the stream are especially helpful.

For example, green roofs, installing rain gardens in ponded areas and soakaway trenches with gravel can all help to reduce overland flow.

Many folks backing onto creeks prefer to remove wild plants and maintain a manicured lawn up to the edge of the bank. But leaving a diverse mix of native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs make valuable riparian buffers.

These strips of vegetation help reduce bank erosion, because plant roots hold the soil in place. A buffer also slows and absorbs excess water before it enters the creek and helps soak up contaminants.

The native plants attract pollinators and support biodiversity, like butterflies and birds, or bats and dragonflies that keep mosquito populations down.

Buffers also can prevent Canada geese from

accessing your property, because geese do not like to walk through tall vegetation.

The simplest way to establish a pollinator garden or riparian buffer is to just stop mowing an area of lawn. It might look messy at first, but wildflowers and grasses will start to sprout or you can introduce some new plantings.

There are several subsidies available, including the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's restoration program, which will fund up to 75 per cent of this type of project.

Instead of going with the flow, now is the perfect time to make some small shifts that have big benefits for the health of our lake and streams.

*Kyra Simone is a green-at-heart NOTL resident with master's degrees in biology and science communication. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up litter, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.*

We attract **Toronto buyers** to get you **top dollar for your home!**

We are a member of the **Toronto Real Estate Board.**

**FREE HOME EVALUATION**

**905-641-0308**

#1 Real Estate Team\*\*

#3 RE/MAX Team Canada†

#1 on Google Trends\*\*\*

#5 RE/MAX Team Worldwide†

#1 in Client Service\*\*\*

#6 Toronto Real Estate Board\*\*

#1 in Web Traffic\*\*\*

Million-dollar marketing system!

Visit **RobGolphi.com** today!

**GOLFI**  
TEAM

Call the brand that gets your home **NOTICED!**

\*\*Based on unit sales and \$ volume of closed transactions in RAHB Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2021. \*Source: RE/MAX LLC rankings for Large Team Residential Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021. †Based on Unit sales and \$ Volume of closed transactions in TREB Jan 1 - Dec. 31, 2021. \*\*\*Rob Golphi, Sales Representative. RE/MAX Escarpment Golf Realty Inc., Brokerage. Independently owned and operated.



# Have some fun



- Across**
- Scent (5)
  - Dutch canal city (9)
  - Lively interest (10)
  - Small margin (4)
  - Serious warning (3,5)
  - Animosity (6)
  - Tropical fruit (10)
  - Unspecified in number (4)
  - Singles (4)
  - Place to research (10)
  - Throughout (6)
  - E.g. Aldrin (8)
  - Knave (4)
  - Matrimonial lady-in-waiting (10)
  - Gun dog (9)
  - Customary (5)
- Down**
- Weed (9)
  - Lift up (7)
  - Intended (5)
  - Hardens metal (7)
  - Christens again (7)
  - Item with exchange value (5)
  - Dozing (6)
  - Tennis high ball (3)
  - Salty cocktail (9)
  - Slacker (7)
  - Readable (7)
  - Subscriber (6)
  - Vacuum flask (7)
  - Long-continued practice (5)
  - Connected series of rooms (5)

## 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			

### Last issue's answers

M	I	R	K	A	S	A	R						
E	X	T	R	E	M	I	S	T	H	O	U	S	E
S	A	B	P	A	H	U	D	N					
S	O	L	V	E	P	A	L	E	S	T	I	N	E
H	I	L	E	E	H	E	W						
A	C	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	E	E	N	D	S
L	I	P	O	P	O	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	
L	I	M	P	O	P	O	S	T	U	D	E	N	T
O	N	N	E	N	B								
O	W	N	S	M	E	A	S	U	R	A	B	L	E
R	O	T	S	L	I	A	N						
A	F	T	E	R	L	I	F	E	C	O	N	G	A
N	O	I	D	E	A	D	G						
G	A	N	J	A	E	X	P	E	N	S	I	V	E
E	Y	L	D	Y	T	T	R						

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



## FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT  
**905.329.3484**

**GREG OFFERS:**

- Strategic Advertising
- Stunning Photography
- Professional Videos
- Expertly Designed Print Collateral
- Greg Lives Local
- Dedicated Property Page on the WALL STREET JOURNAL website



**RE/MAX NIAGARA**  
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE  
 INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED





6 Brown's Point **\$3,995,000**

6 bedroom, 8 bathrooms. Over 11,000 ft.

# GREG SYKES

real estate TEAM





# What happened to the mammoths, just a few thousand years ago?



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Beginning in Africa several million years ago, mammoths reached much of Eurasia, and eventually 20,000 years ago, the Americas.

