



Close matches for NOTL tennis champs



Story Page 10

Finalists Fran Doran and John Pilling, left, congratulate Paul Plourde and Kim Laidlaw, who won the mixed doubles title at the NOTL Tennis Club tournament. RICHARD HARLEY



Men's open champ James Grigjanis-Meusel. RON PLANCHE

Dramatic playoff finish as NOTL golf champs defend their titles

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The men served up some sizzle but the women supplied the drama and fortitude during a humid, steamy championship weekend at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club.

Men's open defending champion James Grigjanis-Meusel left everyone else competing for second

place as he beat his nearest competitor by a Tiger-like 16 shots over the two-day tournament.

On the women's side, two of the region's best female golfers went toe-to-toe for 36 holes – and then had to play four more sudden-death holes late Sunday afternoon to declare a winner.

Defending champ Yolanda

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Lake swim for transplant charity

Jillian Best is latest marathoner to complete arduous 52-km swim

J. Richard Wright
Special to The Lake Report

Watching 34-year-old Jillian Best walk carefully over stones into the cold, black waters of Lake Ontario at 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 3, I thought: "Go Jillian!"

However, this quickly morphed into a nervous, "OK, that's far enough. Come on back."

Probably understandable because ahead of this courageous young woman was an 18-hour, 52-kilometre swim from Queen's Royal Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake all the way to Toronto.

"I was totally ready for this," said Best. "I had trained for a year in both aquatic centres and very cold lakes, sometimes surrounded by snow. I vowed to myself that, whatever it



A smile of gratitude from swimmer Jillian Best, with her mom Bonnie beside her. DAN STENNING PHOTO

took, I would complete the swim."

As executive director of the Move for Life Foundation, and having received a liver transplant at London Health Sciences Centre in 2016, Best was attempting to become the first organ transplant recipient to swim across Lake Ontario.

Her goal was to promote organ donor awareness and help raise money to decrease wait times for organ recipient candidates.

But, this night, as her three support boats, lit with strings of coloured lights, manoeuvred into place, Best good-naturedly joked with her family and a small

contingent of supporters who had come to see her off.

The 40-foot lead boat, captained by Christine Arsenault, would set the course while two smaller boats, containing, among others, coach Benoit Raymond, swim master John Scott and London-based transplant hepatology specialist Dr. Mayur Brahmnia, would complete a V-formation and provide food, monitoring and safety checks.

Without fanfare, Best suddenly leaned into the cold water and pushed off to begin her swim.

In fact, the temperature of Lake Ontario that night averaged 21 Celsius (69.8) which posed the very real danger of hypothermia.

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All-way stop elicits some **negative** reactions

'Poorest designed thing I've ever seen,' says bike rental operator of new intersection

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Residents have expressed concerns about the bump out at the intersection of Queen and Mississagua streets, saying it's a recipe for a collision. EVAN SAUNDERS

Since installation finished last Tuesday, the new all-way stop at the intersection of Queen and Mississagua streets has stirred up a multitude of reactions, with praise for improved pedestrian safety and sharp criticism of the curved lanes and "bump out" design.

"I can finally cross the street without the risk of being mowed down," Elena Morandi-Bonner said in a Facebook post that had 48 reactions.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she has received feedback about the installation.

"People don't mind the stop sign. What they're having trouble with is the bump out," she told The Lake Report.

"I've gotten an email saying, 'Put it all back the way it was,' and I've gotten emails saying, 'This is fabulous.' So, there's mixed feelings out there."

She said it's too early to say whether the town will adjust or remove the bump out and keep the stop signs installed.

To visitors like Andre Perrault, the stop signs are like any you'd see all over

North America.

"There's a stop sign there, there's a stop sign there. It's designed so regular traffic doesn't go (to Chautauqua). For me, looks good," Perrault, of Montreal, said in an interview.

Perrault even utilized the new bump out for a photo opportunity of his wife standing in front of the garden and sign welcoming people to old town.

"It's a beautiful town," he said.

While some shared Morandi-Bonner's opinion that the stop would be helpful for pedestrians and traffic, comments on social media were overwhelmingly negative.

"If it ain't broke, fix it 'til it is!" Good news is, the tree bylaw isn't the stupidest thing, anymore," Colin Telfer said in a Facebook comment.

Former lord mayor Pat Dart told Telfer that he's "the best" in a comment, accompanied by seven haha's.

"(It's) designed for accidents," former councillor Paolo Miele commented. "This is the most ugly, ridiculous thing I've seen in a long time," commented Karen Taylor-Jones.

Charlene Chamberlain saw the traffic-calming measure as a good thing, noting, "We need this on Anne Street!"

Telfer had some specific concerns with the design of the intersection, he said in an interview Thursday.

"I don't know what they're expecting people to do. If you want to go straight you've got to bob around (the bump out)."

"There's going to be a

head-on collision. It's the poorest designed thing I've ever seen."

Several cars were seen cutting into the oncoming lane in order to navigate the curved lanes last week.

Telfer had no problem with the town adding stop signs but felt the bump out will be more hazardous than helpful, something he and Morandi-Bonner had in common.

"I'm not sure the curved lanes are necessary and they seem to add to the confusion," she said in a Facebook message.

But the intersection is one of the busiest in town and some sort of traffic control was necessary, she said.

"An all-way stop here is long overdue. So many cars failed to stop even with the previous stop sign."

Region's **slow approval** of NOTL's official plan irks councillors

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Councillors are working on ways to take further control of development standards in NOTL. FILE

Councillors are frustrated with the increased pace of development in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the delayed approval of the town's official plan by the Region of Niagara.

"We need a better framework to develop the policy we have and reflect the wishes and concerns of residents," Coun. Allan Bisback said during a committee of the whole planning meeting on Monday.

When the town's zoning bylaw was changed more than a decade ago, "I don't think there was any belief that we would be inundated with people moving from the cities, trying to move into our town, buying up our lots, knocking down the cottages and one-and-a-half storey houses and putting up large homes."

Chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie said the town would be organizing a workshop in September to help councillors understand where they can exercise more control over building and outline

future actions to rein in development.

Bisback appreciated the idea of the workshop but stressed the town needs to come up with solutions sooner than later.

"We have to move with solutions and not just accept the status quo," he said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said it is time for the town to update its zoning bylaw particularly in light of information she received from Craig Larmour, director of community and development services.

A town-wide zoning bylaw was implemented in 2009 and made general regulations for development across the municipality. The previous bylaw allowed for contextual zoning, which meant developments were required to build to the average dimensions of the surrounding proper-

ties and were not subject to town-wide regulations, said Disero.

The new zoning bylaw can create problems when the committee of adjustment gets involved.

Developers "go to the committee of adjustment and get variances. So, now it's not a 10-metre (height) it's ten and a half, and it's not a five metre setback, it's two and a half," Disero said in an interview Tuesday.

"A lot of members of council are saying, 'Why did we ever change the contextual zoning?' Who knew at the time that this would be the result of that?"

During the council meeting Monday, Disero said Larmour explained it was changed because "contextual zoning was too difficult. It was too much work to determine how tall and how far set back each

building should be."

"So some staff at that time and some developers at that time lobbied and they changed it."

"It's time for a review of those setbacks and I think we need to look at how we can protect neighbourhoods," Disero said.

She said it is a matter of protecting property values as well as neighbourhood character.

"Here's the issue for me: a house gets built huge on a piece of property, the houses next to it and all around it are dwarfed in size and they no longer have a value other than land value," she said.

Prospective homeowners moving to NOTL will look at new builds and immediately jump to the conclusion that they should demolish the homes they buy and build massive new houses, Disero said.

"It destroys the character. The Old Town and the character we have is really our economic driver to this town."

If it means changing the 30-foot height allowance or property setback rules, "then that's what we need to do. And it will not be an

easy task. We will get sued by everybody thinking that they have property rights, particularly developers. It will be tough," Disero cautioned.

Councillors wove greater control by the municipality over development into the official plan the town adopted in 2019. It is still awaiting approval by the region.

"It annoys me that the region is sitting on our official plan for so long," Coun. Wendy Cheropita said.

Coun. Clare Cameron echoed that sentiment and suggested the town start developing relationships with builders to push the desire for smaller homes, for the town to consider where NOTL's youth will go to school and to inform prospective homeowners of the character of the town.

"We all know what the problems are. We need solutions," she said.

The region does not need to have its official plan finalized until July 2022 and probably won't approve the town's plan until that is done, planning manager Rick Wilson said.

Some of the town's of-

ficial plan is not compatible with the region's but certain sections are and may move forward before the 2022 deadline, he said.

Disero said she has been doing everything she can to speed up the process.

"You know how rude and pushy I can be. I've been trying, I started pleading, I started begging. I asked them to give us parts of it," she said.

"Then I got the email from the representative of the planning department saying, 'No, we're going to do ours first before we do any of the local municipalities.'"

Cheropita stressed that the town needs to implement a community planning permit system, which allows greater building regulations for certain areas.

"That's one we really have to push for as quickly as we can because it will give us the tools and allows us to have building codes, standards and design elements," Cheropita said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs suggested the town ask the province to expedite approval ahead of the region's schedule.

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Sheri and Patrick Ruby walk near Ryerson Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake. RICHARD HARLEY

Walking that **extra** mile

Kevin MacLean
 The Lake Report

For Sheri Ruby, every day is literally a walk in the park.

Or around the block, on the treadmill, up the stairs, or right across town.

She walks and walks and ... walks.

In June, she and husband Patrick teamed up as Notty People, a twosome who competed with dozens of other groups during the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Step Challenge.

While most teams had four members, Notty People was just Sheri and Patrick. But the duo accumulated a phenomenal 2,566,590 steps over the month, second only to the Bayne family at 2.8 million steps.

But individually, no one came close to "Notty-Woman" Sheri's more than 1.5 million steps -- roughly 50,000 a day.

