

The Lake Report

Time to get peachy
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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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August 1, 2019

Marotta not giving up on Randwood development

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Developer Benny Marotta may have given up on one of his legal battles with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but he hasn't given up on plans to develop the historic Randwood Estate.

Marotta, who wants to build a multi-storey hotel and a residential subdivision on the old Randwood property, last week withdrew his zoning appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

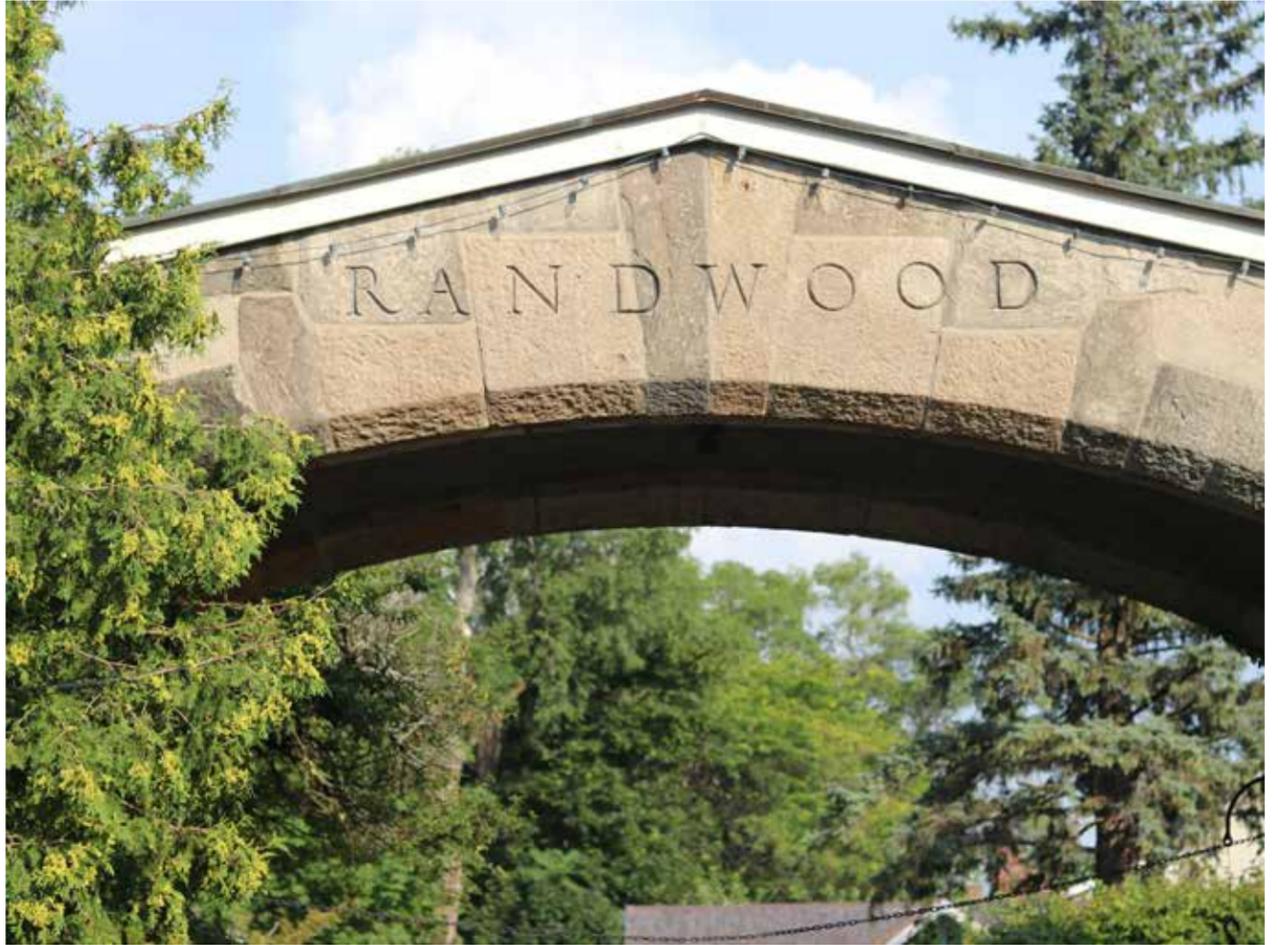
However, a spokesperson for Marotta's company, Solmar Development Corp. and its legal counsel, said Solmar will continue to care for the property as the withdrawal doesn't change anything about the land's ownership or development plans. The appeal's

applicant was Two Sisters Resorts Corporation which Marotta also owns.

"Mr. Marotta and his legal team determined that withdrawing the appeal was the most cost-efficient and fair process for resolving this case," Gabrielle Totesau said in an email response to The Lake Report.

"In terms of next steps, Mr. Marotta and his legal team are focused on continuing their efforts to work with the town and SORE to find a solution that works for everyone."

Marotta's proposal was met with a strong opposition from some Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, many of whom belong to the Save Our Rand Estate group, which is advocating for preservation of the historic property on John



The Randwood Estate. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Street East.

Lyle Hall, a spokesperson for SORE, said the group strongly believes Marotta wasn't going to win the appeal as the developer's proposal wasn't consistent with the town's official plan. He said the group wants to be compensated by Marotta

for its legal costs.

"Even if he was to come back under a new process ... we still think the project he's planning is so outrageously opposite to what the official plan says the uses for that land are going to be, that we don't understand how any logical process can

determine otherwise."

Hall suggested the town should send Marotta's revised proposal back to the municipal heritage committee and to the urban development committee for review and comment. The town should also review the proposal for its complete-

ness as SORE believes there are a number of "serious deficiencies" with the application, he said.

Now that the appeal is withdrawn, the Town of NOTL "may proceed to make a decision on the ap-

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Parking officers just doing job, town says

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Parking enforcement officers are simply enforcing the law, some Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors say in response to resident complaints about a crackdown on parking in town.

Some residents think the municipality is going too far.

Virgil resident Arthur Wosinski said he understands if someone was parking on the street every night or all the time or if someone was blocking an emergency vehicle, but when people park on the

street at night when they have guests or friends visiting, ticketing them doesn't make sense to him.

"Why are they (the town) doing that?" is a question for them. Do we need the money?" he said. "It just seems excessive."

Wosinski also questioned why service industry workers, who work in Old Town and have been parking at the old Parliament Oak school for years, have been ticketed lately.

"What has changed? Is there some incident, something occurred? People have

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A parking enforcement officer tickets a bus driver for standing in a zone designated for horse carriages on King Street. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Stanley Cup visits Ravine

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Stanley Cup was in town last week.

Jordan Nolan who plays for the St. Louis Blues in the National Hockey League was at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery last Wednesday, July 24. Nolan was joined by his wife Laura Coella and daughter Quinn.

It was a private event for friends and family to celebrate the Blues first Stanley Cup victory, said Colleen Saunders, the winery's events co-ordinator.

Nolan's parents, who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake



and visit the winery "every now and then," connected with Ravine a couple of weeks ago to arrange hosting the party there to celebrate the achievement, Saunders told The Lake Report.



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Municipal board rules favour developers, say some residents opposed to hotel plans

Continued from Front Page

plication,” lawyer Michael Melling, who represents Marotta’s companies, said in a letter to the tribunal.

Depending on the town’s legal counsel’s availability, the town will hold an in-camera meeting on Thursday, Aug. 1, to discuss its next steps in regard to the matter.

The town’s legal bill related to the Randwood development in 2018 was \$57,985.87.

So far in 2019, the town has spent \$188,371.87 on legal fees. With a total of \$246,357.74, there are still outstanding invoices, town clerk Peter Todd said in an email response to The Lake Report.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she would have to get advice from the town’s lawyer before commenting on whether the town should seek to recoup its legal costs from Marotta.

“For me to comment before doing that (talking to legal counsel) would be irresponsible,” she told The Lake Report.

Coun. Allan Bisback said he couldn’t comment either. Because he lives on Park Court which is “on the edge” of John Street East, he said he declared a conflict of interest and wasn’t present during the previous meetings in regard to Randwood.

The town is in negotiations with Marotta and councillors want “something beneficial” for both the developer and the town, said Coun. Erwin Wiens.

Coun. Gary Burroughs said the town should add make reimbursement for legal costs part of the discussion with Marotta as “there’s been substantial cost filed to-date.”

Under the new provincial Bill 108, More Homes, More Choices Act, there are a number of changes coming to the land use planning appeal process.

The current name – Local Planning Appeal Tribunal – will remain, but some

experts say the old OMB rules are expected to be brought back.

According to a May 2 statement from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, some of the proposed changes include allowing the tribunal to hear fresh evidence, giving it more power to manage and decide cases to reduce delays and appointing additional adjudicators to address the backlog of cases.

When making a decision, the Ontario Municipal Board, which was an independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal, could hear evidence on provincial legislation, provincial plans and policy statements as well as municipal planning documents, environmental, social and economic issues and the best interests of a community.

The Local Planning Appeal Act, which was introduced by the provincial government in 2017 and became effective in April 2018, replaced the board with a more limited scope and power. The tribunal could make a decision based on whether the municipal authority’s decision conformed with the provincial policy statement, a provincial plan and an applicable official plan.

When council made a decision, the planning tribunal wasn’t supposed to second guess it as long as the council followed the proper processes, said Brock University’s professor emeritus of political science David Siegel.

Under the municipal board’s rules, hearings could be conducted “de novo,” meaning the board could make a decision regardless of the initial municipal council’s decision. Appealing under the OMB basically gave developers a second chance, Siegel explained, and the board had “considerably more power” than the tribunal.

“If we’re serious about the local democracy, I think council should have the fi-



Colin Patey and Zoli Miklossy, who said they are against Benny Marotta’s proposal, were going to attend the planning tribunal meeting on July 29. The meeting was cancelled when Marotta dropped his appeal. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

nal say as long as they have followed the appropriate processes,” Siegel said in a phone interview.

Because of the board’s de novo hearings, the development decisions are taken out of the hands of elected officials and put into the hands of a number of lawyers and let them make a decision, starting all over, said Hall, noting it doesn’t make sense to him.

“I think any process that puts us closer to the old OMB than the current LPAT is a problem for communities like this one where there will be no input from the local folks that are elected and put there specifically to make sure we’ve got a development regime we can live with,” Hall said.

Burroughs said he thinks Marotta will appeal under Ontario’s revised development rules, but he doubts it will make any difference as it is “just lawyers playing back and forth.”

NOTL developer Rainer

Hummel disagreed that the board appeal favours developers, calling it a “myth.”

“The OMB favoured proper planning,” he said in a phone interview. “And every person will say planning is bad if it negatively affects them.”

Hummel said the myth of OMB favouring developers was created not because it did, but because town councils would vote against a proposal which should have been approved in the first place.

“Town councillors want to get re-elected. They will say no to things that they know should be approved, they know will be approved,” Hummel said. “They take the responsibility and give it to somebody else rather than making the hard decisions and voting on something, based on whether it is correct or not.”

The president of Niagara Home Builders Association, Tony Alfieri, said he wouldn’t comment on the is-

sue as it is a matter between the town and the developer. But he added we need to put a stop to NIMBY-ism – the “Not In My Back Yard” approach to development – as there’s a housing shortage.

“NIMBY-ism is all over the place,” he told The Lake Report. “The longer it takes to put a project into the ground, the more it costs.”