Some mammoths developed a rich covering of fur to protect them against the cold in northern climes.

Most were enormous creatures, larger than modern-day Indian elephants and possessed a foreshortened tallish bulbous skull and in both sexes, gigantic tusks that originated from the base of the skull, and curved down and out before twisting up and back toward the top of the skull in adults.

Like elephants, mammoth societies were matriarchal. Females stayed together

in their natal society, but with the coming of puberty, young males were nudged out to become loners or possibly join loose groups of other males.

Inexperience and perhaps impetuosity, sometimes trapped young males into deep sucking swamps from which they were unable to escape, or they drowned trying to cross ice fields unable to support their weight. Those fates were far less common among females.

Mammoths and other mega-fauna such as sabretoothed lions, cave bears, giant rhinoceroses, and early versions of what would later become cattle and horses, were often portrayed in the cave art of western Europe beginning roughly 40,000 years ago to as late as 15,000 years ago.

However, by the 10,000-year mark, woolly and other mammoths were gone on all continents, except for two remote islands, which in lower seas had been part of the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska.

On St. Paul island, the last woolly mammoth died 5,000 years ago in the face



The last mammoth died about 3,400 years ago.

of rising sea levels that shrank the available food and fresh water, without which their fate was sealed.

On Wrangel, the other island, genetic studies of the last mammoths revealed that too many mutant protein-encoding genes affecting key functions such as taste, smell and probably fertility, had accumulated for natural selection to weed out.

And so, the last of the mammoths died 3,400 years ago, the product of

genetic collapse when there were too few members of a species left to maintain the health of their genome.

What caused the extinction of mammoths elsewhere? Here the culprits were probably humans and neanderthals.

Mammoths were like a grocery and hardware store combined for archaic and early humans. They offered an enormous supply of rich protein and fat in their flesh and bone marrow, much of which could be stored in cold temperatures, fat for lamps, enormous bones and tusks for framing shelters and large skins as covers and clothing.

On every continent from Eurasia to the Americas and Australia, within a few thousand years of the arrival of modern humans, megafauna of all sorts began to disappear. It's hard to argue with the notion that our species played a major role in the extinction of mammoths and other megafauna.

The most interesting part of this story for me was a recent study that traced the meanderings of one male woolly mammoth,

throughout Alaska, named Kik by the scientists.

Footprints fascinate me, especially those that chronicled the bipedal, human-like steps of *Australopithecus afarensis* (Lucy's species) 3.44 million years ago in east Africa, the footprints of a family of neanderthal children and adults wandering a beach in southern Spain 100,000 years ago, and those of a young mother carrying her child on her hip in New Mexico 8,000 years ago.

Footprints trigger our imagination. Who were they? What were they thinking and feeling? Where were they going? And what happened to them?

So also, with young Kik, except that instead of footprints, Kik's tusk provided the master timepiece, whose strontium levels reflected the strontium levels in the grass he munched each day and thus the strontium levels in the rocks on which the grass grew.

Tusks grow from the base, the oldest part of which is the tip of the tusk. By

cutting the tusk into fine slices and measuring the levels of strontium isotopes in successive slices, it was possible to match those levels with known strontium levels in rock formations throughout Alaska – and hence trace his wanderings throughout much of his lifetime until he died 17,000 years ago at the age of 27, half the age of most mammoths at death.

The record revealed that when he was young, he travelled widely but as he aged, he travelled less far and less often. Sound familiar?

Here was brilliant detective work that mapped the travels of a young mammoth thousands of years ago. For me, who previously thought of mammoths in the plural, this was a one mammoth with a late-bequeathed name, and a story to tell through his trunk. Fascinating.

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

**BARREL HEAD**

**PIZZA IS BACK!**

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT • ICEWINE COCKTAILS • JOIN US AT PILLITTERI WINERY

CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905) 468-3147 - 1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

 FOLLOW US @BARREL.HEAD

ANY TWO **\$50**

**ANY TWO PIZZAS**

INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF TEAM CANADA RED OR WHITE

**\$10**

**TAKE HOME PIZZA KIT**

CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA HOUSE DOUGH, HOUSE RED SAUCE OR HOUSE OLIVE OIL, MOZZARELLA

**\$99**

**FAMILY MEAL**

INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF TEAM CANADA RED OR WHITE