On a normal day she says she gets in about 25,000 to 30,000 steps, but during the first week of the challenge, "there was another competitor who was getting like 50,000 a day and I was like, 'What are you doing? How are you doing that?'"

"So, he actually motivated me to move myself, and then once I was achieving those numbers I kind of enjoyed having that challenge for the entire month."

On rainy or excessively hot days in June, she'd use the treadmill to supplement her outdoor treks. But even indoors, she'd consciously make multiple trips up and down the stairs to go that extra mile.

"If you've got a load of towels, you can just bring a couple up and go back down and get the rest. But, you know, that's just me trying to get the extra steps in and just being silly, too."

The retired Montessori teacher turned 50 during

the Step Challenge, and while she said that age milestone was a challenge in itself, she happily pushed herself to greater heights.

Whether it was a ramble to the Commons or along the lakefront, she used every opportunity to accumulate steps.

In walking around the Chautauqua neighbourhood, she'd hike up and down all its narrow laneways off Circle Street.

Her enthusiasm rubbed off on Patrick, aka "Notty-Man," who tallied just over 1 million steps.

"For me, the motivation to get out for a long walk (or hop on the treadmill on a rainy day) mostly comes from seeing how motivated Sheri was," he told The Lake Report.

"She had always walked a great deal, but she was genuinely excited leading up to the challenge to push herself even further. Which, by seeing her step

total, is exactly what happened."

Of course, there were days when he really wasn't keen to go, "but Sheri would give me that nudge to join her on a walk, and by the time we were done I felt great and was glad that I went," Patrick said.

Being motivated is key to succeeding in such endeavours and "as we age it becomes increasingly important to exercise regularly."

Sheri noted the pandemic made the last year and a half tough on everyone, so the month-long challenge was a great diversion, giving participants something to focus on.

Patrick echoed those sentiments.

"The NOTL Step Challenge was a unique way to motivate us physically every day in June. We are both very much looking forward to it happening again next year."

DNA tests needed to identify **body** found in water off shore of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Staff
 The Lake Report

The identity of the body of a man found in Lake Ontario on Aug. 5 by someone fishing near Niagara-on-the-Lake might not be known for weeks, police say.

The body was sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto for an autopsy and identification, Niagara Regional Police said in a news release.

"The cause of death remains under investigation," Const. Jesse Vuja-

sic told The Lake Report in an email.

"Positive identification of the deceased may take weeks as it is going to be done by DNA testing," she said.

A man and a woman from Toronto drowned in the Niagara Gorge on

Aug. 2. The body of the man has yet to be recovered. Police have made no connection between those drownings and the body found in Lake Ontario.

"The male who is missing in the Niagara River remains missing," Vujasic said.



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Canada

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COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 4
Region active cases: 53
Region deaths: 420
Region total cases: 16,388
Region resolved cases: 15,915

*August 11 data per Niagara Region Public Health



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Give yourself permission to be happy every day." - Patty Garriock

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Editorial

Public information: Part 4

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

In Ontario there is a legal statute called the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, a behemoth piece of legislation designed to ensure the protection of privacy of individuals in a multitude of instances.

This is a valuable and important law, and its aims are laudatory and valid, its goal being to protect people's privacy in many matters that really are no one else's business.

But in Canada, we also have a justice system that is free and open, courts that in the vast majority of cases (and in non-COVID times) permit anyone, from anywhere, to walk in from off the street to watch and listen as justice is dispensed.

The pandemic has made that more difficult, but cases are still heard online and can be watched via Zoom.

What happens in our society when, as we have documented in other editorials over the past three weeks, someone is charged with a serious offence or even a minor offence involving a serious incident – and no one is permitted to know? How do we reconcile that with the ideal of an open justice system?

Is such secrecy serving the concept of a free, open justice system, a principle that repeatedly has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada? Or is it hinder-



ing the transparency that is so vital in our democracy?

This is not about media vultures intent on being able to embarrass and shame individuals who stand accused before our courts. It is simply about the principle that society should have easy access to our justice system and be able to know and trust that justice is carried out.

To do so, people have to be able to find out who is accused of crimes – and police control that information. As we have already said, in many instances, no one other than the accused, the victims and their families will really care to follow cases through to their conclusion.

Problems occur when police, as they do in Niagara Region, decide to interpret privacy legislation in

ways that inadvertently run counter to the open justice system principle.

While the police concern about violating people's privacy is admirable, the Niagara police service takes it to extremes.

Its blanket policy of being overly selective about the information it releases (something as unintrusive as the name of a hospital or trauma unit someone is being treated at or the name of a street where a serious incident has occurred or, more concerning, the name of someone facing a minor charge in a fatal incident) acts as a roadblock to the openness espoused by our justice system.

The privacy legislation, which may be somewhat flawed despite its good intentions, gives law enforcement some latitude

in the information it can choose to release. Niagara police seem to interpret the law as strictly black-and-white, while ignoring the areas of the statute that permit some discretion and flexibility.

In essence, the police, who already wield an inordinate amount of power as an arm of the state, have become the gatekeepers in Niagara, effectively determining what people should know about what is going on in the justice system.

The police service is just one cog in that very important system and, respectfully, we urge Niagara police to revisit its policies about what information it feels can be entrusted to the public it serves and be more forthcoming to the citizens it serves and protects.

editor@niagaranow.com

New all-way stop is a terrible, dangerous idea

Dear editor:

I just drove along the street beside the NOTL golf course to Niagara Stone Road.

Three new stop signs, which in my opinion are not necessary, but OK. Then I drove into a roundabout that isn't a roundabout. What an asinine mess.

Waiting for an accident? It's likely going to be right here. A large truck had difficulty turning from Stone Road to Queen and as we

all know there are lots of these huge trucks in and out of our little town, building bigger and better homes.

Someone suggested this was to stop Ryerson Park from being invaded. Really? People come to that roundabout and change their minds? Please stop all this nonsense. Where the hell are we going with all this?

The entrance to our town was fine the way it was. The flower garden with info was fine. Now you want an

obelisk and bigger garden? What for? To boost someone's business?

My dad bought property in Niagara in 1949, so I spent lots of time here until I moved here permanently in 1965. I can honestly say it is a beautiful town but it definitely is not always a pleasure.

Traffic non-stop on Stone Road. Can't get out of my driveway, bank or grocers. You have to turn right and go around the block because

there's not a chance in hell of turning left.

I have tried to shop on Queen Street and, as I cannot walk far, I end up driving up and down trying to park. I give up and go to Niagara Falls or St.Catharines instead.

We have a beautiful town and it's a great place to visit. But it saddens me to see all that has happened over the years and continues to happen.

Sandie Schulz
 NOTL



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The Conservative plan to fight climate change



Tony Baldinelli
Special to The Lake Report

Climate change is an important issue facing our generation and generations that will come after us. Human activities are having a real impact on the environment worldwide, and to deny this, is a failure to understand the issue.

I have been proud of both Conservative leader Erin O'Toole's commitment to fight climate change and protect the environment, and in the necessary leadership he has demonstrated in this important policy area.

In April 2021, Mr. O'Toole released our party's plan to fight climate change and protect our environment. It pledges to accomplish this without doing it on the backs of hard-working Canadians. Our plan will also better support Canadians who struggle to get by, as goods, services, and life overall, have become more expensive from inflation and ever-increasing federal taxes, because of this unsustainable Liberal

government.

Within our proposed climate change plan, a Conservative government would scrap the federal carbon tax and work with the provinces to implement an innovative Personal Low Carbon Savings Account. This would maintain a consumer price on carbon but without one penny going to the government. You keep your money for yourself and decide how to best spend it on environmentally friendly products.

Our plan also commits to requiring that 15 per cent of the natural gas we use to fuel transit fleets, generate electricity, power industry, and heat homes and businesses be renewable by 2030.

It further includes commitments to work with the Biden administration in the United States to set minimum North American standards for key industrial sectors, backed up by border carbon tariffs to prevent leakage of emissions – and jobs – to countries with lower environmental and emissions standards, like China.

Getting more zero-emission vehicles on the road, developing markets for Canadian nuclear technology and natural gas, and rapidly accelerating the deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) are also key parts

of our party's plan.

Canadians have seen that the Liberal approach to climate change is one of big government taxes and phasing out key private sector jobs at a time when we need them most. Our plan puts consumers in the driver's seat and will reduce emissions while preserving jobs in all sectors of the economy.

My Liberal opponent recently wrote an opinion piece for The Lake Report that said she is "proud of the leadership our federal government demonstrated from 2015-2019 in fighting climate change after 10 years of inaction by Stephen Harper's Conservatives."

Good thing it's her opinion because the reality is that between 2015 and 2019, the Trudeau Liberals adopted the same emission targets the Harper government had established – the same ones they criticized in the past two elections.

And yet, what has happened over the six years they have been in office? According to an Environment Canada report in April 2021, greenhouse gas emissions in Canada actually increased in 2019 over the previous year.

But we should not be surprised by this lack of leadership from Justin Trudeau.

Remember, it was 2013 when Justin Trudeau admit-

ted that he holds a level of admiration for China because their "basic dictatorship is actually allowing them to turn their economy around on a dime."

Let us not forget that same economy belongs to a communist-led Chinese government that continues to imprison our citizens, commits acts of genocide against the Uyghur Muslim minority in their country, and is still powered by dirty coal – generating power, producing some of the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

According to the international research company Rhodium Group, in 2019, China's emissions not only eclipsed those of the U.S. – the world's second-largest emitter – but also, for the first time, surpassed the emissions of all developed countries combined.

Simply put, when real leadership is needed in the world, Justin Trudeau continues to be missing in action.

And when my Liberal opponent blatantly lies in her opinion piece by writing, "Conservatives under Erin O'Toole continue to ignore climate change," she should issue an apology for misleading readers of The Lake Report.