In 2018, Marotta appealed then-council’s non-decision on his plans for Randwood and appealed to the tribunal for a decision on his zoning application for the proposal.

At a prehearing in May 2019, SORE was granted full party status in the appeal proceeding. All parties then were supposed to reconvene at a meeting on Monday, July 29, but it was officially cancelled once Marotta withdrew his appeal.

Weatherstone Court resident Laurie Drewitt, who lives close to Rand Estate, said Marotta’s withdrawn appeal is a temporary

win for the residents and they don’t know what the developer is going to do next.

Colin Patey, another Weatherstone Court resident, said he was planning to attend Monday’s tribunal meeting and he also doesn’t know what is going to happen next. As for the difference between the tribunal and OMB appeals, he said the de novo hearings are a “very unfair process.”

“You can start off with the lawyers making zillions where citizens can’t afford it. Zillions on presenting the case, new and new again,” he told The Lake Report.

Zoli Miklossy, who also lives close to Randwood, said the town should “absolutely” seek to recoup its legal costs.

For one Charlotte Street resident, Ruedi Hofer, who said he isn’t affiliated with SORE, the best approach is for local councils to have a bigger say in dealing with zoning appeals.



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Grimwood no longer NOTL fire chief, town silent about reasons why

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
 The Lake Report

Rob Grimwood, who began working at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Department since 1996, is no longer the town's fire chief.

Deputy chief Nick Ruller is now interim fire chief but town spokesperson Victoria Steele refused to provide any further information, saying the town doesn't comment on personnel matters.

Town councillors said they received an email from director of operations Sheldon Randall, who is also interim chief administrative officer, informing them of Grimwood's departure. Randall is filling in for CAO Holly Dowd, who is on sick leave.

When The Lake Report called a phone number listed online under Grimwood's name, the person



Former fire chief Rob Grimwood. FILE PHOTO

who answered said Grimwood doesn't live there.

Grimwood's leave is not something that town council was involved in, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

"As a head of council, I can only tell you council has the authority over the hiring and firing of the

CAO and not the administration," she said.

"This is a matter of personnel. I'm not going to talk about a personnel issue in public. It is something that is done in an in-camera session of council and if I make any comment to you with respect to that, I'd be

violating the council confidential session and I'm not prepared to do that."

In an email response to The Lake Report, Randall said Grimwood left to pursue other endeavours.

Disero said she isn't sure what the other endeavours Grimwood is going to pursue but she wishes him luck in his career.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita said Grimwood was "absolutely professional" and seemed to run the organization "extremely well."

"I must say I was always impressed with him as I am with Nick Ruller," Cheropita said. "He's equally as impressive. Very efficient, very effective."

Coun. Gary Burroughs said councillors were aware Grimwood would be leaving the town prior to the official announcement but refused to comment any further. Other councillors declined to comment as well.

NOTL girl, 7, with diabetes petitions OHIP to cover cost of \$4,000 glucose monitors

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
 The Lake Report

Seven-year-old Maya Webster plans to go to Queen's Park to present a petition to have OHIP cover the cost of glucose monitors for people who have Type 1 diabetes.

Maya, who lives in Niagara on the Green, was diagnosed with diabetes at age two and has to wear a continuous glucose monitoring device, which is not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. The monitor is connected to Maya's and her parents' phones, and alerts them if Maya's blood sugar levels are too low or too high.

Maya's mother, Christi Webster, paid \$4,000 for the device through her work benefits.

After Webster reached out to Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls, he and his staff joined Maya on July 24, going door-to-door in Niaga-

ra on the Green to collect signatures for the petition. Maya will also be outside Phil's Valu-Mart in Virgil with the petition this Friday, Aug. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m.

"(Gates) is our voice for Ontario. We're hoping he can be our voice at Queen's Park and have some changes happen," Webster said.

"We believe (the monitor) will pay for itself," Gates told The Lake Report, explaining how, with the help of the device, hospital visits would be less frequent and would save taxpayers money.

Maya said the monitor has been "really helpful" and she is lucky to have it.

"I'm really hoping to get more signatures. Hopefully even while we're there (at Queen's Park) ... so the government can pay for this stuff," she said.

Before she began using the monitor last October, Maya made frequent visits to the hospital and



Maya Webster petitions for continuous glucose monitors to be fully covered by OHIP. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

she would have her finger pricked at least 10 times a day for a blood sugar level test, her mother said.

"(The monitor) is more than an alarm. It's literally saved her on countless occasions," said Webster, adding without the device, "it can get dangerous and it can be fatal."

Maya also has an insulin pump on her leg but it is already covered by the province.

She will be going to Queen's Park in Toronto on Nov. 27 for a parliamentary breakfast. Gates will also be there to help Maya present her petition and to lobby the government.

The petition is not available online so anyone wishing to sign it is welcome to contact Webster.

"I'm so proud of her," Webster said. "She's a superhero, for sure. A very, very brave little girl."



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Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean
Publisher: Niagara Now
Design & Layout: Richard Harley
Advertising: Rob Lamond
Staff: Jer Houghton, Brittany Carter, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Eunice Tang
Contributors: Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Ross Robinson, NOTL Writer's Circle, Brian Marshall, Tim Carroll, Jim Smith and many members of the local community

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: 905-246-4671

Office Address

496 Mississauga St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada.

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Go Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

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"Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live."



Editorial: A community worthy of celebration

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The New York Times has discovered Niagara-on-the-Lake. Well, it's not the first time the influential media giant has written about our town, but the latest installment is a finely focused piece about 36 hours spent in NOTL.

Yea Congrats to our town. And congrats also to some of the great groups and individuals who make living in NOTL special.

Yea To the St. Davids Lions and Lioness clubs for all their hard work and planning to make the 56th annual carnival this weekend such a treat for the community. Year after year, it draws people from all over Niagara, which is a testament to the job that the organizers have done to keep it relevant and fun in the new millennium.

Yea to Juliet Dunn and the TD Niagara Jazz Festival for another successful year of getting people dancing at Simcoe Park.

Yea To the NOTL Rotary Club, whose 25th anniversary picnic this week highlighted (again) all the good work this organization does in the community. Rotary does rock!

Yea To the Simpsons. In a town where civic generosity stands out, Ward and Sean Simpson and their families are true leaders. Ward's decades of selfless community service are well-known and his son Sean has followed suit. Whether it's for Red Roof Retreat, the United Way or many other local endeavours, you can always count on the Simpsons to be at the forefront, helping others.

Yea To the Chamber of Commerce and St. Vincent

de Paul Catholic Church who give us not one but two peach festival celebrations this month. Be sure you stop by.

Yea To all those who already have helped raise more than \$12,000 to restore and re-establish the Upper Canada Heritage Trail in NOTL. There is still a long fundraising road ahead, but as our story shows, the generous citizens of NOTL have done a stellar job of getting the ball rolling.

Yea To NOTL resident Mike Scott, one of the co-chairs of the World Scout Jamboree, which ends this week in West Virginia. His dedication to scouting is admirable.

Yea To Joan King and the organizers of the Terry Fox Run. The event is still more than a month away, but your fundraising (and

sale of Terry Fox T-shirts) will ensure it is a success.

Yea To Mary McHoull and the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club, whose zealous recycling habits are really putting the green on the "green" at the community centre.

Yea To Terry Flynn, NOTL's everywhere man, who, when he is not working as the leader of Niagara's EMS brigade is no doubt busy with other community endeavours.

Yea To Meridian Credit Union, for again bringing the Shred-it event to town and helping raise money for NOTL Community Palliative Care.

Yea To NOTL Hydro, for spending \$3.3 million to double power capacity and ensure the lights (and air conditioning!) stay on.

editor@niagaranow.com

Exclusive to The Lake Report

Shaw Talk: With artistic director Tim Carroll

Inspired by the Swiss Alps

Tim Carroll
Special to The Lake Report

People often say to me, "How on earth do you ever get any time away?"

Well, by way of answer, I am writing this sitting on the balcony of a chalet overlooking the Alps in Verbier, Switzerland. Before you write in with your expressions of concern, fear not: I have a cold beer in my hand to help me cope.

How did this come about? And how can I be ditching my company at the height of the season? Well, the first is easy to answer: I have been a teacher at the Verbier Festival for each of the last 10 years.

I give public masterclasses in which I teach opera singers how to act. It's a fun gig and not too stressful: I teach for three hours a day and spend the rest of the time walking in the mountains and swimming in glacial lakes. It's a dirty job



Shaw Festival artistic director Tim Carroll. SUPPLIED/DAVID COOPER

but someone has to do it.

The answer to the second question – how can I go away now – is perhaps more surprising. When I arrived at the Shaw Festival, one of the pearls of wisdom Jackie Maxwell gave me was the notion that July was actually a pretty good time to sneak away for a week.

"Everyone thinks that you will have more time once the season closes, but, in fact, that is when everything that is behind schedule for the next season comes crashing in and you really have to be at your desk."

So, that is how I come to have the time to contem-

plate the beauty of nature in Switzerland. The actors, who are all working their backsides off doing eight shows a week, spent the last few days before I went away trying their best to look pleased for me.

I did my bit by only showing them a few pictures of where I was going to be spending this week.

Of course, no one really begrudges anyone time off; we all know that no one performs to their highest standard when they are exhausted.

That is why it is so important for me to walk and think in the mountains; and that is why we have tried, since I got to Niagara, to find more breathing spaces for the performers.

It is a strange anomaly that, as the rest of the world begins to see the value of the three-day weekend – companies that give their employees the extra day off more or less universally

report higher productivity – we are still struggling to find the odd two-day weekend for our stage teams.

I've always believed in at least a two-day weekend as something that makes a real life possible; whenever I have been able to make it happen, I have rehearsed that way, for the sake of everyone's sanity. A day to get one's personal admin done and then a day to rest.

Here at the Shaw our performers and stage crews are lucky if they get one such weekend every month. I'd love to change this, but the relentless logic of the box office makes it difficult.

Nonetheless, we hope to look at this more as time goes on, to see if we can at least make sure that no one goes too long without two days off. We see it in their faces when they return: it's as though they've had a week in the Swiss Alps.