**FOUR PIZZAS, TWO SALADS**



**OPEN**

THURSDAY - SUNDAY

NOON - 8PM

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

FULL MENU AT PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD

**LOCALS GET 15% OFF**

\*DINE IN ONLY

**PILLITTERI**  
ESTATES  
Winery



# EXPLORING PHOTOS

WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Niagara Wharf 1908

Here is a 1908 photo of the Niagara Wharf. You can see Fort Niagara in the distance as merchants and farmers pack onto the docks awaiting the next steamer. Tourists filled the steamers coming to Niagara and local fruit filled the ship on its way back. Thousands of baskets of fruit were transported to the Toronto wholesale fruit market in high season. Farmers loaded their baskets onto four-tiered wagons that were then wheeled across the gangplank to the lower deck. For those interested in learning more, we have a newly created model of the Niagara Wharf on display in our permanent exhibitions. It was created and donated to the NOTL Museum all thanks to Vincent Biondi.



### A reflection of change

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

Renovations can change the face of a house. Sometimes for the better, too often for the worse and occasionally, as many decades pass, create a curiosity for those with modern eyes who ask "Why would it have been that way?" On the corner of Simcoe and Queen streets sits one example of just such a dwelling. Designated as the Chrysler-Burroughs House, it has also been known as the Chrysler-Rigg House and the Roslyn Cottage. Oddly, the back of the house faces Simcoe, one end wall presents virtually on to the Queen sidewalk, while the facade and main entry gives onto the side

yard. Indeed, in order to properly view (let alone enter) the front of the house a visitor is required to walk into what would normally be deemed private space. So, why would the house have been built with the most visually impactful facade obscured from the public eye and positioned in a fashion almost sure to create some level of discomfort to any visitor approaching the front door? The quick answer is: It wasn't. Completed circa 1822, this substantial dwelling was constructed as the home of R.M. Chrysler, a prosperous merchant here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and part of Upper Canada's Chrysler family (google the Battle of Chrysler Farm). If one simply considers the building without its decorative appointments, it is a two-storey cubic form with three bays, a low hip roof and four tall chimneys which is highly reminiscent of the Regency houses popular in this period. Surviving examples of this style are found here and there across NOTL, 240 Centre St. being one. In fact, it is my opinion that Mr. Chrysler actu-



Chrysler-Burroughs House.

ally built a Regency-style home and I suspect that the original main entry either fronted on Queen or Simcoe, something that could only be proven by a forensic examination of the exterior wall structure. Unfortunately, as was all too common in the boom and bust economy of the 19th century, in the late 1830s Mr. Chrysler suffered financial hardship and was forced to sell his home. The new owner, one Charles Hall, was a successful solicitor who shortly thereafter embarked on a full-scale renovation of the house. Of course, as was normally the case among the well-to-do, Mr. Hall chose to "reinvent" his home in the latest 1840s fashion: Greek Revival. Fluted pilasters with carved Ionic capitals were installed to visually support a substantial cornice set with modillions that

wrapped the entire house. To complete this remodel, an impressive entry way in the same style was introduced into the side wall of the house (probably because the proximity of the house to the streets would not allow for the construction of a portico).

Speaking of a portico, it seems likely that, having made a significant investment in this remodel, a Greek Revival portico with columns matching the pilasters would have been installed on the new facade over the front door. But any evidence of same would have been lost when, around the turn of the 20th century, another exterior reno occurred. In this case, the construction included a Classical Revival porch that ran the full width of the facade and joined to the rear addition.

The Chrysler-Burroughs House is a heritage jewel for not only its age and prominent position on Queen, but because it is a living demonstration of how a dwelling evolved in response to the changes in society during the 19th century and continues to bear witness a hundred years after that.

## Looking to the Stars



### Mercury could influence health matters and work issues

This week we see the first quarter moon in her home sign of Cancer and Mercury move from Aries into Taurus.

**Thursday, April 7:** In a very quick run through Aries, Mercury gets connected positively to Saturn in Aquarius and that brings news of improved security, most likely on the career front. Billie Holiday, also known as Lady Day, was born April 7, 1915. Her impoverished beginnings gave way to worldwide fame in both jazz and pop music. Sadly, her problems with alcohol took her life at 45.

**Friday, April 8:** Mercury is at it again today, this time with a positive connection to Mars, bringing opportunities to improve health matters and work-related issues. She was the first Hollywood actress to sign a million-dollar contract. She was one of four partners in United Artists, along with Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and D.W. Griffith. Born in Toronto on this day in 1892, she was Mary Pickford.

**Saturday, April 9:** With the sun in Aries and the moon in her home sign of Cancer, today is the day of the first quarter moon. It's a day to review the progress made over the past week and to make corrections to catch up to where we want to be. It was April 9, 1869, that the Hudson's Bay Company ceded all of its territory to the two-year old government of Canada.