Tony Baldinelli is the Conservative MP for the riding of Niagara Falls.

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Memories of meeting former Premier Bill Davis

Dear editor:

I met former premier Bill Davis on two occasions, once in 1985 and then again 15 years later, in 2000.

In 1985, I was the host of a morning radio show in Brampton, where Bill Davis was elected as MPP in 1959 and quickly rose to become premier in 1971. In 1985, Mr. Davis retired from politics.

Liked by many Ontarians, Bill Davis, while not confrontational, and was eminently likeable. He was easy-going with a keen sense of humour and was always on the right side of history, regardless of politics.

To honour and celebrate his accomplishments, the



Bill Davis. WIKIPEDIA

Conservative riding association held a farewell party at the Brampton Golf Club.

It was a Friday evening, with dinner, dancing and, of course, speeches. The radio station had purchased a ticket for me and, after

dinner, I joined a receiving line to say a few words to the premier and to shake his hand. I introduced myself and his response was, "I listen to your show from time to time. Good job."

A short time later he spoke, without notes, for about half an hour. By the end of it he was crying. Many of us were crying, too.

Skip ahead to the year 2000, the year Robert Welch died. He was Ontario's former attorney general and deputy premier to Bill Davis.

At that time, I was living in Niagara-on-the-Lake and was campaign manager for Gary Burroughs in his first run for lord mayor.

Together, Gary and I attended the memorial service for Robert Welch, held at Brock University. Bill Davis gave a heartfelt eulogy that was peppered with humour.

Prior to the event there was again, a receiving line with Bill Davis. When it was my turn, I said, "It's nice to see you again, sir. I last spoke to you ..." He interrupted "at my retirement gala at the Brampton Golf Club."

And that cemented my admiration for William Grenville Davis, whose death at 92 this past Sunday was, for many, the key to so many memories.

*Bill Auchterlonie
NOTL*

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Survey should give options to offer **better ideas** on gateway

Dear editor:
This letter was sent to all members of NOTL council.
I wish I did not have to write to each of you individually but I find this the only way to express my opinion on what has been called the Niagara-on-the-Lake Gateway Project, but which turns out to be a “Queen and Mississauga Enhancement Project.”

The media reports of the July 26 town council meeting indicated the public could express their opinion about the gateway project on the town’s website. I logged onto it, scrolled down all the announcements on the left side of the screen, found nothing, so went through the Twitter announcements on the right side and the

eighth one down, dated Aug. 4, informed me I could take a survey on Join the Conversation between July 28 and Aug. 22.

I found a 12-question survey which informed me that in December 2019 an “incredible donation of \$250,000” had been made by the Gerald Kowalchuck Family Fund to enhance the entryway to Old Town.

Nowhere in the survey was there a space provided for me to state my opinion as to the appropriateness of spending \$250,000 on a strip of town-owned land at the end of Mississauga Street.

Instead, I had to answer questions about whether the planned 40-foot-wide wall was too wide or too narrow, of what material I’d like to

see it constructed with, what should be on the 25-foot high obelisk representing a lighthouse built in 1803 and torn down 11 years later in order to build Fort Mississauga, still in existence more than 200 years later.

If there was a space in the survey where I could have expressed my opinion on this entranceway, I would have said the following:

1. Instead of a 40-foot-wide wall, I would like to see a six-foot-wide sign made of wood saying, “Welcome to Niagara on the Lake, Settled c. 100 A.D. by Mound Builders, Resettled c. 1780 by colonists from Britain and North America.”

2. No obelisk representing a lighthouse that only existed for 11 years.

3. Cherry, peach, pear, and apple trees representing what Niagara is known for across Canada: its tender fruit trees. Think of all the canneries that used to exist in Niagara-on-the-Lake as well as the old photos of multiple bushels of fruit lined up at the Niagara and Queenston docks to be placed on steamers and sent to Toronto.

Surely this envisioned entryway would cost less than \$250,000. Hopefully, the remaining funds could be used in NOTL’s many parks (Queen’s Royal, Simcoe, Memorial, Rye, Ryerson, Queenston, Virgil, and St. Davids) to provide new plantings, benches and playground equipment.

Elizabeth Masson
NOTL



An illustration of the proposed \$250,000 new gateway into Niagara-on-the-Lake. SUPPLIED

Bicycles: The good, bad and ugly

Dear editor:
My husband and I are tax-paying seniors who take walks most days for our physical and mental well-being. We live near Niagara Stone Road and Four Mile Creek.

There are several bike rental companies near us. This summer many, if not most, of the cyclists have been considerate and are using the bike lanes provided. These bike lanes are wider than the sidewalk. Some politely warn us that they are approaching and don’t force us off the sidewalk.

Today, however, was very upsetting. Not only did the group of twentysomethings take over the sidewalk, forcing us to move aside, but one young man came charging up behind us after passing, screeched his bike,

circled us with the bike and threatened us.

Shortly after that a large bike tour came up behind us and asked us to step aside for a large group of cyclists who easily could have ridden around us on the edge of Gales parking lot. At least the tour guide was polite but I don’t believe he should have expected us to move out of their way.

The SIDEWALK is just that, a place to walk. Bicycles are vehicles and should be on the road.

I would like to request that owners of bicycle rental companies ask their patrons to be considerate of others when they rent them their bikes.

Many like to and need to go for walks. Niagara Stone Road is a busy thoroughfare but it has lovely, wide bike lanes

(wider than the sidewalks) on both sides from Four Mile Creek past the school. I would also like to request that tour guides set an example of courtesy and consideration.

We previously enjoyed walking along the river on the pathway but have found cyclists rushing up behind us and not ringing a bell or calling out to warn of us of their presence.

It’s too frightening so we have yielded that option to the cyclists. Hopefully we don’t have to yield walking from our home to the park as well. It would be nice to see some of the town’s bylaw enforcement officers checking up on the cyclists, especially after they have visited a few wineries.

Anita Miller
Virgil

Hummel suit **hurts taxpayers**

Dear editor:
Part of the letter written by Derek Insley (“Developer is entitled to appeal ruling, and let’s be patient with gateway plan,” Aug. 5), in my opinion, may benefit from the clarification of some points.

In the first place, whatever it is that developer Rainer Hummel is successful at is not of very much interest to me or to most other people for that matter, except where it has an impact on their tax burden.

Secondly, Mr. Hummel’s right to appeal has never been questioned or disputed, but in fact has long been recognized and expected as my previous letter clearly points out.

Thirdly, Ontario Superior Court Justice James Ramsay dismissed Mr. Hummel’s lawsuit against the town as being contrived and the judge obviously sees the NOTL council decision, claimed as suspect by Mr. Insley, in a somewhat different

light. Finally, the suggestion only that an explanation from Mr. Hummel be provided giving grounds for this appeal, other than his legal right to one, is based simply on the fact that at the end of the day the resident taxpayer would have to foot the bill for any costs that may be incurred by the town, all for Mr. Hummel’s personal benefit.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Non-expert opinions matter, **too**

Dear editor:
I am writing in regard to the article “Is it hateful? Experts talk about ‘traditional marriage’ sign,” published on July 29.

If the editor had any shred of editorial responsibility, it was sadly lacking in this article. Who are the so-called experts from the Canadian Anti-Hate Network and the University of Toronto he called upon to comment?

How about these two,

so-called experts, give a moment to consider that the rest of society, who may not call themselves experts, have a right to an opinion which may differ but not be hateful.

The response by your U of T expert to her student’s question on why isn’t there a white club, was, “There is, it’s called the Klu Klux Klan,” is misleading, inflammatory and inadequate.

Let’s hope in future, that opinions, by so-called

experts such as these, are given proper scrutiny by a more discerning individual before publishing.

The original issue was the fact that installation of a rainbow crosswalk has been suggested. We don’t need to bring in the experts or the Klu Klux Klan, nor infer that if residents don’t approve the idea, we are hateful.

Jean O’Malley
NOTL

What constitutes an ‘**expert?**’

Dear editor:
When is an expert an expert? It depends on the context.

Suppose Richard Harley (the author of “Is it hateful? Experts talk about ‘traditional marriage’ sign”) had a severe toothache. Would we expect that he would consult a dentist rather than an oil field worker who is an expert in drilling? The answer is self-evident. Yet on a legal issue he did not consult a lawyer.

Under section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms one finds that

“Everyone has the following freedom: ... (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression...”

The right is fundamental to a functioning free and democratic society. It is not an absolute right. It does not protect “hate speech.”

There is even an offence under the Criminal Code that catches hate speech, a section recently used successfully against the owner and the editor of a small newspaper in Toronto.

But for hate speech to be a crime, it is narrowly

construed. It does not catch hurtful (a Lake Report editorial used both terms “hateful” and “hurtful” interchangeably), intolerant, or blasphemous speech or jokes in bad taste.

Even one of the non-legal experts noted: “Roback said while he’s not a legal expert, Koller’s sign likely doesn’t meet the criteria for hate speech.”

I expect better from The Lake Report, the best community paper in NOTL.

Ron Fritz
Queenston

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

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Free CAA 'Slow Down' lawn signs illegal under town bylaw, despite police endorsement

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



CAA lawn signs are not legal in NOTL. SUPPLIED

Lord Mayor Betty Disero says the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has no plans to exempt "slow down" lawn signs from the town's bylaw.

Free signs are being distributed by CAA Niagara to promote traffic safety.

But NOTL's sign bylaw outlaws such lawn signs. It's not known how often the prohibition is enforced.

Disero said she fears that if council allows one sign then it will have to allow others, which could result in offensive signs being displayed in the municipality.

The issue could come to council in the next few weeks and the signs might be allowed, she told The Lake Report.

"Council's unpredictable. We haven't talked about it but I'm sure we will," Disero said.

CAA Niagara in part-

nership with the Niagara Regional Police Service is offering the signs free to all residents in the region to try to curb speeding on residential streets, according to a police news release.