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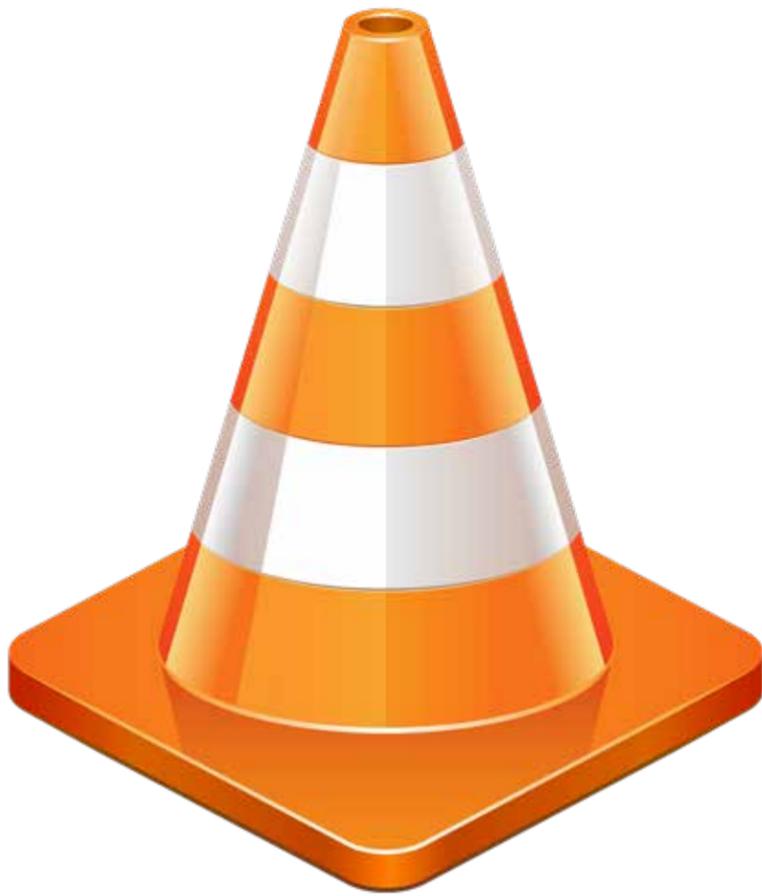
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OPINION



The *mystery* of the pylon and the parked car

Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report

We attended a Shaw production on June 5. During the play, we were ticketed on Byron Street. At 1:30 p.m., we parked in the last open space available.

My wife warned me about pylons nearby – used presumably as “signage” to preserve several parking spots, trees waiting to be planted on the edge of park grass. I’m careful when parking, using hand controls and requiring space to get in and out, so I thanked her, but there was ample unobstructed room.

We were ticketed (\$50) at 2:33 p.m.

Apparently the bylaw enforcement officer had first moved a pylon behind our car to take a picture for evidence. Employing pylons for signage seems invalid and unreliable to me because they are easily moved by children, college students seeking décor, other motorists, wind and bylaw enforcement officers, one of two full-time employees or one of the four

summer hires.

Next morning, June 6, I drove back to check for street signage (none) and the trees were being planted so the pylons had remained for 24 hours. At town hall to dispute the ticket, I was given a form to fill out and later notified of a “screening” June 25.

What then of elected representatives enlisted as allies? Does the tail wag the dog at town hall? Some said they would “look into it.” Coun. Stuart McCormack came to my door. (I was impressed.) Coun. Norm Arsenaault arranged a coffee date. (Again, impressed.)

When dealing with bureaucratic bullies, I learned to create a paper trail by employing emails and Facebook posts to fully record the proceedings. This tends to annoy those involved. Thus, on the evening of June 28, after watching another play, when we returned in darkness to our car parked in a handicapped spot near St. Vincent de Paul Church, a pylon was firmly wedged into our rear bumper.

To say we were taken aback would be putting it mildly.

Revenue derived from parking and parking violations is a valuable municipal asset. In some, equivalent to a full-time business. Little wonder that hospitals, sporting and cultural events derive large amounts of cash from the citizenry.

Last year’s substantial take for the Town of NOTL is as follows: Gross metered parking revenue: \$1,533,015; gross parking violation revenue: \$267,330; total: \$1,800,345. When in the \$2 million range, that’s a lot of cash and incentive to grow more.

I was ready to appear before a justice of the peace to argue my case, but the latest paperwork arrived Friday, July 5, telling me I had to settle up by Tuesday, July 9, or fill in a four-page “Request For Review By Hearing Officer,” appointed by the town, and the fine amount had increased by \$10.

Throughout this whole ticketing drama, I believe

the town has acted in an underhanded fashion. It seems so unnecessary.

Recently, we were in Stratford to take in some theatre and that municipality seems to have a more pro-active approach to parking. There is a free municipal lot close to the Avon Theatre, free parking along the parkway by the river in front of the Festival Theatre and free parking closer to the theatre. Instead of pylons, I noticed that Stratford employed wooden barriers. They would be hard to move.

After the federal election, Doug Ford will emerge from his lair in Toronto and announce amalgamation in Niagara, if not the entire region as a “city,” perhaps federal ridings such as NOTL, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls. Maybe the moniker suggested by a former councillor on a local Facebook page would be appropriate for the new municipality: “Niagara on the Take.”

Mike Keenan is a NOTL writer and arts critic for The Lake Report.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With horse protester rights, pendulum has swung too far

Dear editor:

So, the Charter of Rights guarantees a minority fringe group the freedom to try to put a local business out of business and infringe upon and try to destroy the character we want in our town, ("Horse protests frustrating but legal, mayor says," The Lake Report, July 25).

That's the tail wagging the dog and an overindulgence to a self-righteous group of misinformed morons. Sad.

In days gone by they would have been tarred and feathered and run out of town on a rail. The pendulum has swung too far.

And the Niagara Regional Police? Useless as usual, except to give out tickets for speeding.

The same goes for our bylaw officers, for ticketing residents in front of their homes and service people – for parking near the long-closed former Parliament Oak School.

Regards,

Earle Vance
NOTL

Impatient drivers a problem at Airport Rd. and Hwy. 55

Dear editor:

Three times a week I drive on Hwy. 55 coming from White Oaks to NOTL.

This will usually be between 10:30 and 11 a.m., not exactly a high-volume traffic time. I use Hwy. 55 at other times as well, but these return trips from White Oaks are my focus here.

Every time I approach Airport Road I pay close attention to see what fool is going to turn right onto Hwy. 55 when it clearly isn't a safe time to do so, and I am forced to brake.

Remember now, this is not a busy time on the highway when you might understand why another driver would become impatient to make the turn.

I am past the point of being aggravated by these rude and uncaring drivers. So now, I will be coming home on York Road to 6th, to reach 55.

I don't have an answer to this problem, unless we consider putting in a traffic signal and I'm not sure that's a good idea either. Ideas anyone?

Shirley Dudeck
NOTL

Community raised \$3,200 to replace Kinsmen's damaged sign

Dear editor:

This letter is to all the residents of NOTL.

As many of you already know, the Kinsmen sign was run over by an unidentified vehicle back on June 19.

This was the second time the sign has had to be replaced in the last six months, with a cost of \$1,000 for insurance deductible each time.

That cost struck a chord with me and after talking with club president Bob Forbes, I turned to Facebook. A special thanks goes out to the Facebook group NOTL 4 ALL, whose members quickly shared the information.

I posted photos and though we were not able to find out who ran over the sign, a donation drive happened, with the blessings of the Kinsmen Club.

I also put a donation jar in my shop in Virgil. In very short order, our community has raised just over \$3,200 for the Kinsmen Club of NOTL and the replacement of its sign.

For those interested, a list of all donations can be found on the NOTL 4 ALL page on Facebook.

A big shoutout to the Virgil Business Association, the Virgil Fire Department and Ravine Winery for donating \$500 each, and to the NOTL Legion, Branch 124 for raising \$233 for the cause. All extra money will be used to enhance the sign with better safety, lighting and landscaping improvements.

Donations are still welcomed by me, or directly to the Kinsmen Club at PO Box 222, Virgil, ON, L0S 1T0 (cheques or money order – please do not send cash by mail). Kinsmen Club president Bob Forbes can be reached at 905-360-0455.

Another great way of showing support while having a fabulous time doing so, would be coming out to the Kinsmen Club's 21st annual Classic Cars – Show & Shine on Sunday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$3 admission for spectators and kids under 12 are free. First 200 cars will receive a plaque.

The Kinsmen were hoping that the new sign would be installed prior to the car show for everyone to see, but it looks like that might be too tight a timeline for the manufacturer/installers.

And with that, I would like to thank the members of the Kinsmen Club of NOTL for everything they do and have done for the last 49 years here in NOTL. I would like to conclude by sending a huge thank you to all those people who have supported our effort by helping with the Kinsmen sign replacement.

Sincerely,

Martin Mazza
Virgil

NOTL's streets are too narrow to allow overnight parking

Dear editor:

I have finished reading your well-worded editorial on overnight parking in NOTL, ("Russian roulette and overnight parking," July 18) , and it was a good, factual-to-the-point opinion piece.

Now get ready for that magic word: But, just to even up the score a bit, let us look at a few more facts .

Yes, there is a parking bylaw and, yes, cars park freely all over Niagara-on-the-Lake during the curfew hours of parking, and when the sun comes up in the morning, generally their windshields are free and clear of parking tickets.

Some of the theatre companies bring in their employees and billet them about town. Not so bad, but some are billeted into houses with one parking spot in the driveway and on a good day two cars can be squeezed into that same driveway. But (there it is again), there are anywhere from two to six employee cars out front overnight for one residence.

So, the garbage truck, the recycling truck, the brush truck and then the street cleaning truck, and, of course, but not least, the snow clearing truck, all have to make their way, carefully, around these errant overnight parked cars.

The narrow streets of many parts of NOTL do not accommodate cars parked on both sides of the street, which in turn creates an uncomfortable bottleneck for cars travelling both ways.

Overbooking of people with too many cars into rental houses for the theatre season is the culprit, so therefore a parking ticket in conjunction with the present legal bylaw will create revenue for the municipality – and that is not a bad thing.

Keith Bullen
NOTL



We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.

Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.

Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.

Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.

Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report

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Community ‘enthusiastically’ supports Heritage Trail restoration



Nicole and Max Plomish, a few of more than 40 community members in attendance Monday morning. BRITTANY CARTER

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Preserving and restoring the Upper Canada Heritage Trail is important to people like David Waller, one of many NOTL residents who showed support by cutting a \$100 cheque to fund restoration of the trail on Monday afternoon.

The sponsorship campaign began two weeks ago, and the committee has already raised \$12,000, said Rick Meloen, chair of the Heritage Trail Committee of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“We’re really excited about today because there are so many people that have come out, and the enthusiasm for this trail has really exceeded our expectations,” he said.

Though still quite a way from reaching the target goal of \$150,000, Meloen said community support has been “terrific.”

Waller donated to the trail because he said the preservation and enhancement of local assets, like the trail, are important to maintaining a sustainable community.

“It’s so easy not to celebrate your history. It’s



Cheryl Morris, member of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail Committee of Niagara-on-the-Lake, collect donations on Monday afternoon. BRITTANY CARTER

much better to have decent signs when people walk up, and be able to say, ‘Wow, there used to be a railroad here.’ And you start to put things together, imagine the train coming down, going into town, steam going – it just kind of brings things to life,” Waller said.

Money raised will go toward improving trail visibility, both physically and in the consciousness of NOTL residents, says a Heritage Trail brochure put out by the town.

As well as encouraging healthy living, Meloen said the goal is to preserve some of NOTL’s heritage.

“I’m a big one on the history of the town. This has been an important part

of our history, the railroad, and (restoring the trail) has been a way of keeping that memory of the railroad alive,” Meloen said.

The Heritage Trail committee was created after the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sesquicentennial Committee, formed for the Canada 150 celebration, wanted to establish a legacy project.

Knowing that restoration of the trail, which runs along the old Erie and Ontario Railway Line, would take several years, the new committee was created in 2019.

The trail runs more than 10 kilometres from the John and King streets all the way to York Road, where

it will once again connect with the Bruce Trail.

“Twenty years ago, this was a side trail of the Bruce Trail, but because of the deterioration, it was taken off the Bruce Trail map. But once we do the restoration, it will once again be a side trail of the Bruce Trail,” Meloen said, adding that the committee is hoping to continue the path toward the NOTL docks after this phase is complete.