**Sunday, April 10:** After racing through Aries in just a few weeks, Mercury moves on to Taurus today. Mercury is "in" Taurus until April 28 when it moves on to its home sign of Gemini. In the meantime, look to thinking that is practical,

and news and ideas that are well crafted (if a bit stubborn at times). And it was April 10, 1912, that the Titanic set sail on her inaugural – and final – voyage.

**Monday, April 11:** Even though the sun in Aries is in perfect harmony with the moon in Leo, all is not well in the universe today. Challenges from authority types and threats from the future combine to make for a day where patience is a must. Brilliant Canadian filmmaker Norman McLaren was born April 11, 1914, in Scotland. Among his acclaimed masterpieces for the National Film Board of Canada, was his "Pas de deux" and "Neighbours," which won an Academy Award.

**Tuesday, April 12:** Here is a day where heart, mind and spirit are all working at their best. Time for honesty and to be bold and original. Happy birthday #75 to David Letterman, late-night TV host for more than 33 years.

**Wednesday, April 13:** Because Wednesday is the middle day of the week when you start at Sunday, some call it "hump day" as in "get over the hump." This Wednesday is a whole lot more spiritual with an insight into our deep personal reason for being here. While this is magic, it is also stressful on a relationship. It was April 13, 1970, that Apollo 13 sent the famous message: "OK Houston, we've had a problem here."

Next week is the full moon in Libra and Easter Sunday. And more.

**Bill Auchterlonie's weekly podcast, "Looking up to the Stars," is at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).**

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*



### Niagara-on-the-Lake Job Fair

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Job Fair! Many local businesses will be in attendance and are looking to hire for a wide variety of roles.

Tuesday April 12th 2022 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Meridian Credit Union Arena, 1565 Four Mile Creek Rd Virgil  
For more information 905-468-1950 or [membership@niagaraontheLake.com](mailto:membership@niagaraontheLake.com)



# Tips for caring for your **perennials** in the spring



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Garden Columnist

In the fall, I like to leave any perennials that have interesting seedheads and textures, such as the ornamental grasses, to add interest to the winter garden.

Now is the time to cut back and clean up any old growth before the new growth begins to emerge from the ground. Simply use your secateurs or shears and cut back last year's dead stalks and leaves back to a one- or two-inch stubble.

It is also the time of year for dividing some of your perennials. Dividing your perennials is necessary to keep your garden healthy, thriving and under control. Let's take a closer look at these three reasons to divide your perennials.

### REJUVENATION

The first reason is to rejuvenate older plants. As some perennials age, you may see that the clumps



Left: Sedum cutting back early spring. Top right: Sedum digging. Bottom right: Sedum dividing JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

will have started to die out in the middle with only new growth appearing on the outer edges of the clump.

Or you may have noticed the plant may not be blooming as heavily as it used to. These are all signs that the plant is losing its vigour and needs to be dug up and divided to thrive again.

### SIZE MATTERS

The second reason for dividing perennials is to control the size of the plant. Some perennials grow quicker than others, such as black-eyed susans and shasta daisies, and, if left unattended, they can soon start to take over your

garden. By dividing the clump into smaller sizes, you can keep the plant size under control.

### MORE PLANTS

The third reason to divide your perennials is to propagate more plants. Dividing perennials is an easy and inexpensive way to increase the number of plants in your garden, especially new areas. It is also a great way to share plants with friends, family or neighbours.

With that said, there are a few perennials that do not like to be divided at all. For example: baptisia, bleeding heart, butterfly



weed, Christmas rose, lavender and poppies.

Now that we know why we need to divide perennials, the next question is: when is the proper time to divide? The general rule of thumb of when to divide is:

- \* Divide spring and summer flowering perennials in late summer or fall. e.g. irises, salvia.
- \* Divide late-summer and fall blooming perennials in early spring. e.g. sedums, coneflowers and mums.

### Steps to follow when dividing perennials

1. When possible, plan to divide your perennials

on an overcast day with showers in the forecast. This will greatly help the plant recover from the roots being damaged. It would also be helpful to thoroughly water the plants a day prior to dividing.

2. When dividing in the spring, wait until new shoots are about one inch tall. If dividing plants in the fall, prune plants back to just a few inches tall.

3. Using a spade or garden fork, dig into the soil about four to six inches beyond where the shoots emerge. Dig all around the clump then pry up on the rootball. Do not try to cut through

the roots while the plant is still in the ground. When you do it that way, you have no way of knowing how much root you will be getting and could be wasting parts of the plant.