Signs are limited to one per household.

"We have to be very

careful about allowing lawn signs because we could end up with some very awkward and controversial signs that may not be pleasant for people in our community," the mayor said.

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati gives such signs free to residents and says people love them, Disero said.

It's not just offensive material that has Disero concerned.

She also worries that people's lawns could turn into popular places for business advertisements.

"It's the influx of a lot of different signs and some hurtful ones. So, I don't know."

Diamond Estates acquiring Queenston Mile, Creekside and Shiny Apple Cider

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Diamond Estates Wines & Spirits Inc. is purchasing two high-profile vineyards and a cider producer in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The company is finalizing its purchase of the Equity Wine Group and the Shiny Apple Cider brand, according to lakeviewwineco.com, a subsidiary of Diamond

Estates.

The company is looking to raise \$8.5 million in equity to complete the acquisition, according to its website.

Equity Wine Group owns Creekside Estate Winery in Jordan Station and the Queenston Mile Vineyard in St. Davids.

Shiny Apple Cider was founded in 2014 and operates out of Small Talk Vineyards on Irvine Road.

Diamond Estates already

produces several wine brands such as Dan Akroyd Wines, Twenty Bees and Eastdell Wines.

The Queenston Mile Vineyard has been the subject of controversy surrounding its push to install commercial cooking equipment on-site.

Town councillors have repeatedly rejected the request and added conditions that require the vineyard not to have a restaurant on

site. Those restrictions are still under review by town staff, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an interview Wednesday.

Diamond Estates will assume all planning matters regarding the Queenston Mile once it takes over.

The mayor is optimistic about Queenston Mile changing hands.

"At this point, anything would be more co-operative," she said.

Car crash prompts creation of four-way stop

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A two-vehicle crash at Concession 4 Road and East West Line on Monday has motivated council to quickly pursue the installation of a four-way stop.

The four-way stop was approved unanimously by the planning committee Monday but will need to be ratified at a council meeting on Aug. 30.

The collision caused two cars to roll over into the ditch but no one was injured, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said.

The intersection is not

without its tragic history.

In 2005, George Werner was driving his pick-up truck through the intersection when he collided with another vehicle and was killed, according to a media report at the time.

"That is not a very good corner," Coun. Erwin Wiens said after mentioning Werner's death.

Problems at the intersection had been addressed in the past, with council implementing larger stop signs than normal on Concession 4 Road.

"Certainly yesterday that wasn't enough," Disero said in an interview Tuesday, referring to the collision.

Council previously lowered the speed limit in that area to 60 km/h from 70.

"We brought it down to 60 and then staff in an information report brought it back up to 70 (last winter)," Disero said.

Disero felt that the change should have been made clearer to councillors.

"It's something that angers me. I got an email from one of the persons who requested the (speed) reduction and I was in shock. I thought, 'What? How did this happen?'" she told The Lake Report.

"I was a little perturbed that it wasn't a (standalone) report."



Town staff previously installed extra-large stop signs at the intersection of Concession 4 Road and East West Line. Lord Mayor Betty Disero says that change is not enough.
EVAN SAUNDERS



FISH FRY

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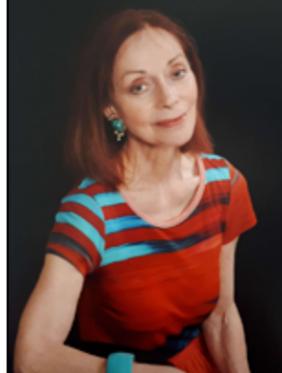
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Top row: Cathy Murray, who eagled the tough par 4 seventh hole on Saturday, blasts out of the sand, Ted Carmichael won the men's super senior category, Glenn Young watches his drive. Middle: Jim McMacken, who won the men's A flight, keeps a close eye on his shot. Bottom row: Michele Darling putts on the 10th hole, as Yolanda Henry, Ginny Green and Louise Robitaille look on, women's open champ Yolanda Henry, senior men's champ Jim Panetta, with Jim McMacken in background. RON PLANCHE PHOTOS

Yolanda Henry wins her **3rd open title** in playoff

Continued from Front Page

Henry edged another former club champion, Louise Robitaille, on the fourth extra hole. But it was a hard-earned victory.

"I started the second round with a three-stroke lead, which I lost to Louise on the front 9," Henry told The Lake Report.

"I was having trouble with my driver and 3-wood, and found myself scrambling to get back on track."

She needed to bear down and focus better.

"On the back nine, Louise and I went back and forth. She had a one-stroke lead going into the 18th hole and when she missed her putt for par, I knew I had to sink my putt to tie the match. And I did."

As dozens of spectators swarmed the course to

watch the battle, the women replayed the 10th, 11th and 18th holes, but were still tied after each one.

Showing no nerves, Henry made a clutch putt of about eight feet on #18 to tie the hole.

During the playoff, she said, "I really felt no pressure because Louise is such a great golfer, I assumed she would win. She'd had a couple of beautiful birdies and I figured she'd pull one out again."

Back on the 10th again, Henry said it looked like they could be in for a long evening. "Neither of us were planning to give up or give in."

But she said Robitaille gave her an opening on the fourth playoff hole and "I miraculously was able to take advantage of it to win."

It's her third women's

open title, winning last year and in 2016.

"I never imagined that when I moved to NOTL as a novice golfer 15 years ago that this would even be possible," Henry said, adding she and her husband Mike enjoy the "wonderful community of fellow golfers and friends" at the NOTL club.

Robitaille's performance earned her the senior women's crown. Both she and Henry qualified for the regional Champion of Champions tournament in September at Niagara National Golf Club in Stevensville.

For the lanky Grigjanis-Meusel, 27, his second straight title was a dominant performance. Last year he won by one shot with a clutch putt on the final hole.

This year his goal was to go under par for the tourna-

ment and it was mission accomplished. He ended up at 5-under (69-70=139). That was 16 shots ahead of Jim Panetta, another former club champ, who took the senior men's title. He and the open champ qualify for the Champions tourney next month.

Grigjanis-Meusel credited his win to his putting, which he practised "a lot" prior to the tourney.

The key hole from his perspective was #14 on Sunday, when he rolled in about a 40-foot birdie putt.

"That was a big one because I was 1-over on the back nine to that point," he said in an interview.

It also coincided with his parents Daina and Heinz arriving to watch him finish. "They saw me make the putt, so that was special."

Having such a big lead

can prompt mental errors, but Grigjanis-Meusel said he worked hard to "stay focused. I knew if I played my game and just worried about one shot at a time, I'd be fine."

As the trophy presentations wound down around 7 p.m. Sunday, there was just a little time for celebrating, he said.

But not too much. The champ works on the grounds crew at the golf course and he had to be up bright and early for his Monday morning shift.

No time to rest on his laurels, work started at 5:30 a.m.

OTHER WINNERS

Women's super seniors: Lisa Allen. A flight: Ginny Green. B flight: Susan Gagne. C flight: Carolyn Porter.

Men's super seniors: Ted

Carmichael. A flight: Jim McMacken. B flight: Jim Garrett (in a playoff). C flight: John Kozik. D flight: Martin Vagners.

TOURNEY NOTES

Congrats to the Murrays, Glen and Cathy. She had a spectacular eagle 2 on the tough par 4 seventh hole on Saturday and he finished eighth overall in the men's open, one shot out of a playoff for the B flight title. That flight was won by NOTL native Jim Garrett, who had an excellent tournament, making some key shots when he needed them, including a birdie on the first playoff hole to beat Sean Simpson. The playoff almost wasn't needed as Simpson, who shot a red hot 78 on Sunday, ran into trouble on the finishing hole to end up tied with Garrett.



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NOTL pair shares **Legends Cup** title

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

Two legends were crowned in the annual Legends Cup competition at NOTL Golf Club last week.

Warren Tutton and Doug McCulloch were deadlocked after the second round of play.

And instead of fighting it out in a playoff, the two respected golf buddies opted to share the trophy, just like the men's high jumpers at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Legends is an 18-hole total score competition played over consecutive Tuesdays – but it is restricted to players aged 80 and up.

After the first round, Tutton was a shot ahead of McCulloch, the defending champ. They ended up tied after the final round and when associate pro Ricky Watson said they could have



The lead-off group for the second round of the NOTL Golf Club's Legends Cup competition featured Darryl Fry, Warren Tutton, Kerry Knapp and Doug McCulloch. KEVIN MACLEAN

a playoff or share the cup, they opted for the latter.

Darryl Fry was first in the low net category, one shot ahead of Ian Rutherford and David Lailey, who tied for second.

In WOOFs league play the same day, John Sobil carded a 2-over 38 for low gross honours, while Mike Henry took low net with a 34. Bob Thompson won the hidden hole with a birdie

on #9 and Alex Topps was closest to the pin on #4. Rai Lauge won \$65 in the 50/50 draw.

WOMEN'S LEAGUES

Lisa Allen and Ginny Green shot 85 and tied for low gross in the 18 hole women's league on Tuesday. They were followed by Yolanda Henry (87), Cathy Murray (92) and Barbara Ahluwalia (93). Low net winners were Al-

len (68), Green (69) and Sue Sherk, Gayle Tanner and Ahluwalia (71). Jennifer Meszaros had a chip in on #8.

In the nine hole women's league, Helen McCallum won the Carmichael Cup low net trophy with a net score of 34.

MEN'S LEAGUES

John Sobil followed up his fine round of two days earlier by shooting a scorching 2-under 34 in the Thursday men's league. He was also first in modified Stableford scoring with 26 points, followed by Cal Cochrane and David Lailey (25), Jack Hanna (23) and Martin Vagners, Ralph Rickard and Darryl Fry (22). Joe Doria was closest to the pin on #4 and Dow Wright was closest on #9.