“Once we do this, we’re hoping to turn around, and make some sort of path, sidewalk, signs, some way to get people down to the dock area, because, of course, that’s where the train ended,” he said.

Monday’s presentation saw support from more than 40 residents, council members and local businesses who have donated to the restoration of the trail. The committee will continue to accept donations.

Cheques can be made to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with Heritage Trail added to the memo portion.

Amounts of \$25 or more will receive a charitable donation tax receipt, and any gifts of more than \$1,000 will be recognized publicly.

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2019 Rising Spirits Creative Writing Contest

The NOTL Writers’ Circle is happy to announce the 2019/20 Rising Spirits Creative Writing contest is now open. The competition invites Ontario residents to submit their short stories (fiction and non-fiction) and poetry.

Winners will have their work published in our annual anthology and be presented with awards and prizes at the Awards Celebration which will be held on Sunday, February 23rd at The Old Winery in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We are excited to announce that our judge for this year’s contest is Brian Henry, celebrated book editor, writer, creative writing instructor, and publisher of Canada’s most popular blog for writers - Quick Brown Fox. Mr. Henry will also provide feedback for the pieces submitted by the winners.

Cash prizes for 4 Writing Categories (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and Youth)

1st Place - \$250

2nd Place - \$100

3rd Place - \$50

Over the past seven years, The Rising Spirits Awards Celebration has grown into an extraordinary community event with storytelling, music, wine, and special guest speakers.

Contest details and entry forms are available at: www.notlwriterscircle.com

Deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2019.



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Parking enforcement gone too far, residents say

Continued from Front Page

to park somewhere to go to work," he said.

The town parking enforcement officers are just out doing what they were hired to do, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero. "They're doing their job and they're doing it with gusto," she said.

Coun. Norm Arsenaault said there used to be one or two parking enforcement officers, but now there are several who were hired for the summer.

"They're just enforcing the law," he said, adding he doesn't "have an issue with it."

Arsenaault's response was echoed by Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who said the only thing that has changed in parking enforcement is that there is one additional parking enforcement officer compared to last year.

"We haven't changed anything, we haven't changed our parking bylaw. Although because of all the complaints, there is going to be some kind of discussion about this," Cheropita said.

Coun. Erwin Wiens shared the same sentiment, saying he doesn't think anything has changed. A

lot of bylaws are complaint-driven, he said, suggesting residents talk to each other first before complaining to the town.

"It would be helpful if people tried to find a resolution prior to calling the town. That would really help us because every time you call the town, it affects staff, it costs money, tax dollars," he said.

There are currently four seasonal parking officers – Natalie Thomson, William Moreau, Rachel Munro and Christopher Botts.

Commenting on the instances of service workers being ticketed for parking at the former Parliament Oak school, Coun. Allan Bisback said if an area has proper signage but the enforcement hasn't been applied there before, it doesn't mean it's legal to park there.

"I'm not so sure the parking enforcement is any different this year than last year," he told The Lake Report.

"We need to be careful and calm that we don't overreact, but I've asked staff to look at signage around Parliament Oak as soon as possible."

Coun. Gary Burroughs said he personally thinks the service workers shouldn't be ticketed while



A municipal bylaw officer tickets a tour bus near the Prince of Wales Hotel. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Coun. Clare Cameron suggested that the increase of residents being concerned could be because the town started enforcing its bylaws.

"There's probably a better communication that can be done in advance ... what the bylaw includes and means to residents," she said.

"There's probably a better job we can do at communicating that."

NOTL resident Stephen Oprici said he doesn't think anyone should get away with not paying for parking, but said enforcement should be reasonable.

Solutions to a "chronic" parking problem in Old Town should be addressed as soon as possible, he said, suggesting the town form a steering committee consisting of the mayor, senior staff responsible for dealing with parking issues, the supervisor of bylaw enforcement, at least two parking officers and one councillor. The committee could work on alleviating parking congestion, he said.

The recent spat of service workers being ticketed means there is a lack of communication between

the town and residents, said Oprici.

"Communication can be a paramount subject for this steering committee to address because if there were proper signage affixed in those areas, then people wouldn't take the risk of parking there," he told The Lake Report.

He also suggested placing two bike racks behind the Court House on Queen Street to accommodate downtown employees and tourists. Oprici also said downtown business owners and merchants should

promote the use of bikes, scooters and motorcycles to their local employees.

The new president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, Eduardo Lafforgue, said he needs to know more about the parking issue before he can comment, but he said supporting long-term sustainable solutions would be one of his goals.

"What we do is we support our members," Lafforgue told The Lake Report. "My procedure right now is to serve the members, members' interests, but we are not policymakers."

Pharmacy barbecue supports Red Roof Retreat

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Grilling burgers while raising money for a charity and showing appreciation for their customers – that is how Simpson's Pharmacy staff spent their Friday afternoon last week.

The pharmacy on Niagara Stone Road held a barbecue fundraiser last Friday for Red Roof Retreat. There were also cookies and cupcakes from Baking by Bees, and almond flour buns for people on a keto or a low-carb diet.

Last year's barbecue raised around \$1,000. This year, with the help of around 100 people who

showed up at the event, the pharmacy raised \$950. All proceeds from the barbecue will go to Red Roof Retreat, which provides support to children with special needs and their families.

Owner Sean Simpson said the store has had a longstanding relationship with Red Roof and it was a "nice idea" to tie in a barbecue fundraiser with the store's Customer Appreciation Day. Simpson's father, Ward Simpson, is also chair of the board of the non-profit agency.

"We're always thrilled to see our customers come out and we're grateful for their support," said Sean Simpson. "Always happy to give back and that's the idea



Bob and Lisa Allen were on hand to show their support to Red Roof Retreat. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

behind the barbecue."

Red Roof has been partnering with the pharmacy since the charity started, said Steffanie Bjorgan, the agency's executive director.

"When they (Simpson's

Pharmacy) see, year after year (what) connection does, this means they believe in the work that we do," Bjorgan told The Lake Report. "And it tells the community we're doing a

good job. And they (pharmacy) are doing a good job. They're always out in the community. They're amazing family and friends."

Harmony Maryanssen and Down Corbett were at the

pharmacy for an appointment.

When they saw there was a barbecue and learned about the charity, they said they wanted to support it.

"It's not just a money-making barbecue," said Maryanssen while Corbett added the proceeds go to "a good cause."

Lisa and Bob Allen also came by to support Red Roof Retreat. "Anything Ward and Sean do is first-class," said Bob Allen.

Two Pleasant Manor residents, Jude Happerson and Armin Epp, stopped by to support the barbecue and take advantage of the Customer Appreciation Day. They said the food was "excellent."

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Peachy keen: Two festivals and outdoor dinner celebrate peach harvest

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is about to get peachy, with three major events planned for the second weekend in August.

The annual Shades of Summer dinner returns Sunday, Aug. 11. The event, hosted by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, celebrates the peach harvest and runs in conjunction with the chamber's annual Peach Festival, which is set for the day prior, on Aug. 10.

Another popular local tradition, the annual peach festival at St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, will take place on the church grounds on Aug. 11.

Saturday's festival will feature live bands, Queen Street merchants holding sidewalk sales, all while downtown restaurants serve up peach-themed treats, said Nicole Cripps, the chamber's events' co-ordinator.

There will also be a peach pie contest at noon on



Annual Shades of Summer dinner celebrates peach harvest. SUPPLIED/NOTL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Saturday. Participants can bring their peach pies to the chamber before 11 a.m. where four judges will pick the winner, who will receive a prize.

The peach celebration will continue the following day when the chamber will set up tables on Queen Street, near the cenotaph, for the Shades of Summer dinner. The event runs from 7 to 11 p.m. Registered guests should bring their own tablecloths, cutlery, dishes, glassware

and food. "And then (people) design their table however they like. A lot of people will do a lot of peach-influenced things, like big beautiful glass bowls with tons of peaches in them," said Cripps.

There will also be live music provided by the Thomas Nelson Band and a DJ who will play during the band's intermissions. Around 700 people show up for the dinner which is held rain or shine, Cripps told The Lake Report. Part of Queen Street will

be closed to vehicles for the festival. Queen Street will be closed from King Street to Victoria Street at 6 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Regent Street to Victoria Street will reopen at around 7 p.m. on Saturday.

King Street to Regent Street will remain closed for the Shades of Summer dinner on Sunday, Aug. 11 and will re-open at around midnight on Sunday.

Full details are available at www.niagaraonthelake.com.

Golf: Past champs lead in men's action

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The past two men's club champions led the way in NOTL Golf Club league competition this past week.

Reigning champ Jim Panetta carded a 1-over 37 on July 30 for low gross in WOOFs league play. And 2017 champion Stephen Warboys had the same score to win low gross in men's league play on July 25.

WOOFs results: Bill Katrynuik was low net with 29. Closest to pin: Panetta. Hidden hole: Ted Carmichael.

Men's league results: Warboys also won a \$20 gross skin for his birdie on the par 3 fourth hole.

Other winners: Gross skins, John Sobil, Harry Huizer and Warren Tutton. Long drive: John Read and Larry Mantle. Closest to pin: Gerry Shelly, Arthur Wosinski, David Gagne



NOTL Golf Club captain John Wiens and pro Billy Simkin with the interclub competition trophy and their Toronto Hunt Club rivals, pro Jeff Long and captain Kirby Peters. The visitors took home the trophy again in a close-fought 27-hole team contest played on Saturday. KEVIN MACLEAN

and Tutton. A flight: Will Walker (23 points). B flight: Gagne (23 points). 50/50 draw: Ron Newman (\$170).

Friday Couples league, July 26: First: Glenn & Debbie Young and Kevin

MacLean & May Chang (34). Second: Brodie & Maria Townley and Jim & Anne Sifton (34). Trivia quiz: Jack & Eileen Hanna and Dean & Susan McCann; Frank & Sue Avent

and Glen & Cathy Murray. Worst-dressed: Joe Taylor & Nikki Jenkins, Gerry Shelly & Peggy Larder, Ross Smith & Bonnie Kinal, Kevin MacLean & May Chang.



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www.NiagaraontheLake.com for tickets

NOTL residents encouraged to take survey on community well-being

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's community wellness committee is conducting a survey to gather more information about the well-being of town residents.

Because community wellness is a broad topic, the committee came up with a framework, broken down into five themes – health, transportation, housing, healthy living and social connectedness – that define the work that the group is doing, said Cindy Grant, the committee's chair.

The committee, comprised of seven members including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, initially planned to create an inventory of available activities, services and resources related to the themes, but conducting a survey was the best way to gather information before the committee holds a public forum in early September, said Grant.

The survey, based on the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, consists of multiple-choice questions.

"The information that we get from the questions is going to give us a good sense of how people are feeling about wellness and well-being of living here," Grant told The Lake Report.



Cindy Grant is chair of the town's community wellness committee. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

She said the committee hopes to get 300 to 400 responses from the survey. Residents can take the survey online at jointheconversationnotl.org. If people don't have access to a computer, they can go to the town hall or NOTL library where staff will help them complete the survey, said Grant.

Based on the responses, the committee will be making recommendations to town council on how community wellness services can be improved.

Transportation and more affordable housing options are some of the issues that need to be addressed in the town, Grant said, noting young families and young people can't be left out from the conversation.

"We need to get that population heard from as well," she said.