4. Lift out the entire clump as completely as possible and sit it on top of the ground or on a tarp.

5. Using a sharp spade or knife, gently cut through the roots, dividing the clump into as many pieces as desired. Each division should have at least three to five vigorous shoots and a healthy supply of roots. If the centre of the plant has died out, divide the living, outer portions into smaller clumps and throw out the dead, centre portion.

6. Enrich the soil in the new planting areas with compost, composted manure or triple mix before planting the new divisions. Fertilize new plantings by scattering a handful of bone meal in the bottom of the planting hole. Bone meal is high in phosphorus, which will help stimulate root growth.

7. Fill in around the plant roots with triple mix or compost. Make sure that the plant is in the soil at the same depth that it was previously – and water well.

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at [joanneyoung.ca](http://joanneyoung.ca).

# Nursery school wants help **naming** furry friend

Staff  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Nursery School has a new furry "friend" and is asking for help in coming up with a name for it.

If you are visiting the Bunny Trail and Kinsman egg hunt on the Easter weekend, watch for the school's new bunny friend hopping about.

Meanwhile, the school needs the community's help to pick a name for its new friend just in time for Easter.

Name suggestions can be submitted to the Niagara Nursery School board by email at

[niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com](mailto:niagaranurserydirector2@gmail.com). Deadline is April 14 and the winning name will be announced on social media the next day.

The Bunny Trail and egg hunt happens April 16 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

The morning will include a bake sale, touch-a-truck, balloon animals, an Easter photo booth and the popular egg hunt. Follow Niagara Nursery School on social media for more information.

If you would like to support the event, monetary donations or baked goods are welcome. Contact the school by email.



The Niagara Nursery School is looking for help finding a name for its new bunny friend. SUPPLIED



Royal Oak School is responding to the need at Newark Neighbours with a food drive. Students will be collecting food for the Easter hampers until Wednesday, April 13. If you'd like to schedule food donation drop off to the school, email [catherineleniarsky@royaloakschool.ca](mailto:catherineleniarsky@royaloakschool.ca). SUPPLIED



Pauline Reimer Gibson  
Audiologist

Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.

**Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176**

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON

**A global leader in hearing healthcare.**

**amplifon**



# REYNOLDS REGIER HOMES

NIAGARA LUXURY LIFESTYLE



DIRECT: 289 257 6744  
DIRECT: 905 401 8874

125 QUEEN ST, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE



62 CONFEDERATION, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,200,000



GARRISON VILLAGE! This highly sought after location is close to everything. This 3+1 bedroom, 2.5 bath home is situated close to everything including park and tennis courts. Fully updated kitchen, new windows and finished in-law suite with separate entrance.



78 ROEHAMPTON AVE UNIT 315, ST. CATHARINES - \$485,000



5 LUTHER AVENUE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$988,000



STEPS TO THE WATERFRONT! and a short walk to downtown. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is situated in one of NOTL's most desirable locations. Fully updated, large kitchen with Viking range, family room with gas fireplace and dining room. Do not miss this one.



275 FOUR MILE CREEK, ST. DAVIDS - \$1,075,000



12 DIXIE AVENUE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,050,000



275 FOUR MILE CREEK, ST. DAVIDS - \$1,075,000



275 FOUR MILE CREEK, ST. DAVIDS - \$1,075,000



275 FOUR MILE CREEK, ST. DAVIDS - \$1,075,000



12 DIXIE AVENUE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,050,000

f Instagram REYNOLDSREGIER.COM

Michelle Reynolds  
Broker

Stefan Regier  
Sales Representative



CALL US TODAY for a *free* home EVALUATION

289-257-6744

CURIOUS what your home might be worth in today's hot market?

Contact US for a FREE market analysis of your home!

WORK WITH A LOCAL REAL ESTATE TEAM WHO HAS PROVEN SUCCESS, KNOWLEDGE, & IS SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST.



"MY FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE WITH MICHELLE AND STEFAN HAS BEEN AMAZING! VERY PROFESSIONAL AND HONEST REALTORS. THEY HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE ENTIRE PURCHASING AND CLOSING OF YOUR PROPERTY AND FOLLOW UP TO ENSURE THAT THE CLIENT IS HAPPY. HAVING BOTH GROWN UP IN THE AREA, THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF THE MARKET IS STRONG."

Michelle & Stefan

**BORN & RAISED!**  
THE REAL ESTATE ADVANTAGE

**TOP 2%**  
of all sales Royal LePage agents on a national level 2021

ROYAL LePAGE RED DIAMOND AWARD 2021

ROYAL LePAGE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2020