Jack Hanna won a \$200 net skin for a birdie on #1 and Ted Carmichael earned \$130 for a gross skin for his birdie on #9.



Cathy and Jim Rye won the Miller Group trophy at Music Niagara's golf fundraiser. JOHN SCOTT

Golf tourney raises **\$10K** for Music Niagara

Staff
The Lake Report

The "Duet Open" attracted more than 70 golfers and guests for a COVID-friendly fundraiser tournament and outdoor lunch in aid of Music Niagara on Aug. 4.

The 18-hole alternate shot event at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club was pronounced a huge success by tournament co-chairs Ginny Green and

Paul Shelestowsky. It raised more than \$10,000 for the annual music festival, Green told The Lake Report.

Cathy and Jim Rye, with a net score of 70, were the winners and recipients of the championship trophy, sponsored by the Miller Group realtors.

Music Niagara's At Home concert series is continuing online until September. Full details are available at musicniagara.org.

Chautauqua Open a slice of community



Top: Winners Evan McCaughey (swinging), Perry Johnson and Clark Robertson. Bottom left: Debbie Brown hits the ball. EVAN SAUNDERS Bottom right: Tournament organizers Kurt Hamm and John Gleddie man the prize table. KEVIN MACLEAN



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John Pilling, A division championship finalist. RICHARD HARLEY



Kendra Osa, A division consolation finalist. RICHARD HARLEY



Kim Laidlaw, A division champion. RICHARD HARLEY



Fran Doran, A division finalist. RICHARD HARLEY



Hugh Dow, A division consolation finalist. RICHARD HARLEY

Tennis matches ‘down to the wire,’ says organizer of

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The NOTL Tennis Club mixed doubles tournament was filled with close matches, as the sun beat down on players Friday and Saturday.

The tournament was the first for the tennis club

since 2019, before the start of the global pandemic.

Paul Plourde and Kim Laidlaw, first-time partners, took home the championship title.

Laidlaw, a member of the club for two years, said the win felt “fantastic.”

“I had a great partner, but it was the hottest day I think I’ve ever played,” she said after getting off the courts from her winning match.

Plourde said the game was “evenly matched” with finalists Fran Doran and John Pilling.

“A lot of credit to my

partner,” Plourde said.

“We want to say thank you to George Dell, one of the organizers. He was the one that paired us together, because Kim and I didn’t know each other before the tournament.”

Tournament director Holly Anderson said the event was filled with close

matches.

“There was some great tennis with extremely competitive matches, many of which went down to the wire with tie-breakers to decide the result,” said Anderson.

“Judging by the cheers and applause, the many spectators present enjoyed

the event and appreciated the quality of tennis involved.”

Bagged lunches were prepared in place of a buffet by Mary Lou Turner of Let’s Get Fresh Catering.

“It was a successful event and we hope a tremendous return to normalcy,” Anderson said.

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Mike Shatkosky
Owner



Paul Plourde, A division champion, during the final match on Saturday. RICHARD HARLEY



Manny Umoquit, fourth place A division. RICHARD HARLEY



John Goodin, third place A division finalist. SONJA SCHINDELER

RIDDLE ME THIS

I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?

Last issue: What month of the year has 28 days?

Answer: All of them

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Sonja Schindeler, Maria Janeiro, Michele Campbell, David Steele, Gail Benjafield, Gwynn Tregunno, Josh Langendoen, Sheila Meloche, Sheila Mead, Wade Durling, Charlotte and Gwendolyn Webber Mayeda, Terry Nord, Howard Jones, Sylvia Wiens, Bob Stevens, John Venables, Pam Dowling, Gary Davis, Robert Wilms, Doug Bruce, Rick Staz, Sadie Willms, stevesiansky, Greeba-Ann Birch, Elaine Landray,

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B division champions: Margaret Hobbs-Mancusso and Enzo Mancusso. **Finalists:** Dorothy Booth and Scott McGregor.
A division consolation champions: Roman Korda and Nicole Marsh-Burke. **Finalists:** Kendra Osa and Hugh Dow.
B division consolation champions: Amanda and Jim Thackray. **Finalists:** Jennifer Allen and Terry Ratkovsky.
Third place A division champions: Cathy Buis and Scott Lewis. **Finalists:** Kathy and John Goodin.
Third place B division champions: Anne Robinson and George Schachtschneider. **Finalists:** Ann Davies and Ross Robinson.
Fourth place A division champions: Manny and Zeny Umoquit. **Finalists:** Deb Robert and Ken McGillivray.
Fourth place B winners: Natalie Early and Bruce Zvaniga. **Finalists:** Margie Lambert-Sen and Maz Sen.

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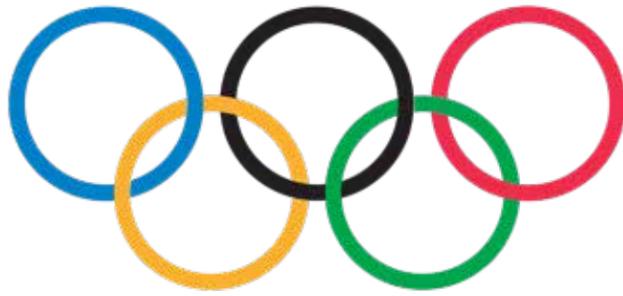


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Ross' Ramblings: **End the sexism** of women's Olympic uniforms

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

TOKYO 2020



The Olympics needs to stop forcing women to wear skimpy clothing. SUPPLIED

I have had it with the obvious demeaning of our female athletes.

Volleyball, the indoor version, is my favourite sport to watch. I have seen, live and in colour, the women's indoor volleyball gold medal games at the Munich and Montreal Olympics, and the 2015 Pan Ams in Toronto. Niagara College, Brock U, high school, gimme more.

The athleticism, the positivity, the variety of required skills, the "no big money here" pureness, the respect for the umpires and other players. Volleyball (and rugby) are my fave sports to watch, though I have never played either one.

Demeaning our female athletes, you say?

What's with the skimpy, leer-encouraging outfits worn by women beach volleyballers, water polo players and gymnasts?

Just so you know, I am a middle-aged gentleman who sincerely appreciates the various contours of the female body. In fact, before the ongoing deadly global

pandemic anchored me in NOTL, I enthusiastically attended nine consecutive Caribana parades and some of the attendant festivities in Toronto.

My pal Larry Sartor and I absolutely love Caribana. We set up a tent and sell sunscreen and iced water to the overheated ladies and gentlemen dancers and prancers. It is the most enthusiastic, prideful, "comfortable in your skin" event possible. Everybody is so, so proud and happy.

Back to my ramble about skimpy bathing suits in

sports. Women's beach volleyball is incredibly athletic, but only this year are people starting to rebel against the ridiculous outfits the athletes are forced to wear. The television camera angles focus on the south ends of the ladies when they are facing north.

The bottoms are almost thong-like and I am surprised no company has purchased the rights to tattoo their logo on the buttocks of the players. Nike, Coke, Mercedes-Benz, Emirates?

Probably just a matter of time, eh? The male

beach volleyballers wear tasteful shorts and tops, and gymnast women from Germany are now wearing full-leg tights instead of revealing, sexualized gear.

Ah, change, it is never easy. We should encourage change. As a result, more co-ed sports made their Olympic debut in Tokyo.

As a man, I feel weird complaining about skimpy female outfits, but enough is enough. Let's focus on the magnificent athletic skills of these women.

Seriously, folks, it's time. Let's end the leering and

sexualization. These women are high-performance athletes.

Penny Oleksiak, Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz, among others, also are superb athletes – and they have won armloads of medals at the Olympic Games in swimming events.

While they are inspiring and awesomely talented, I am not sure it is really fair to consider them the "greatest Olympians ever" or the "most decorated."

But, along with gymnasts, they participate in a sport that allows them to compete in multiple events at each Games: 100-metre freestyle, 200-metre freestyle, 400-metre freestyle, individual medley, butterfly, backstroke, various disciplines and distances, etc. They get a lot more chances to succeed. Lucky for them, eh?

Let's imagine other sports offering multiple medal opportunities for one athlete. How about in rowing, a 200-metre distance, a 1,000-metre race and a 2,000-metre event?

This year's Canadian chef de mission, Marnie Mc-

Bean, and her late partner Kathleen Heddle won three Olympic rowing gold medals each, over multiple Olympiads. But they had a very limited number of opportunities. Or Canada's Damian Warner, competing in the 10 events of the decathlon, but only having one shot at a medal. His was gold.

Perhaps some perspective beyond sheer numbers of medals is in order when we consider labels like "greatest ever."

And, on a totally unrelated, note: They're everywhere! They're everywhere!

Since the ongoing deadly global pandemic hit us some 18 months ago, it sometimes seems that every third vehicle on the streets of our wee town is red, with the NOTL corporate logo painted on the driver's side front door.

Pick-up trucks, cargo vans, SUVs, fire trucks, passenger cars, snow plows, bylaw enforcement, garbage trucks, and on and on. Is the total number of NOTL town vehicles really 40-plus?

Either way, that's a lot o' NOTL vehicles.

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Left: Jillian Best, at Queen's Royal Park in NOTL, makes ready for her 18-hour swim across Lake Ontario. Right, arriving at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto. DAN STENNING

Woman makes 18-hour swim across Lake Ontario

Continued from Front Page

To help combat this, Best was covered in "swimmers grease" a mixture of lanolin, Vaseline and Desitin. In addition, her movements would create energy and help maintain her desired body temperature. "Fortunately, when you enter cold water, the grease doesn't slough off," she said. "It hardens and provides long-term protection."

For additional protection and monitoring, prior to the swim, Best had swallowed a pill-like, core temperature sensor. "Every four hours my swim master would ask me to roll onto my back while he held a contactless

digital thermometer to my stomach to measure my core temperature. It stayed at 37 C except for one time, and warm liquids quickly brought it back up."