TIDBITS

Niagara Region conducts transit survey

Niagara Region is conducting a survey to gather feedback about Niagara Region Transit.

The survey is available online at niagararegion.ca/transit until Aug. 16.

The responses will also be collected in person by regional staff at various locations across the community. Residents are encouraged to share their opinion on transit service levels, satisfaction with the service, what features they would like to see included and whether they ride the transit.

\$1,000 raised for carriage supporters

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Sentinel Carriages offered free rides around NOTL's Old Town on Saturday as part of the first International Horse and Carriage Support Day.

The event was started by Sentinel in collaboration with Locals For Carriages, a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake carriage supporters.

Free rides were offered throughout the day with each tour lasting about 15 minutes and rest breaks in between each ride for the horses, said Jennifer Jones-Butski, the support group's co-founder.

The day wasn't specifically organized as a fundraiser but between raffle tickets, donations and T-shirts sales, the group raised around \$1,000.

"It was great, we had so much support," Jones-Butski told The Lake Report.

Many people took time to snap a photo of Obie the horse, who is now 31. People also signed up for a farm tour on Sept. 8 where they will have a chance to learn more about the carriage horses.

Jones-Butski said her group reached out to a number of carriage companies, such as Tally Ho Carriage Tours in Victoria, B.C., and Palmetto Carriage Works in Charleston, S.C., to discuss the event. She said they were also in contact with Christina Hansen, a carriage driver from New York City, as well as carriage companies all over the world.

"I don't know who did what but I'm hoping as more companies and more people become aware, more people will join in as the years go on," Jones-Butski said.

Members of the animal rights activist group At War For Animals Niagara were on hand on Saturday, too. A



Jennifer Jones-Butski, a co-founder of Locals for Carriages support group, said they raised \$1,000 last Saturday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

number of carriage protesters were standing at two corners at Queen and King streets, holding signs, while about several with yellow flashers and banners on them, kept driving around

the block and through the downtown intersection.

The carriage supporters are continuing to work on the protest issue with the town, police and paralegal services, Jones-Butski said.

Shred it, forget it, and raise money for NOTL Palliative Care

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

You can shred the fear of identity theft and fraud while raising money for Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service on Aug. 17.

The annual shredding service held in the Meridian Credit Union's parking lot at 1567 Niagara Stone Rd. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is open to all residents looking to shred confidential and personal documents.

Bring boxes of documents to be professionally shredded for \$8 per banker's box (20 by 12 by 10 inches). Three boxes can be shredded for \$20.

Bonnie Bagnulo, program manager for NOTL Palliative Care, said shredding confidential documents is an important way to protect against fraud and identity theft. Though fraud crimes are more frequent online now, physical documents



Margaret Walker, event co-ordinator, Doug Martin, Meridian branch manager, Bonnie Bagnulo, Palliative Care program manager. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

in your home still pose a potential risk.

"Obviously, it's important not to have confidential documents pile up in your home," she said. "It doesn't take much to have your identity compromised."

The Shred-it event was created by the NOTL

Hospital auxiliary in 2011 to provide a responsible way for residents to dispose of their documents while also raising money for the hospital.

After the hospital closed, Bagnulo said the baton was passed on to NOTL Palliative Care in

2016.

She said the Meridian Credit Union sponsors the event each year, and all of the money raised will go toward the purchase of equipment to allow NOTL Palliative Care to continue to provide its services to the community.



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36 Hours in Niagara-on-the-Lake

On the shores of Lake Ontario, this magical Canadian town is filled with flowers, theater, wine and plenty of opportunities for outdoor adventure.



Summer is when Niagara-on-the-Lake shows off its sunny, green spots, like Queens Royal Park. Eugen Sakhenko for The New York Times

By Jennifer Conlin

July 25, 2019



A New York Times article about Niagara-on-the-Lake circulated widely on social media last week. SOURCED PHOTO

Tourism group behind NY Times story on NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Tourism Partnership of Niagara, a non-profit organization responsible for promoting and marketing Niagara Region, was behind a hugely positive New York Times article about Niagara-on-the-Lake that sparked big interest from local residents.

Headlined “36 hours in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” the July 25 article by free-lancer Jennifer Conlin describes the writer’s experience spending some time – from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning – in town.

The story, which mentions a variety of activities from visiting wineries and shopping in Old Town to attending the Shaw Festival and biking along the Niagara River Recreation Trail, became a talking point for many NOTL residents.

Tourism Partnership of Niagara has been working with New York Times for a couple of years now and the author of the article was interested in Niagara because of the “urban escapism” pitch the organization made to the newspaper, said Anthony Annunziata, the organization’s president.

“We were pitching things to do on a quick getaway out of New York City,” Annunziata said.

“What we want the story writers to do is to tell their stories, their experiences through their eyes of what it might be like for people like them or just looking to get away, trying to find something authentic and genuine, which is what Niagara has to offer to that New York market.”

It’s not the first time articles promoting Niagara have appeared in international media outlets, An-

nunziata said, naming such publications as the Washington Post and La Petite Magazine. The New York Times also had a number of articles about NOTL previously.

Annunziata said his organization pitches a publication an idea for a story and if the outlet decides to pursue it, the publication sends a writer to cover it.

Letting the writers tell about their genuine, authentic experiences is how the organization sells Niagara rather “than a hard sell,” Annunziata told The Lake Report. The Times story likely reached an audience of millions, he said.

The organization has been working with the Shaw Festival on its programming as well as with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce on projects such as the icewine festival and Christmas events, An-

nunziata said in a phone interview.

The new president of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, Eduardo Lafforgue, said it was an excellent article about NOTL.

“I liked very much they talked about the mix of offers that we have,” Lafforgue told The Lake Report. “From culture, culinary and great accommodation and spa, and shops. They covered wineries, they covered a little bit of all the aspects of Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is great.”

Lafforgue said he doesn’t know if the town will get more tourists as a result of the article, he hopes it will mean “quality versus quantity.”

“It will certainly boost our overnight stay, which helps boost the spending that tourists do in our town,” he said.

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Calling all cooks!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES:</p> <p>Legion Fish Fry every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1</p>			
<p>4</p> <p>Art at the Pumphouse - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Music Niagara's Sundays in the Park: Frog & Henry - Noon to 3 p.m. - Simcoe Park</p> <p>Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre's 25th Anniversary Celebration Party - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Music Niagara's Cuban Night: Hilario Duran - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>The Past Is Present Heritage Festival - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>Music Niagara: Toronto All-Star Big Band - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p>	<p>6</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George</p>	<p>Maker Club: Print y with TINKERCAD - 7 - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Super Space Party - p.m. - NOTL Public Lib</p>
<p>11</p> <p>St. Vincent de Paul Peach Festival - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. - St. Vincent De Paul Roman Catholic Church</p> <p>Traditional Sausage Making - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College</p> <p>Kinsmen Car Show - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Kinsmen Scout Hall, King and Mary Street</p> <p>Peach Pickers Picnic - 5 p.m. - 111 Garrison Village Drive</p> <p>Shades of Summer Dinner - 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. - Queen Street, Heritage District</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Monday Crafternoons: Clay Sculpting - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Therapy Tails with Jasper - 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>13</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Public Information Centre: NOTL Irrigation System Strategy - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre (Simpson Room)</p>	<p>Maker Club: Wood Woodworking Wor a.m. to noon - NOTL</p> <p>Fresh from the Gar p.m. - NOTL Public Lib</p> <p>NOTL SupperMarket 9 p.m. - The Village</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Special Council Meeting - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Jane Austen Tea Party: Mansfield Park - 7 p.m. - Navy Hall, Fort George	2 Music Niagara: Presentation on Czech Music with Pavel Sporcl - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Friday Flix: The Incredibles 2 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara's Easy Fridays: Heather Bambrick Quintet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Pondview Estates Winery	3 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Art at the Pumphouse - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Music Niagara's Wine & Music with an Italian theme: Caroline Leonardelli, harp & Julie Nesrallah, soprano - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Mount Carmel Music Niagara's Gypsy Fire: Pavel Sporcl, violin - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church
	7 Maker Club: Wooden Village Woodworking Workshop - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson Music Niagara's Around Bach: Ilya Poletaev, piano with Emma Meinrenken, violin - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	9 Science Fun Fridays: Ice Cream in a Bag - Noon to 1 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Friday Flix: Monsters University - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Music Niagara's Easy Fridays: My Sweet Patootie - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - The Legion	10 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Made It: Artisan Market - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Fort George Annual Boot Drive - 10 a.m. - Queen and Picton, Queen and Mississauga Streets intersections 29th Annual Peach Celebration on Queen Street - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Queen Street Music Niagara's Season Finale: All Beethoven - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - St. Mark's Anglican Church
	14 Special Council Meeting - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers Art & Fashion Lecture Series: Indigenous Fashion REVOLUTION - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Silver Linings Playbook - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George	16 Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Friday Flix: Monsters University - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library YDTP Summer Camp Program: Final Performance - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project The Canadian Table Culinary Festival - 3 p.m. - Outlet Mall	17 Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village Shred.It NOTL Community Palliative Care - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union, Virgil 3rd Annual Ashley Simpson Golf Tournament - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Heritage Woods Golf Course Five & Drum Muster & Soldiers' Field Day - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George Party in the Vineyard: Wine Country Fare - 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Peller Estates Winery

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The Great NOTL Summer Walkabout

Rides, food, entertainment at St. Davids carnival

Welcome to the latest episode of the Great NOTL Summer Walkabout, a summer-long series of stories that will take you to all corners of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our reporters will trek around the community to meet residents and visitors, attend events, visit area landmarks and tell stories about what they find. Enjoy the Walkabout.

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Some people came for the rides, some for the food, some for the entertainment. The 56th Annual Lions Carnival really had something for everyone.

The bingo tent was filled throughout all four days of the carnival, which began Wednesday.

Alexis Arnott, Janet Harrison and Carol Simpson from Niagara Falls loved the bingo and said the St. Davids carnival is the only one they come to. The never miss it.

"I think it's the only carnival that has bingo," Simpson said. The women praised the "delicious" food, especially the Lions burger, saying they "can't put it into words" to describe it.

Not far from the bingo was a nickel sale tent. Mary Albers, who was coming out of the tent, said she hoped to win wine.

"It's just a nice community event. Money obviously goes to their charitable work and they work hard," Albers said.

Having attended the carnival for 40 years, she recalled once winning a hand-knitted afghan blanket. Last year, she said she won a whole camping kit with a tent, a stove and a coffeemaker. "It's a treat to have a Lions burger," she added.

Ryan Smelle, who travelled from St. Catharines with his six-year-old son Jack Ryan, said he was at the carnival for the first time and liked the "great old-style feel" and family-friendly activities.

Sophia Bradley, 9, was at the carnival with her grandfather Jim Adams who said they've been coming to the event every year. "I like the bingo tent," Adams said.

Children enjoyed such midway rides as Tilt-a-whirl and Wave Rider, while adults participated in a variety of draws and games such as bingo or crown and anchor.

The club also offered its famous Lions burger, corn on the cob, back bacon on bun, fries and onion rings. St. Davids-Queenston United Church was selling a variety of pies and there was live entertainment each night.

On Thursday, the crowd was entertained by a group of dancers from Happy Feet Dance studio in Niagara Falls. For Madelyn Lapensee, 12, it was the first time performing at the carnival. She said she was nervous and excited but it's "always fun to do something new."

Watching their daughters – Kaylee, Kaiya, Karah and Kassidee – perform were Marcel and Samantha Denomme from Niagara Falls. The couple said they felt proud watching them dance.

Diane Pever, a member of St. Davids and

District Lioness Club, said she was glad lots of people were coming out to the event as the carnival supports many organizations.

"(The carnival) is on green space, which is very important. Lots of kid's games, rides, it's a truly family event," she told The Lake Report. "All of this goes back into the community which is very important ... The fundraising is such an important thing as the government doesn't fund a lot of things."

On the opposite side of the field, dozens of people were listening to an opening act by Kyla Paul. Tammy Turcotte, from Hamilton, was one of them.

"She's really good, she's talented," Turcotte said watching Paul play the guitar.

She said she has been taking in the carnival for over 40 years, ever since she was a little girl. Seeing all the people having fun is the best part of the carnival, she said.

Turcotte who volunteered at the carnival as a teenager, has brought her own children and grandchildren to the event over the years.

"It's my happy place," Turcotte said.

Pony rides were added to the entertainment on Saturday. Sawyer Douglas, an eight-year-old boy from St. Catharines, told The Lake Report he enjoyed the ride.

Standing next to a face painting booth,

were Silia and Joshua Stapleton with their sons, Aiden and Atreyu. Silia said they support the Lions Club and they like to see Niagara Face Painting at every festival they go to.

A number of people took home some valuable prizes from the carnival.

The second prize, a Niagara Falls vacation package, was won by Kim Killeen from Virgil, who donated the prize back to the club for more fundraising.

John Adams won an e-scooter, Elizabeth Fedorkow won the outdoor living draw while David Rowe walked away with a \$200 collectible doll.

The grand prize winners of a 19-foot Starcraft camper trailer and two bicycles were Alistair Smith, his wife Stephanie and 18-month-old son Callum, of Stevensville.

"Last year, the people that won the camper trailer had no intentions of camping, sold the trailer back to Niagara Trailers," said Bill Brouwer, the club's communications chair.

"This year is a storybook ending for this couple, who had been looking to buy a camper, but could not afford one so they stayed their decision. The look on the wife's face, when we told her two bicycles also come with the camper, was exciting to watch."



Dancers from Happy Feet Dance studio, based in Niagara Falls, perform at the carnival. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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The crowd watches a performance by dancers from Happy Feet Dance studio. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Rick Trapnell grills up some burgers. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Top: Sophia Bradley, 9, rides the Wave Rider. Bottom: Kyla Paul performs as an opening act during the St. Davids Lions Club carnival. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



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Trius launches new **interactive** concept with social media backdrops

Winery aiming to be ‘most Instagrammable’ place to pick up a bottle of bubbly

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Trius Winery is breaking the mould of the traditional wine tour with a new hands-on, interactive concept that combines technology, social media and personal experiences.

The immersive new approach, called the Trius Tour, was created to break away from the trusted wine-tour template in a playful and engaging way, said brand manager Tina Truszyk.

It also aims to educate the next generation of wine drinkers about the subtle nuances of each wine style while creating lasting bonds between the brand and its consumers, she said.

Truszyk said the idea is to provide all the knowledge and experience of a typical wine tour in a different way.

“A lot of people aren’t looking for that (traditional) experience anymore. They want to engage with the brand in a memorable way,” she said.

It’s the idea of building a lasting relationship with the brand that she said really motivated the creation of the tour.

The centrepiece of the new approach is a 45-minute, four-stop excursion through the Virgil property, starting with the Rosé Lounge.

Atop the lounge, which overlooks the restaurant and much of the winery, guests are encouraged to take photos along the rose wall, sample the Trius Rosé 2018, and read about the history of the wine on signs inconspicuously placed around the lounge.

“I want to build those connections with the brand and the consumer, so this

experience stays with them. They will think of Trius the next time they go to their liquor store and think, ‘What am I going to drink today? I’m going to drink the Trius Red because I had so much fun,’” she said.

After the Rosé Lounge, guests are ushered through the Sparkling Cellar, where they’re met with bubbles and an aroma station to test their senses in the oldest and largest sparkling cellar in Canada, she said.

The Trius Red Cellar is next, where tour-goers can experience the red wine from the first Canadian winery to be awarded Best Red Wine in the World for the 1991 Trius Red. The trophy sits in a case in the cellar.

Finally, the tour finishes in the Sparkling House, which Truszyk said is arguably the most “Instagrammable room” of the tour.

“Having the visitors learn and experience the tour at their own pace is kind of at the core of what we’re trying to do.”

The project came to fruition quickly, pitched in the fall of 2018 by Truszyk and Tim Coons, Trius estate manager, and backed by management all the way up the corporate ladder at Andrew Peller Ltd. The tour officially launched on July 12.

“We had full leadership support in direction and full leadership support in what Tim and I wanted to create. So, the exciting part is that we came up with this idea, and we realized we had gold,” she said.

Each brand under the Andrew Peller umbrella has its own unique identity, which is why she said the Trius experience likely won’t be copied for other

properties.

“We didn’t build a franchise, we built something that was meaningfully unique to Trius. No other property could have the Sparkling House, because no other property has the credentials that the Trius Brut Rosé has,” she said.

“Peller Estates has the 10 Below Icewine Lounge, and that is absolutely relevant to the Peller brand because icewine is their signature. Wayne Gretzky – they have the skating rink. That is perfectly curated for their brand,” Truszyk said, emphasizing that every part of the Trius Tour was created purposefully and meaningfully to match the Trius brand.

It’s been an exciting whirlwind and has been a resounding success in the first weeks of operation, she said. The winery has seen a 13 per cent increase in traffic this year from the same time last year. Though she can’t speak to the numbers for the rest of summer, she said there’s been a buzz surrounding the winery and the tour just as she hoped and anticipated there would be.

A lot of that has to do with the props and social media use of the #thetriustour hashtag, which hit Instagram the first day of the tour.

“The idea of creating experiences through instagrammable moments seemed very relevant, and it feels like a nice way to get a new generation interested in the brand.”

The tour costs \$35 and is available from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. all week. For wine club members, the cost is \$17.50.

Tours can be booked online or by calling the winery at 1-800-582-8412.



Top and bottom: Rebecca Kent, a Trius sales associate, spends her day off swinging through the Trius Tour. BRITTANY CARTER





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The Upper Canada Region Porsche Club make a stop at Peller Estates Winery during a tour of Niagara Parks attractions. RICHARD HARLEY

Niagara Parks explored in style

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

If you were walking through Old Town on a recent Friday evening, you might have noticed a string of shining Porsches making its way past the clock tower.

The convoy was made up of slick rides, driven by members of the Porsche Club of America's Upper Canada Region branch, who headed into town after spending the day checking out a long list of Niagara Parks attractions.

The group of 27 cars started in Vineland and headed over to Old Fort Erie for a tour, including

old-fashioned shortbread and lemonade. History was followed by a putting contest at Legends golf course, lunch at the newly \$10-million renovated Table Rock, an exclusive tour of the decommissioned Canadian Niagara Power facility and the Floral Showhouse in Niagara Falls, before heading to Niagara-on-the-Lake for more cruising, finishing up at Queenston Heights.

"It was to get everyone together and explore everything Niagara Parks has to offer, tip to tail," said Kim Viney, senior director of business development for Niagara Parks.

Viney secured herself a

hole-in-one in the mini-putt competition, some of the drivers said.

Marlene Walther, a Virgil resident, and one of the 53 that went along, said, "The power plant was unbelievable."

"It's a decommissioned one that's closed to the public and they only opened it for us for this day. It's got spiderwebs and all kinds of things."

The lunch at Table Rock and the view over the falls was also a highlight for Walther, she said. "And the company."

Stefan Walther, Marlene's son, and president of the Upper Canada Region

Porsche club, led the group during the adventure.

He said the group had a fantastic day.

"The Porsche Club always enjoys touring through Niagara with so many great roads, beautiful scenery and wonderful attractions, this day was no different as we had pit stops into some incredible Niagara Parks venues. The club has five driving tours in Niagara this year, including this August long weekend — you may see 50 Porsches pulling through town on Saturday, and then again in October to take in the autumn colours."



Two of the destinations were Old Fort Erie, and a de-commissioned power plant in Niagara Falls. SUPPLIED

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- Across**
- 4. Fit out (5)
 - 9. Release (7)
 - 10. Capital of Tibet (5)
 - 11. Sift (5)
 - 12. Italian little one (7)
 - 13. Covered with water (5)
 - 14. Thin fogs (5)
 - 17. One or the other (6)
 - 18. Receiving device (6)
 - 19. Gemstone (4)
 - 20. Separated (6)
 - 22. Vast (6)
 - 25. Inspires dread (4)
 - 26. Best (6)
 - 29. Swordsman (6)
 - 31. Forest god (5)
 - 34. River horse (Abbr.) (5)
 - 35. Doctors (7)
 - 36. Obscure road (5)
 - 37. Chocolate ingredient (5)
 - 38. Place in order (7)
 - 39. Pertaining to the kidneys (5)
- Down**
- 1. Unsustainable boom (6)
 - 2. Curved sword (8)
 - 3. Long-haired cat breed (8)
 - 4. Derby venue (5)
 - 5. Consumers (5)
 - 6. Make happy (6)
 - 7. Adventurous expedition (6)
 - 8. Universal in extent (8)
 - 15. Irreverence (7)
 - 16. Baby powder (4)
 - 20. Prediction (8)
 - 21. Individual facts (4)
 - 23. Capsize (8)
 - 24. Tubular pasta (8)
 - 27. Themes (6)
 - 28. Line on a weather map (6)
 - 30. Dared (6)
 - 32. West Welsh seaside resort (5)
 - 33. Saudi Arabian currency (5)



Have some fun

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9					10		
			11				
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Last issue's answers

J	G	C	M	A	B	O	U							
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Sudoku

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



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Nellwyn Lampert

Every Boy I Ever Kissed

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

NOTL native Nellwyn Lampert says there was a gap in the conversation about dating, sex and feminism for young woman – so she resolved to tell her own stories in the coming of age memoir, *Every Boy I Ever Kissed*.

Her first book, a memoir that was published on Saturday by Dundurn Press, is a narrative about trying and failing to lose her virginity. Though she eloquently recounts her own personal experiences, she says the book doesn't feel like it's about her at all.

"It's weird, because it's a book about me, but it's oddly not about me. I just think about that 17-year-old girl who's going to read it, and that's just what I focus on."

The 29-year-old feminist says she's always been a writer. Though she has "dipped her toe" in other career paths and jobs, she says writing has always been the end goal. She earned a

master of fine arts degree in creative nonfiction from the University of King's College in Halifax.

She works as a freelance writer and editor from her Toronto home, but she says she makes a point to visit NOTL once a month to touch base with her supportive family, whom she credits with laying the foundation for her love of literature and the arts. This book wouldn't have become a reality without their support, she says.

She notes that her openness likely comes from growing up in a small town – that isn't a quality she plans to leave behind.

"I bring that small-town attitude with me."

"I think, coming from Niagara-on-the-Lake, it made me a much more open person, a more friendly person. I'm always going to be that small-town girl, because I'm going to talk to that stranger in the elevator, I'm going to bake cookies for my neighbours."

She says she initially put a lot of the blame for her failed sexual experiences on

the fact that she was stuck in a small town.