To replace the energy depleted by swimming, every 40 minutes Best would "take a feed." The rules, however, didn't allow her to touch the boat for even an instant.

"I had to be self-supporting in the water at all times. My crew would tie a rope to a bottle and throw it to me in the water. We also used squeeze tubes for baby food, which is high in nutritional value. For more solid food, like a banana, they used a lacrosse stick to hand it to me."

While she swam, Best said she had lots of time to think about her organ donor, and his or her family, who had saved her life through registering to be a donor. Also, the doctors and nurses who performed the transplant and cared for her afterward.

In addition, she thought about her husband Zach, her family and others who looked after her with such love and care. Finally, her 13-member swim crew who, individually, and as a team, were contributing so much of their time and skills to enable her to make the crossing. "Without them, none of this would have happened," she said.

Other thoughts included how far she had come from being so sick and weak from her disease, hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT).

"My mom had two liver transplants so I understood the challenges I was facing in recovery." It took Best two months to marshal enough energy after the surgery to enter the water and use swimming to build back muscle mass and stretch ligaments and tendons.

With the Great Lakes classed as inland seas, she was lucky to have calm waters during her crossing, though she encountered a few swells. "At one point, with about 15 kilometres

left to go, I ran into an offshore current. My swim master John Scott knew exactly what to tell me – nothing. I didn't realize that for almost two hours I was pretty much swimming in place. I didn't advance at all.

"We started at 11 p.m. so that I wasn't swimming into the night the next day," she says. "They told me I was averaging a pace of 100 metres every two minutes. And, for most of my swim, 60 strokes every minute."

Just 18 hours and 36 minutes after she pushed off, Best made her last stroke and arrived at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto. Doing the math of 60 strokes per-minute meant she had made

more than 66,000 swim strokes.

Why put yourself through such an arduous undertaking? "I really wanted to give something back to the transplant community who gave me my life back," said Best.

"That's why I founded the Move for Life Foundation to raise awareness and money for the transplant community. My wonderful swim team and I feel it was all worth it."

Readers can visit moveforlifefoundation.com to learn about organ donation or support her efforts. To register to become an organ donor, please visit beadonor.ca.

Fur buddies roam NOTL



NOTL photographer Donald O'Connor spotted these two unlikely buddies scavenging around Old Town at about 6 a.m. on a recent Saturday morning. SUPPLIED



The family of Flora Bjorgan would like to invite you to a celebration of her life.

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Needle case connects us to early NOTL entrepreneur **Mrs. S. E. Mulholland**

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

You've seen the ads for online gaming and some of our readers will have agreed to "playOJO.com" or visit other gaming sites. My game is different.

My game is searching online for historical material about our town and about Niagara Camp, which once occupied the Commons. My feeble hit rate is probably comparable to online gaming, but once in a while (as you will recall from trips to casinos) – presto, you hit the jackpot!

Here's my local insight jackpot: A 1906 needle case used as a Christmas promotion by Mrs. S. E. Mulholland. So, who was she and what did she do? As described in the museum's latest book, "Making Her Mark," Sophie E. Mulholland founded the Mulholland Department Store in 1867.

We now know more about her business acumen. The promotion emphasizes Gents Furnishings, with



An old advertisement for a NOTL business. SUPPLIED

the admonition "Don't wear old-fashioned togs young man, nor antiquated ties." (That sounds like she peeked into my own post-retirement closet!)

And on another page, she tells the recipient that she carries staple and fancy dry goods, carpets, oil cloths, and wallpapers as well as men's furnishings, etc. A sketch illustration pictures a woman with table cloths and table linen. In a smaller town, 115 years ago, you had to carry a variety of goods.

For a local merchant, she

had brilliant advertising instincts. By providing a handy-sized calendar for the year she motivated users to keep it on hand for an entire year.

And by including sewing needles (Queen Victoria brand made with a Royal Warrant) she anticipated that this would go in a sewing basket (remember them) and stay around for even more than a year. And that's probably where this one came from. Even more amazing is that this came from an online eBay vendor in Tillsonburg, Ont.

So, what happened to Mrs. Mulholland? I checked vintage local telephone directories at the museum and saw the business listed in a 1913 local phone directory and in a 1930 version.

Historian David Greaves tells me her son carried on the business and it was run out of the present Taylor's location on Queen Street, with the family home right next door where the Irish Shop now stands. Greaves also mentioned that the home had a pipe organ that poured out loud music you could easily hear in the store next door.

As with so many family businesses, the life of the business depends upon the life of the family, and it is no longer with us.

Fortunately, this vibrant business, run by a woman with business smarts who was clearly ahead of her time, has been followed by other NOTL retailers who have continued to provide well-presented products and services – but probably without promotional needle cases!



The town flag is at half mast for Bill Davis. EVAN SAUNDERS

Town flags remain lowered after death of former premier **Bill Davis**

Staff
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was preparing to raise its flags for the return of Canadian Olympians but the death of former Ontario premier Bill Davis has prompted the town to keep them lowered.

Davis was premier from 1971 to 1985, and died Sunday at the age of 92.

"The flags will stay at half-mast for the next few days until premier Davis' funeral," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an address to councillors Monday.

"We'll wait to raise the flag for the Olympians."

In public office for over 25 years, Davis was the

longest-serving premier behind Oliver Mowat, who led Ontario from 1872 to 1896.

Davis' final years in office marked the end of 42 years of the Progressive Conservatives governing Ontario.

He is remembered for educational reforms he brought to the province and for negotiating the constitutional accord with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1981.

"He really was a premier who accomplished a lot. It's sad, it really is the end of an era," Disero told The Lake Report.

"I remember politics back then and just how professional and open and really forward thinking (it was) during that time."

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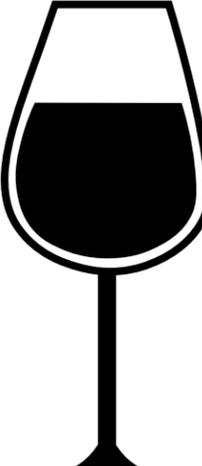
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New governor general Mary Simon is a **role model**, says NOTL Indigenous leader

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Mary Simon. SUPPLIED

With the appointment of Mary Simon as the first governor general of Inuit heritage, the executive director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre, says he is happy his children have someone to look up to – but worries the position is untenable for an Indigenous person.

“As a father of children, I think it’s important for them to see Indigenous people in leadership perspectives,” Karl Dockstader said in an interview.

He pointed out that while Simon will be a role model to Indigenous youth of today, she had no such role model when she was a kid.

“She would never have seen an Indigenous person in this high-profile leadership role,” he said.

“In fact, in the community where she grew up, she wasn’t even allowed to learn French.”

Simon’s lack of French has been a controversial subject since her appointment. She was educated in a federal day school in northern Quebec where French was not part of the curriculum.

The new governor general is still bilingual, fluent in English and Inuktitut. The 73-year-old has promised to start learning French.

The governor general is

the de facto head of the Canadian military, a responsibility that Dockstader said poses potential conflict.

“I would refuse a role like that. Because, as the head of the military, what if the military were called in to do something about the Coastal GasLink pipeline and the Wet’suwet’en people standing in the way,” he said.

“Is an Indigenous governor general going to be put in a position where she’s going to have to authorize the use of the Canadian military against her fellow Indigenous people?”

Regardless of the potential for conflict, Dockstader is happy to see Indigenous Peoples gain high-profile positions outside of Indigenous culture.

“I’m never going to be a NASCAR driver but when Indigenous people do well in stock car racing, I love it,” he said.

“Similarly, while I believe that our body politic exists outside of the body politic of Canada, I respect the

work that Mary Simon has done.”

With the national narrative surrounding the discovery of unmarked children’s graves at residential schools across the country, the possibility of tokenism on behalf of the Trudeau government cannot be overlooked.

“Mary Simon has put in the work, so I want to be careful about just saying that she’s been tokenized. But it’s impossible to ignore the fact that it seems like we are very much on the doorstep of an election,” said Dockstader.

He expressed concern that the Trudeau government was trying to garner favour with the appointment.

“And I hate to say it because Mary Simon is very qualified. But if so, why wasn’t Mary Simon governor general before Julie Payette?”

The possibility of Simon’s appointment pushing Indigenous issues forward seems even less likely in the role of governor general.

“That’s where I’m the least excited. Because it’s a figurehead role, I don’t think there’s much room to resist the colonial status quo that has clearly been bad for Indigenous people,” he said.

But these issues do not diminish the work that Simon has done on behalf of Inuit people in Nunavut, he said. “She helped negotiate the independence of Nunavut.”

Just as Dockstader referred to the separate and distinct natures of Indigenous and Canadian political systems, there are people who are critical of Nunavut’s independence since it is still under the umbrella of Canadian Confederation, he said.

Dockstader emphasized that independence was the desire of Inuit people and noted the positivity that they had a hand in deciding their future.

“(Nunavut is) very politically unique and it was a solution for Inuk people by Inuk people,” he said.

Simon was on the committee of the Nunavut Implementation Commission and helped establish the territory’s independence in 1999.

She was also the first Inuk to hold an ambassadorial position with the Canadian government, serving as the ambassador of circumpolar affairs and later as ambassador to Denmark.

Gateau & Grace series kicks off at St. Andrew’s

Paul McHoull
Special to The Lake Report



A flute sonata was played. SUPPLIED

The first gathering known as Gateau & Grace took place on the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 4, at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church with about 60 people attending.

There were different cakes to choose from, including one that was gluten-free.

Originally the organizers planned for refreshments to be consumed outside on the lawn, starting at 7, with music to follow inside the church.

However, COVID proto-

and ate it there.

Masks were worn inside the sanctuary except when the cake was being eaten. Still it is hard to believe that this was safer than allowing everyone to eat outside on the lawn.