She cited reasons for her failures – there weren't enough boys in town, or she would find more like-minded people once she moved to the big city – for her unpleasant experiences.

She says she realized each encounter likely fell flat in her expectations because of the constant need to meet some idealized image of what those moments should look like.

She was armed with her own raw experiences and had those stories to tell. The potential to guide future generations of young women toward a more realistic ideal of their own sexual identity through that narrative was enough of a reason to bare her soul publicly, she says.

The memoir connects the crucial moments and the vulnerability that arise while young women are developing their own identity, sexuality and self-worth.

"I feel there is this image in the media and society that's idealized about who



Nellwyn Lampert, NOTL born author of *Every Boy I Ever Kissed*. SUPPLIED

we have to be as liberated, modern, empowered feminist women," Lampert says, and she wasn't seeing anything that reflected what was actually being experienced by many women.

"A lot of women aren't having that idealized lifestyle."

Much of the media's representation of virginity is just wrong and often sexist, she says, even when they're trying not to be.

"It's the book that I needed to read, but it didn't exist. So, I wrote it."

The memoir is an easy read, told in the voice of a young girl who is trying to actualize her own personal identity while at the same time trying to establish her place amid the expectations of her peers and society.

Lampert touches on the self-doubt, exhilaration, dread, anticipation and disenchantment of each defining moment from her adolescence to adulthood – painting a vivid picture of the all-too-familiar struggle modern women face in regard to their own sexual

identity.

"I think it's really important for young women to take some of the pressure off of what they think their dating life, or their sex life, should look like. And I think it's important to give young women more authentic and more honest representations of those ups and downs," she says.

Every Boy I Ever Kissed can be found at Chapters/Indigo bookstores, as well as online at Amazon and through Lampert's website, www.nellwynlampert.com.

Niagara College crafts truly local beer

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The Niagara College Teaching Brewery will continue to stand out for its use of locally grown hops as it joins the 17 craft breweries and one cider house that have already jumped on the BrewON initiative.

The Ontario Hop Growers' Association launched the

initiative in 2017 to encourage "farm to pint," locally grown craft beers. Through the initiative, breweries are presented gold-level logos for brews crafted using 100 per cent locally grown hops, and a standard-level distinction is presented for those using 50 to 99 per cent.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake campus has been using its own locally grown hops since

the inception of the brewmaster and brewery operations management program in 2010. A two-acre hop yard on campus has been available for students, with 12 varieties of hops on hand for aspiring brewmasters to take advantage of in their recipes.

"Across Ontario, farmers are growing hops and building connections with local craft brewers. We want to

reach out to future brewers to get that message to them early," said the association's vice president, Rob Rombouts in a media release.

The first college product bearing the gold BrewON sticker was crafted by third-semester student Elizabeth Beresford for her Hefe It Up, which is a German-style wheat beer.

"I believe it is so impor-

tant to use Ontario or locally-grown products as much as possible and not just for brewing," said Beresford in the release. "It gives me a sense of pride knowing I have ingredients grown so close to home and I was so excited to have certified 100 per cent Ontario grown hops in my beer, as well as being able to advertise that fact on the can."



Niagara College's brew Hefe it Up was awarded the gold-level BrewON logo. SUPPLIED



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Dancing filled the afternoon at Simcoe Park during the sixth annual TD Niagara Jazz Festival. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Jazz Fest takes over Simcoe Park



Seth Falk of Hands on Exotics brought his parrot to Simcoe Park, among other animals. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



Juno nominee Alex Pangman, Canada's "Sweetheart of Swing," performs at Simcoe Park. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Town passes new fireworks restrictions

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Lighting up the sky with fireworks is going to get more complicated in NOTL.

An updated fireworks bylaw, regulating the sale and use of fireworks in town, was approved by Niagara-on-the-Lake council.

The new bylaw prohibits the use of flying lanterns as they pose a serious fire hazard if they land on trees or rooftops while still being ignited, town staff said in a report.

Fireworks displays will also have to be in accordance with the town's noise bylaw, deputy fire chief Nick Ruller told councillors. If there are revisions to the noise bylaw in the future, these changes will tie in with the fireworks bylaw as

well, Ruller added.

With a new bylaw, the fees for a firework approval and a special event permit will remain unchanged. Firecrackers and prohibited fireworks are also still banned.

The previous bylaw, passed in 2002, doesn't address all the federal regulations and contains vague terminology, town staff said in a report to council.

Having recognized that the previous bylaw was outdated and didn't include flying lanterns, fire department staff saw an opportunity to provide more clarity and clean up some terminology, Ruller said.

Town staff will make sure affected businesses and wineries are notified of the new bylaw, said Sheldon Randall, the town's director of operations.

Garden of the week #8



Top: Jan Van Haren. Bottom: Brian Carberry. Both are winners of the eighth Garden of the week. BRITTANY CARTER



Emterra Environmental donates more than \$37,000 to Niagara Health Foundation

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Every time Niagara Region residents put out their blue or grey recycling boxes for collection, they help fight cancer.

For every tonne of recyclables and used batteries, Emterra Environmental, which provides garbage collection services in most of Niagara Region, donates \$1 to the Niagara Health Foundation's Walker Family Cancer Centre.

This week, the company presented \$37,930 to the foundation, representing the 37,930 tonnes of recyclables and used batteries collected in 2018.

Over the past eight



Bob Bond and Al Vanden Boogaard on behalf of Niagara Health's Spiritual Care Team pose with a cheque presented by Paulina Leung, Emterra's vice president of corporate strategy and business development. SUPPLIED

years, Emterra has donated \$311,900 to the foundation.

"We are very proud of the Emterra Environmental and Niagara Region's 'Make Your Contribution at the Curb' challenge," Paulina Leung, Emterra's vice-president of

corporate strategy and business development, said in a news release.

"This program, which is a core component of our Community Care program, is a premier example of how the regional govern-

ment and a private sector company like ours can work together for the betterment of the community. And it's always fun to remind residents that the more they recycle ... the more we give," Leung said.

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Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report



Niagara Lion's Beach

There was seldom a summer day that we kids did not spend at the Niagara Lions beach (now better known as the site of the gazebo and Queen's Royal Beach). Often there were so many people sun bathing on their towels that you had to step over and between them to get to the water. Some days the sand was so hot from the sun it would almost burn your feet to walk on it. In the 1950s, the Wilkinson family ran the Niagara Lions Club hot dog and french fry stand, which also had change rooms.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

The Lake Report

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Thank you.



Calling all cooks!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

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

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

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

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

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



There's more to the bungalow

Brian Marshall
Featured



The typical bungalow has a strong horizontal emphasis, like this classic 1840s Regency bungalow. BRIAN MARSHALL

Bungalow? If asked what a bungalow is, most folks would immediately conjure up an image of a single-storey Ranch style house. And, while we wouldn't be wrong, that's not the whole picture.

So, let's begin with the origin of the word bungalow. When Europeans first opened trade with the Indian subcontinent, they found a low-set dwelling with multiple openings (to encourage cooling breezes through the interior) located under deep roof hangs that shaded expansive verandahs.

Called banglain Hindi or bangalo in Gujarati, the

fundamentals of this form became "the" choice for homes of British army officers during India's colonial period. As the anglicized bungalow concept migrated back to England with the returning military, it found a ready reception amongst Regency architects.

Although the form was completely in sync with Regency's "anchored-to-the-earth" philosophy, the elements which made the bungalow an ideal tropical dwelling didn't easily translate to the English (or Cana-

dian!) climate. In response, these architects altered some of the elements, such as installing French doors (equipped with storm shutters) in verandah openings to make them somewhat more winterized.

The bungalow form they worked with was not necessarily a single-storey building, but their designs invariably appeared to settle down into the landscape.

In the early 20th century, the Greene brothers of California used the bungalow form as the basis

for their Craftsman designs (many of which were storey and a half or even two storeys, like the Gamble House in Pasadena, Calif.).

Here again the criteria was, and still is, not the height of the building but rather the house form which defines a bungalow. Frank Lloyd Wright often used the form, as did the architects of the Contemporary style (often referred to as "Mid-Century Modern").

All to say that the Ranch style, which is commonly used as a rule-of-thumb when describing a bungalow, is only one expression of many that use this form.

Confused? Well, blame it on marketing. But between us, look for homes with a horizontal emphasis on which the roof extends to deep overhangs and/or verandahs or porches, which in combination with cladding surfaces and design elements draws your eye down and out into the landscape.

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Crossing the river used to be much simpler

Linda Fritz
Exclusive/The Lake Report

Until the 21st century, the citizens of Lewiston, N.Y., and Queenston, Ont., had much in common. The Niagara River, an international border, separated them, but the barrier was minor.

During the 1970s, boys in the village of Queenston challenged themselves crossing the Niagara River. At least one swam across.

Because his friends didn't believe him, he did it again, ran up to one of the outdoor tables at a riverside bar, stole an ashtray and returned. His friends believed him this time. Meanwhile, a prominent citizen of Niagara-on-the-Lake chose to climb across the under-structure of the Queenston-Lewiston bridge. We have only his word that he made it over.

The more traditional way of crossing the river is using the road deck of that bridge.

The present structure, which opened in 1962, is a couple of kilometres south of Queenston at the top of the Niagara escarpment. It had two predecessors.

The first bridge was built around 1850, replacing a ferry service between Lewiston and Queenston. Although it blew down in a storm in 1864, it was left swinging on its cables until a new bridge was built at the end of the 19th century.

In the meantime, the ferry service resumed. It ran until July 22, 1899, when the second bridge was finally opened. As the 20th century progressed, this bridge proved to be too narrow as motor vehicles, particularly trucks, became wider.

T. Alan Clifford's story of a fire that happened in Queenston in 1949 confirms the problem. Clifford said, in his unpublished memoirs, that the fire was seen in Lewiston. The

bridge could not carry the weight of Lewiston's new fire truck and it was forced to go to the Lower Bridge at Niagara Falls to make the crossing.

The bridge, however, remained important to pedestrians. The Robinson sisters, whose grandparents owned a small house on Princess Street, spent their summers in Queenston. While they were in the village, they accompanied their mother to the Lewiston Library once a week. "We would walk across the bridge in both directions with heavy bags of books," the youngest sister, Vivian, said in an interview from her home in Tennessee.

Until well into the 20th century, it was impossible to get a drink in Ontario on a Sunday. Queenston residents were in a unique position to slake their weekend thirst. They simply walked across the bridge to have a beer in the pubs in Lewiston. The customs office closed at midnight, however, the officers knew everyone in the village, so they didn't worry about contraband from the United States.

A person well acquainted with life and the bridge was Marian Murray, a teacher at Laura Secord School. She met her husband Jack in Queenston. Jack was a Scot who had enlisted in the American army during the Second World War.

Apparently, he was blind in one eye, so was discharged. He came to Canada intending to enlist here, but didn't. He worked on the bridge, eventually becoming an immigration officer.

The Murrays crossed the bridge regularly for meals, shopping and visiting friends. Mrs. Murray, who died in 2015, told me she believed that when the old bridge was torn down, life in the village changed.

The second bridge was closed in October 1962. An



First Queenston-Lewiston Bridge-1859-Kathy Thomas via Getty Images

abutment on the Canadian side and a piece of the superstructure on the American still mark its location.