Each week James van den Brink plans to play an organ solo composed during the pandemic. This first week it was “Elegy,” composed in 2021 by Paul Fey. Flute and piccolo player Cynthia Vermeer also performed.

Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine is the minister pro tem and will be at St. Andrew’s while the church looks for a new minister to replace

Rev. Virginia Head who has retired.

His message on “Grace” was based on Rembrandt’s painting depicting the return of the prodigal son. A copy of the painting was on the back of the program.

While this week he was focusing on the prodigal, in other weeks he will talk about the other figures in the painting.

Free will donations can be made as people leave the sanctuary

To view the performance, people can go to the website standrewsniagara.com and click on the Facebook link.



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Gustav Klimt's 'The Kiss'

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Is there a more rhapsodic image of intimate love than Gustav Klimt's "The Kiss"?

As we move on from COVID elbow taps to tentative hugs to longed-for kisses, it may be a surprise that this image of tender and enduring passion caused considerable controversy in Vienna.

Klimt was, undoubtedly, smarting from the criticism and rejection of three commissioned works he had created for a ceiling of the University of Vienna. His painted female nudes, appearing as metaphors for philosophy, justice and medicine, were received with outrage as pornographic. They hastily were removed and years later destroyed by the Nazis.

In spite of this uproar,

"The Kiss" was purchased before its completion in 1908 by the City of Vienna for 25,000 crowns, the equivalent of \$250,000 U.S., an astronomical sum at the time. In 2003, Austria honoured Klimt and "The Kiss" with a commemorative 100 Euro gold coin. What led to this turn of events?

At the turn of the 20th century, Vienna was in a period of intense change and modernization. Social and religious traditions were being challenged, radical philosophies were rampant and the psychological research and writings of Sigmund Freud were making a startling impact.

Gustav Klimt, having studied at the School of Arts and Crafts, spurned its academic formalities in search of new elements of design and new themes of investigation, includ-



Gustav Klimt, "The Kiss," 1907-08, oil and gold leaf on canvas, Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna. SOURCED

ing desire, sexuality and psychology. He became a founding member of the Vienna Secessionists and a pioneer of Symbolism and Art Nouveau.

"The Kiss" was created at the peak of his "golden period," when gold leaf was used to great shimmering effect in his most renowned paintings. Klimt was familiar with the use of gold as

his father was a goldsmith and engraver.

Twice he travelled to Ravenna to study the Byzantine mosaics at the Basilica of San Vitale and was inspired by their two dimensionality and the glittering effect of light on the golden images. In "The Kiss" a couple appear to be completely wrapped in an intimate embrace of passion.

The man bends to kiss the pale cheek of his beloved. He holds her face with hands strong but gentle. Her face is passive, eyes closed, but her delicate hands are surprisingly tentative. One hand clutches at his hand, the other appears weak and almost transparent behind his head. Her bare toes are bent, digging into the edge of the carpet of the grassy flowered meadow they kneel on, her feet exposed to the unknown space of the abyss behind.

Only a flowering tendril across her ankles seems to anchor her. The man wears the mythological laurel crown of Apollo. The woman's red hair is surrounded by a halo of small mauve and purple flowers. The work is highly decorative, with juxtaposed textures and Art Nouveau patterns.

The man's strong geometrical robe of black and white rectangles contrasts with the woman's form-fitting dress of colourful organic circles and ovals. In spite of the closeness of

their bodies, Klimt's use of fine lines, vivid colours and contrasting patterns reveals a distinct separation, a duality not only conveyed by these patterns but in the tension inherent in the act of passion between two individuals in love.

Is it a mythological story of loss? Orpheus and Eurydice? Or Klimt's unabashed exploration of human sensuality and emotion?

He was, after all, a man known for his many lovers and 14 children, who stated: "Whoever wants to know something about me should look attentively at my pictures and there seek to recognize what I am and what I want." Your call.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for ten years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Toronto. See her lectures on "Landscape and Memory" on Zoom at the Pumphouse Arts Centre, Aug. 4 to 25. Registration is free.

Dr. Brown: Technology can restore speech to those unable to speak

Dr. William Brown
The Lake Report

No one knows when storytelling began but it would have required symbolic thought and language and the cognitive ability to imagine and literally "talk about" the past, present and future.

Modern humans were probably not the first hominins to evolve sophisticated symbolic oral language. Based on the art they created, neanderthals surely thought and spoke symbolically too.

The same was probably true for their close cousins, the denisovans and perhaps in prototypical form, as early as 800,000 years ago, about the time when the homo brain had doubled in size. But however deep the evolutionary roots for symbolic language might have been, acquiring it was central to who we became. Losing speech, even for a short time, makes communicating with others far harder and isolating in humans, the most social of species.



Stephen Hawking, perhaps the most famous physicist of our time, developed slowly progressive amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) as a young adult. Eventually the disease left him unable to speak without help from a computer to translate signals recorded using an infrared camera from small contractions of his facial muscles, into words, phrases and even whole sentences. The process used computer algorithms capable of anticipating Hawking's intended words based on what he had said in the past.

It worked brilliantly. He and his many fans learned to love the trademark mechanical tone of his computerized speech. And

graduate students learned to be patient with the inherent delays in the computerized speech system. Most even found the delays helped them keep up with Hawking's train of thought.

Another way to restore speech to patients with ALS and others suffering from paralytic strokes, which spare the speech areas in the brain, is to harness the brain's signals related to speech articulation to create the patient's intended words, and even sentences, on a computer screen.

One case involved a young man who, 15 years earlier had developed a post-traumatic brainstem stroke that left him quadriplegic and unable to make any intelligible sounds. Fortunately, functional MRI (fMRI) studies of the brain regions related to his speech, revealed they behaved normally.

The method involved implanting a multielectrode array within the subdural space on the left side of his brain (in regions previously

identified to be closely related to speech articulation by fMRI studies) and direct stimulation of the brain at the time of the implantation procedure.

Through a connecting hub embedded in the skull, electrical signals were transferred to a remote computer for analysis. The latter incorporated self-learning algorithms to first extract word-specific signals from the otherwise noisy background activity of the brain and, second, to predict the next words in a phrase or sentence based on the previous words chosen by the patient.

In 50 sessions, spread over 83 weeks and many hours of tiring training, the patient learned 50 common useful words that could be rearranged into word sequences of up to eight words, such as, "bring my glasses please" – words and phrases of which were considered by the patient and his caregivers to be useful.

The subject was able to achieve a success rate of three in four for single

words and roughly half of his sentences could be decoded without error. Each word took about four seconds to decode for a median rate of 12.4 words per minute. Those numbers are impressive, even if the rate is much slower compared to most of us (120 to 150 words per minute). Even so, the rate was several times faster than earlier systems for translating brain signals into everyday useful conversation speech.

I chose this example to highlight the burgeoning field of hybrid human-computer linked systems that are designed to solve challenges in neurology posed, in this case, by the total loss of articulated speech in a man with a stroke and in other, more common examples, such as the loss of speech in paralytic diseases, like ALS.

In the case cited here, only 128 electrodes were embedded in the array. That may seem a lot, but compared to the millions of nerve cells that participate

in translating an intended word into a spoken word, the system is crude. What was surprising to me was just how successful such a simple system was in restoring practical work-a-day speech.

The whole international effort, of which this study is part, has led to a much better understanding of how language is encoded in the brain. This study also highlights how important artificial intelligence (AI) has become in unravelling the mysteries of the brain. That's quite an achievement in an area of neuroscience where the complexity of the brain makes it very difficult to mount useful studies.

Looking back, it's amazing that only one species, and not the one with the most brain cells, has crossed the threshold for sophisticated symbolic language. So far, at least.

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



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EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Lions Beach refreshment stand

Here's the Lions Club refreshment stand and change room at Lions Beach in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Many people would recognize this today as Queen's Royal Park at the end of King Street, with 26 Queen St. visible in the background. The beach was always a popular spot for locals to cool off during the summer. Many young people would spend the whole day at the beach, perhaps freezing in the early morning swim lessons, scarfing down some fries with vinegar and ketchup, jumping in the waves created by the S.S. Cayuga passing by and capping it all off with a swig of water from the spring at the corner of King and Delater streets.

ARCHITEXT

Infill design and privacy

Brian Marshall
Columnist

In last week's column we reviewed a number of considerations related to context being fundamental in developing good residential infill design. Height, massing, topography, setback patterning, establishing open space and preserving lines of sight were spoken to – and that leads us to privacy.

This particular train runs two ways: of course, you will want a reasonable level of privacy to enjoy your new backyard, but so too will your neighbours wish to preserve the privacy they have previously enjoyed.

It may be inevitable that some level of privacy loss occurs, depending on your lot, the house placement thereupon and the respective heights of the neighbouring homes and the new infill.



Infill or not? SUPPLIED

That said, good design requires this be kept to a minimum or avoided all together. Much can be done in this regard with careful consideration in the placement of windows and doors while the footprint (shape) of the building can often be used to create private spaces.

Exposed rear or side facing balconies on an infill design are something to be avoided at all costs. They typically rob both homeowner and neighbours of any semblance of privacy.

Now that we have spoken to the most important baseline parameters, we come to the question of seamlessly integrating the facade of a new design into the existing streetscape.

Far too often the ego of the designer, the owner, or both, seek to draw attention to the new home by creating a design that is incongruous with the adjacent houses. Unfortunately, this approach generally backfires and the resultant building is a sad and out-of-place orphan that draws expressions of dismay rather than admiration.

Certainly the simplest answer for facade integration into a traditional streetscape is to employ the parameters of the New Traditional architectural style. In a nutshell, this school of architects specialize in the design of modern interpretations on older, traditional styles following the rec-

ognized and established architectural criteria laid down for each style.

For example, if the new design is to be of the Queen Anne style, the exterior of the finished building will conform to the stylistic parameters of a Queen Anne while being constructed of modern materials employing state-of-the-art building techniques. This, of course, assumes that the existing streetscape is compatible with a style dating from the second half of the 19th century.