When the present bridge was opened, there was a sidewalk, but people didn't use it. They would have had to walk up the escarpment to get to the bridge. This wasn't so bad, though, because they could get to it from the Niagara River Parkway. The sidewalk was eventually taken out, and an entrance from the Niagara River Parkway to the bridge was closed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on New York City.

The authorities did allow bicycles to cross the new bridge early on. A friend of Mrs. Murray, Queenston resident Mary Pompetzki, told me she and her husband liked to camp near Youngstown, N.Y. On one occasion, their son did not go with them. He arrived a few hours later, however, having cycled across the bridge.

When she talked about the earlier bridge, Mrs. Murray said, "There was an incident where a truck was leaking gas on the bridge. In order to prevent

accidents, it was towed across. Someone had heard that one enterprising rescuer put a Sunlight laundry soap bar on the place where the leak was happening, and caused it to stop. It worked, so the bridge staff kept laundry soap around just in case."

The latest bridge has also had its own set of adventures.

Rob Copeland, a former Queenston fire chief, recalls a call coming through to the fire department about a suspicious package that had been left on the side of the road near the bridge.

The local police authorities responded with a robot that was supposed to be able to climb curbs and open the package. The robot, however, would fall over every time it got to the curb. Exasperation finally set in and a police officer decided to shoot the package open. The suspicious package turned out to be a postage meter.

Another call involved a transport truck leaking fluid as it was travelling to the United States. When the fire department

arrived and contained the spill, they were shown the contents of the truck. Inside were parts for a cruise missile. The truck was coming from Alberta and heading to a U.S. Air Force base.

The following article appeared in the Niagara Falls Evening Review in January 1962:

Giant steel arch sections, stretching out from the Canadian and U.S. shorelines of the lower Niagara River, are expected to meet at midstream in about 10 days, setting a record for the world's longest hingeless steel arch.

The distance between the abutments of the new \$17,000,000 international bridge at Queenston and Lewiston N.Y., is 1,000 feet. The structure being erected by Bethlehem Steel Co., will total 8,000 tons of steel.

The yet-to-be-completed superdeck of the bridge will carry motorists across the border at an elevation of 368 feet above the river, linking the New York Thruway with Highway 405 and the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Separated by a four-foot mall, the deck will provide two 24-foot wide roadways. On the south side of the bridge an eight-foot pedestrian walk will give travellers an unsurpassed view of the giant Canadian and American power-generation complex.

The steel arch, at its midway point, curves some 340 feet above the river.

The temporary ladder-like supporting bents are as much as 310 feet high and are believed to be the tallest ever used on a bridge construction project. They are, of course, scheduled for removal after the arch and superdeck are completed.

The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission expects to open the structure to traffic later this year.

No name has yet been announced by the bridge commission for the new span. It will replace the 69-year-old (sic) suspension bridge, about one and a half miles downstream, scheduled for demolition.

The new bridge has been designed as a "twin" of the Rainbow Bridge, (an) architectural award-winner when it was designed and built two decades ago.

Although Queenston residents still occasionally shop in Lewiston, life no longer revolves around the Queenston-Lewiston bridge. Getting to it requires a six-kilometre drive. The wait times have been known to be as long as three hours. In its heyday, though, the bridge added an important element to life in the village..

References: Niagara Historical Society and Museum, Canadian Encyclopedia, Canadian Biography Dictionary, Rod Dale.

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

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COMMUNITY



We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section.
Send your submissions to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to be featured.



A mouse in the house

Mori Gardens celebrates 45 years



Miguel Mori speaks during the anniversary of Mori Gardens on Saturday. JESSICA MAXWELL



NOTL Palliative Care in attendance at the anniversary celebrations Mori Gardens presented the organization with a cheque for \$6,500. JESSICA MAXWELL



The Lake Report's editor Richard Harley during the anniversary of Mori Gardens on Saturday. JESSICA MAXWELL



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms:
The Garrison House



Monique Turcotte accepts the Gold Plunger on behalf of the Garrison House. PLUNGER PATROL

After touring around the Old Town of NOTL you might enjoy a quieter setting for a "petite dejeuner" at Garrison Village. The phrase, "Come hungry darlin'" certainly fits this laid-back gastro-pub with its beer, wine and inspired plates of burgers and entrees. We enjoyed a light lunch and especially found the Parsnip Hummus a must try "appy" that would please the most discerning palate. This newer venue has combined the old with the new incorporating wide-plank floors and exposed beams, giving a taste of contemporary nostalgia. The restrooms were clean, large and provided several safety features, making it accessible for all. The toilet tissue pyramid sculpture tempted one's own creative side to make an installation art piece of their own ... Please take a picture and share on Jane Betty John's Facebook page should you decide to become a "Privy Picasso." The lavatory at the Garrison House was awarded a Gold Plunger earning 4/5 Plungers.

4/5 Gold Plungers



Garrett and Wall named to NOTL Sports Wall of Fame

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Two NOTLers are being celebrated for hitting their sports achievements out of the park and have been named to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sports Wall of Fame.

Doug Garrett and Dave Wall are being honoured for achievements, both on and off the field, at a ceremony on Aug. 23 at Meridian Credit Union Arena. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Garrett, 92, will be inducted as an athlete for his exploits on the golf course, though golf isn't the only achievement for which he is known.

He is a veteran, a member of the Legion, a Mason and



Doug Garrett has been named to the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame. KEVIN MACLEAN

once was a local milkman, aboard a horse-drawn wagon. His recognition in 21 NOTL Golf Club

championship victories at all levels and one Senior Champion of Champions for the Niagara district set

him above the rest.

Garrett was featured in a story in The Lake Report in May.

"His indomitable spirit and joyous personality coupled with innumerable course records still evoke joy and awe for all of those who know him," the Wall of Fame committee said in a statement.

Dave Wall will be inducted as a builder. He is being honoured for his behind-the-scenes work organizing and fundraising for NOTL's arenas.

He was one of founders of the Wallbangers Hockey team in 1984, and has spent years coaching, directing and managing slo-pitch teams, securing his place in the Sports Wall of Fame.

RIDDLE ME THIS:

I am an ancient invention that lets people see through walls. What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: I can only live where there is light, but I die if the light shines on me. What am I?

Answer: A shadow

Answered first by: Cheryl House

Also answered correctly by:

Margie Enns, Jacob Willms, Rachel Wagner, Cheryl House, Katie Reimer, Hannah Jardine, Wesley Turner, Sylvia Wiens, Mark Wright, Doug Hernder, Marion Briston, MariIn Vann, Louise Rogalski, Mary Walsh
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



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FEATURED LOCAL STORY



Mike Scott, centre, with his co-chairs from Mexico and the U.S. SUPPLIED

On the lookout for fellow model railroad enthusiasts

It's hard to imagine that Mike Scott has much free time for a hobby after his commitments to scouting are completed.

But he does.

Mostly during the short winter days Scott spends hours and hours of satisfying time, often with the help of his painter-wife, Manuela, recreating an HO scale railway layout that fills every corner of two basement rooms in their Niagara-on-the-Lake home.

The rivers and rocky cliffs, the towns and railyards and dozens of trains, come alive, modelled after photos taken of the real thing on the north shore of Lake Superior.

"For me it was a great release, because my job

was very stressful," Scott says. "It gave me something to do with my hands. I could forget the stresses of the day."

Scott is more interested in the artistic side. "I want you to look at the whole scene, and say, 'My God, it's real.' In fact, my laptop screensaver is a picture of the model and it has fooled a lot of people."

He hopes he can coax other model railroaders to join him for informal conversations about their hobby. Contact him by email at: miscott8084@icloud.com.

"I know there are other model railroaders in town. I'd like to get together periodically for coffee and just talk about it. It's fun to share ideas and experiences."

Scout leader Mike Scott: Changing young people's lives

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

For the past few weeks, Mike Scott has been in a West Virginia mountain haven, as co-leader of one of the largest World Scout Jamborees ever mounted—almost 45,000 Scouts (age 14-17) and leaders from some 120 countries.

Scott has spent much of the last 50 years leading the scouting movement at every level, from local to national, even international.

The 66-year-old Scott bought his home in Niagara-on-the-Lake with his wife Manuela six years ago, after an extensive career in customs brokerage, finally retiring in 2005 as president and CEO of Peace Bridge Brokers in Fort Erie.

Scott grew up in Weston, Ont., and was attracted to scouting at age eight. With the guidance of his scout-leader father, Scott went all the way up through scouting

ranks, graduating to leadership when he outgrew the youth ranks.

The Scout movement has grown exponentially over the past century or so. Famously, it was Robert Baden-Powell who took 20 young men on an adventure outing on the south coast of England in 1907.

Baden-Powell's 1908 book, "Scouting for Boys," became one of the best-selling volumes of all time and formed the foundation of one of the largest youth movements in the world, engaging over 50 million teens and young adults, male and female, in more than 200 countries.

The 24th World Scout Jamboree is being held from July 22 to Aug. 2 at the 10,000-acre Summit Bechtel Reserve, near Beckley, W. Va., the most advanced and sustainable adventure learning facility for youth in the world.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

was the home of the eighth World Jamboree, in 1955, when over 11,000 Scouts from 71 countries crowded the Commons around Fort George for the first Jamboree held in the Western Hemisphere.

This year's Jamboree is a unique team effort by the national scouting organizations in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The event, held every four years, was last staged in North America in Alberta in 1983.

"The reality is that Canada is a relatively small scouting organization—around 100,000 or so," says Scott. "We recognized that we didn't have the resources and the manpower to run another World Jamboree. So, when the U.S. made the offer of partnership, we were pleased to create a kind of scouting NAFTA."

More than 9,000 staff members mounted the 2019 Jamboree, planning and executing the event with

military precision. The 80-page Program Preview explains where to sleep, where to eat, what to wear and the hundreds of activities, both physical and collegial, available for the Scouts.

"A World Scout Jamboree is a life-changing experience," Scott says, explaining why these events are so valuable. "First and foremost, it's about meeting people your own age from all over the world."

"The Canadian group of 800 Scouts will be broken up into groups of 10 and they're plopped in everywhere, all over the campsite. They share the same washroom with Scouts from all over the world."

The Jamboree is also an educational event. "The kids will learn all sorts of things about world issues, like the concepts and practices for achieving sustainable development or the impact of artificial intelligence."

Rising in the Scout Move-



Mike Scott with his model railroad. TIM TAYLOR

ment from the local level, Scott became the chief commissioner for Scouts Canada, then the international commissioner. He and the other Jamboree co-chairs have been working on hosting the 2019 event for over 10 years.

As a member of the executive committee of the Jamboree, Scott has thousands of professionals and volunteers who worked to ensure the success of the event. "I've never had 9,000 people to delegate to before," he chuckles.

Scott has put thousands of hours into the Jamboree because he knows it will be a life-changing experience for the Scouts.

He has difficulty putting

his own motivation into words.

"It's all about the kids. Making sure the kids have opportunities. I had a fabulous time in scouting and I want them to find what I found. It had such an impact on my life. It gave me confidence. It gave me skills."

Despite the changes he's seen in his 50 years of scouting, Scott believes the movement remains relevant. "If you get the kids into the outdoors and get them away from their electronics, they're not really very different than we were."

But "first and foremost," he says, "scouting is about having fun."

You can tell from his smile and his passion, Scott is having fun, too.