But, let's say you have your heart set on a modernist design.

All of the same considerations set out in this and last week's column still apply, however, the selection and deployment of the finishes and elements in the new design become absolutely critical to successful integration.

Is it possible to set a modernist house in a traditional streetscape?

On the right lot and, even more importantly, with the services of a superbly talented, experienced and skilled architect, the answer is absolutely. Unfortunately, that's a rare combination.

Looking to the Stars



Is Friday the 13th really unlucky?

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Lake Report

This week we see Venus leave Virgo and enter Libra. And Mercury is in the same place as Mars in Virgo.

Thursday, Aug. 12: The moon is in perfect harmony with Saturn this morning. So, while Saturn is retrograde, there is a demand for more honesty in serious matters. A surprise this evening asks for more love and that is sweetness itself. Henry Ford showed off his first Model T on Aug. 12, 1908, complete with leather seats, folding canvas top and mandatory fire extinguisher.

Friday, Aug. 13: Friday the 13th is said to be unlucky and that may prove to be the case as Mars and Saturn create stress by Mars being finicky and Saturn being stern and demanding. It's a day when a compromise makes for success. It was Aug. 13, 1868 – one year after Canada became Canada, that Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier (26) wed Zoe Lafontaine (27) in Montreal.

Saturday, Aug. 14: Seven lunar connections make for a busy and mixed start to the weekend. But the strongest connection is the moon in Scorpio square (90 degrees from) Saturn in Aquarius. It can be the most frustrating time, like the QEW on Saturday at noon. Steve Martin was born in Waco, Texas. For the 1970's he wacked on "Saturday Night Live." Then he became a director of "Roxanne," "The Pink Panther" and many other films. Lately he has reactivated his life-long interest in fine art, notably boosting the value of great paintings by the Group of Seven's Lawren Harris. Today Steve Martin turns 76.

Sunday, Aug. 15: With the moon in Scorpio nearly all day, here is a Sunday to delve below the surface of things, to be challenged by the third quarter moon. Jupiter in Aquarius is nearby to offer a big picture,

forward-looking solution all day long. Oscar Petersen was one of the premiere jazz pianists of the world. He was born on Aug. 15, 1925, in Montreal. He died in 2007.

Monday, Aug. 16: The goddess of love and relationships, Venus is at home in Libra. No matter what your Venus sign is, you will love Venus in Libra. Relationships will improve because Venus in Libra just knows what makes people tick. Today's birthday celebrant was born in Kapuskasing, Ont., and grew up in Chippewa and Niagara Falls. He is most famous for his huge Hollywood box office hits like "Titanic" and "Avatar." James Cameron turns 67 today.

Tuesday, Aug. 17: In spite of stresses and challenges, the mere fact of the sun in Leo in perfect harmony with the moon in Sagittarius makes this a day where big ideas and love take centre stage and get a standing ovation. Monty Python's satirical film, "Life of Brian," opened on Aug. 17, 1979. We were encouraged to "always look on the bright side of life."

Wednesday, Aug. 18: Today, Mercury is conjunct Mars. This transit is great for verbal expression of any kind, to voice opinions, do research and go deep into a topic. The great thing about Mercury conjunct Mars is that we're not only talking about ideas, but we also take action. And when Mercury and Mars also trine Uranus in Taurus, we know we're up for some exciting developments. We will especially benefit from this transit if we have personal planets in Earth signs. Happy birthday #85 to Robert Redford. For all his acting in and directing/producing of films, likely he is best known as founder of the Sundance Film Festival.

Next week we see Uranus go retrograde, a full moon in Aquarius and the sun entering Virgo.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.



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Obituaries

Leon Albrecht



Leon K. Albrecht
June 12, 1927 – August 6, 2021
It is with heavy hearts that the family of Leon Albrecht announce his passing on August 6, 2021 at the Trillium Hospital in Mississauga at the age of 94.

Preceded in death by his wife Kathleen (1978) his second wife, Renate (2010)

Loving father of Kevin (Diane) and Michael, Proud Popa to Andrew (Taylor) and Victoria (Nolan) and great grandpa to Oliver.

Leon was born in Piotrkow, Poland on June 12, 1927. As a young man he lived through the Uprising of Poland and in 1944 he became a member of the Home Army. Under surrender he

declared himself a member of the Allied Forces and in October he would become a POW. Speaking two languages, he became the unofficial interpreter between his group of POW's and the guards. He would later attest to that saving his life.

September 1945 a group of them would depart from Darmstadt Germany to Italy. Here he would become a Private in the Polish 2nd Corps, Armored Brigade. In 1946 his unit was transferred to Liverpool, England. This is where Leon would continue his studies and meet his Wife Kathleen.

In 1953 they would emigrate to Canada and eventually settle in Brampton to raise their family.

Leon's career would take him from the Ford Motor Company (Analyst Specialist) Windsor, Massey Ferguson (Project Analyst) Toronto, Traders, Toronto and Royal Insurance, Vice President (Toronto) 1970- 1990 (retired)

Upon his many career accomplishments Leon was most proud of his book he wrote during his early career entitled "Organization and Management of Information Processing Systems" and was published in 1972 by MacMillan Publishing House, New York. In the late 1980's he would teach a series of lectures at Ryerson University aimed at Information Systems Managers – Managing Organizational Change.

After Kathleen's passing, Leon had welcomed his new life with Renate and her son's Mark and Bruce (Cynthia) Thorne he became Step Popa to Alexandra and the late Myles Thorne.

He and Renate would retire to Niagara on the Lake (1990) where they enjoyed the quiet life of the community. Leon travelled around the world during his career and he and Renate continued that into their retirement.

Leon loved to learn, read and travel. A day would not be complete without a twenty lap swim or a cross country ski across the Commons topped off with a long walk, he embraced exercise as part of his daily routine.

Thank you to all the people that helped during Leon's journey with Dementia. His NOTL neighbours, Charlene, his first caregiver, Alzheimer's association (Gerry). Season's Retirement Home where Leon (and family) found the care and happiness he deserved, Cooksville Care Centre for the difficult care that he required and the nurses and doctors at Trillium Hospital during his final days.

Family and friends will be received at the Ward Funeral Home "Brampton Chapel", 52 Main Street South (Hwy 10), Brampton on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. A Private family funeral service will be held at a later date. To RSVP for the visitation or to leave condolences on Leon's memorial page visit www.wardfuneralhome.com



Arthur Dick

Prof. Emeritis Dr. Arthur Dick passed peacefully in Kentville, N.S. at the age of 81 on August 4, 2021. Arthur spent his childhood and school years in Niagara-on-the-Lake going to Parliament Oak School, Niagara Falls Collegiate and then, to Niagara District High School from which he graduated. He went on to get his PhD in Bio-Chemistry from Kingston's Queens University where he met his life-long companion, Vi, and dear step-daughter Cathy. He took a position teaching at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. He was always an avid golfer, learning to golf at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf course. From age 12 he swam and collected golf balls that had gone down the bank into the water. These were sold back to the golfers. He will be missed by his buddies on the course. He leaves his step-daughter, Cathy and sister Anita Schick (Thunder Bay) and cousins, Victor Dyck and Charlotte Letkemann (Niagara-on-the-Lake). He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Helen Dick and his brother, Henry (Hank).

Growing Together:

How to get around those areas where nothing grows



Joanne Young
Special to The Lake Report

Like the old saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed ... try, try, try again!"

Now don't get me wrong, I am all for motivating others, but when it comes to gardening, I would like to put some limits on that phrase.

Over the years of designing and helping clients solve their gardening dilemmas, one of the statements that I have heard repeatedly is, "I have planted 10 different things in this same spot and nothing has survived."

I think they are hoping I will know of a miracle plant that will survive, but my response is always the same, "Well, stop trying to plant things there!"

We all have places in our gardens that prove to be difficult. It could be under a large tree, a wet corner or an extremely dry place under a large overhang.

These locations can be the source of much frustration. So instead of "try, try, try and try again," it is time to stop, take a step back and look at your situation differently. Most likely, at this point, the solution to your garden's most frustrating problem is not a plant.

So, what can you do with these difficult spaces? The first step is to analyze what the actual problem is.

Are there too many shallow roots that you cannot get your shovel into the ground? Is it a really wet area that doesn't drain well? Does the area get scorching sun and never a drop of rain? How many hours of sun does the area receive?

The second step is to consider the style that you are trying to achieve. Are you wanting a contemporary look, a more traditional style garden, a zen look, or something more rustic?

One of the most difficult



It can be tough trying to grow plants under trees. Adding pots in garden areas where nothing will grow can solve the problem. JOANNE YOUNG PHOTOS

areas in our gardens can be found under the canopy of larger trees, whether deciduous or evergreen. The reduced light levels and established root systems of the trees can make it impossible for anything else to grow.

There are ways though to make these areas still look landscaped without just leaving a large dirt patch underneath the tree. Think about what you can be adding to that area that will help you convey your theme or style to your garden's visitors.

For a more contemporary style, you may want to add a modern looking sculpture, or place an armour stone or two in these difficult spaces. Another way of bringing out this style is by adding a large pot with very simple lines.

If your goal is more traditional, you can still use a collection of brightly coloured pots, maybe in cobalt blue or lime green. The pots

themselves can be used just as a feature or, if sunlight permits, you can place some colourful annuals or perennials in them.

If your style leans toward rustic or cottage, maybe the answer is bringing in an older wooden bench with some flagstone under it or adding some older item that you found at a flea market or antique store.

If you like attracting birds, why not hang some bird feeders or houses from the lowest branches of the tree or place a bird bath in the garden?

Whatever your style is, think about how you can take those impossible areas and turn them into special features in your garden. Remember, if at first you don't succeed, it is time to get creative..

Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.



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