



# The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 32

Niagara-on-the-Lake's most respected newspaper

August 15, 2019

## Prime minister visits NOTL



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau poses with Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Erwin Wiens. Trudeau visited town on Wednesday, stopping by the community centre to announce more money for Niagara municipalities. **Story on Page 3.**



When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stopped by Silks Country Kitchen Wednesday morning, longtime server Tammi Hawey took the chance to snap a selfie. Trudeau later headed to the community centre and surprised a group of bridge players. **Photo on Page 19.**

### Town chief administrator Holly Dowd retires

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake chief administrative officer Holly Dowd is retiring.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero on Monday announced that Dowd, who has been on medical leave for several weeks, is leaving her post effective Aug. 19.

Dowd is the second senior manager with the town to leave this summer. Fire chief Rob Grimwood departed two weeks ago. The town has refused to say why he is no longer with the municipality.

"As Lord Mayor, my own personal experience with



Holly Dowd. (SUPPLIED)

Holly Dowd has been one of mutual respect. Holly has assisted in putting the council work plan together, so the public knows what council is working on, including target dates,"

Disero said in a statement.

She declined to provide any information about Dowd's severance package or whether Dowd would be paid until the end of her contract.

"I gave my statement today, in a letter to everyone and that's all I'm prepared to say at this point," Disero said in a phone interview Monday.

In April, Dowd's contract with the town was extended by council until the end of this calendar year.

Dowd started with the municipality in 1982 and previously served as town clerk and director of corporate services. She was

first appointed interim chief administrative officer in 2016 and was named CAO by council on Jan. 16, 2017.

Residents, colleagues and friends sang Dowd's praises on social media this week after her retirement was announced.

Former town councillor Paolo Miele said Dowd was very approachable and had "an open-door policy."

"Because she's a mom, she had that parental instinct. But at the same time she had that administrative persona as well," Miele said in an interview. "So she could balance the staff pretty good."

*Continued on Page 12*

### 'Listen to the people,' Dowd advises successor

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

Retired Town of NOTL chief administrator Holly Dowd has some advice for the person who succeeds her.

Often new senior bosses come in ready to shake things up and do things differently. Gaining some perspective can be a good place to start.

"Listen to the people. Listen to your staff that have been there and let them tell you what we've tried before and maybe you'll still want to do it. And that's fine, but listen to maybe why we aren't

doing it. Maybe it didn't work last time and maybe it will work this time," Dowd said in an interview.

She emphasized that the town staff is dedicated and keen to do the best job possible, not mired in a "that's the way it's always been done" mindset.

"But sometimes people don't even ask, 'OK, maybe you've tried this before. What didn't work, maybe we can look at it from a different perspective.'"

The town runs on a very strict budget, but the staff

*Continued on Page 12*



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# Chautauqua park not a 'beach,' says region

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report



Visitors and residents frequently swim at Ryerson Park beach. RICHARD HARLEY

Residents of the Chautauqua community are concerned that the water quality at Ryerson Beach isn't being tested, although the beach is frequently used as a swimming spot for residents and tourists alike.

Ruth Denyer, a resident and board member of the Chautauqua Residents Association, has been pushing to have water sampling reinstated.

Ryerson Park Beach hasn't been on the docket for testing for at least seven years because it doesn't meet the region's criteria of a beach, according to Anthony Habjan, manager of environmental health for the region.

Habjan said it isn't just as simple as putting Ryerson on the list of beaches to test.

The beach would first have to be designated a municipal public beach by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and would have to meet certain criteria, such as having public bathrooms and parking, he said, before it would be considered for testing. The use of the beach would also need to dramatically increase, he said, which would mean the town would need to put a lot of money into the maintenance and promotion of the beach.

Queens's Royal Beach

is being tested three times a week, though it doesn't fall under the region's list of tested beaches, he said, adding that testing there is a "unique case."

"The Ministry of Environment pitched in with some of the cost, and the town with some of their summer students and staff they could train, to take the samples and continue with the testing and progress they've been doing," he said.

This season the testing at Queen's Royal Beach turned back unsafe results in 13 days of closure, public health inspector Jeremy Kelly said in an email.

The beach season began on May 21, and Queen's Royal was first sampled on May 27.

Kelly said it was open for about 85 per cent of the sea-

son so far and was posted on June 11, June 22, July 18, July 30 and Aug. 9.

The region analyzes the samples and immediately publishes results online, sending the findings to town staff who flip the posting at the beach if the water is deemed unsafe, Habjan said. The sign is located at the King and Delater streets intersection.

Ryerson Park Beach just doesn't meet enough of the criteria to be tested, he said. The Niagara Region website lists 24 beaches that are actively tested, six of which are listed as having no bathrooms, parking, or both.

Habjan said the missing washroom and parking icons on the website are the result of an online glitch, and each beach listed does have those amenities on site. He said the region plans to revamp the website.

Town staff at Grimsby Town Hall verified both Casablanca Beach and Nelles Beach have parking and portable toilets on-site. St. Catharines City Hall verified Sunset Beach is equipped with both. Town staff at Fort Erie said they believed both Bernard Avenue Beach and Crescent Beach were equipped with both, but were unable to verify by deadline on Wednesday.

And Wainfleet Town staff said Reeb's Bay does have parking and portable toilets but said Long Beach had neither, though there is parking a short walk from the beach and a portable toilet in one of the town lots.

In 2018, Denyer advocated for the Niagara Region to start testing the waters, sending in photos of people in the water and explaining the beach has seen a boom in use in the past few years.

She was told then that the region would look into the matter and succeeded in having the beach reviewed in 2018.

Habjan said the region assessed the use at Ryerson Park Beach several times, at different times of day and varied days of the week to get a clear grasp of the beach's use. Each time, he said there were no more than six people in the water and fewer than 20 on the beach.

During the assessment in the summer of 2018, he said region staff took pictures of the water to analyze the use. On July 31, 2018, at 1:50 p.m., they recorded six people in the water and 13 on the beach. On Aug. 16, at 3:39 p.m., there were no people in the water and eight on the beach. And on Aug. 25, at 1:15 p.m., they recorded no people in the water and three on the beach.

The stats, he said, aren't considered high traffic, when some of the beaches monitored have hundreds of people swimming at peak times.

Denyer said the numbers recorded aren't truly reflective of the number of swimmers, as people swim all day and come and go.

Habjan said he wishes he could monitor all water used for swimming but there are other factors, including limited time and staff for water testing, preventing more thorough testing of all of Niagara's beaches.

The Region of Niagara has two teams of two people to test the water quality at beaches across Niagara, he said, which means staff are already bogged down with the current list of testable beaches.

"We have criteria that we have to meet. We have to look up the number of beaches that we have the

ability to sample. Not just to sample, but to safely sample," he said.

He said even if the town were to make the beach public, it would need to be reviewed and examined and placed on the list for 2020.

In the meantime, concerned residents or groups can go to an independent lab and request testing of the water, but those tests can be costly, Habjan said.

Each water test costs about \$500, Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa said during a Chautauqua Residents Association meeting in May.

He said the region has a "prudent policy" to "measure usage of beaches in order to determine water testing."

"A review was conducted last year at Ryerson Beach.

Usage did not warrant testing at that time," said Zalepa. "Should any further review determine otherwise, it is my belief that residents or community groups should not pay for this testing."

Denyer is now working with Zalepa to see what solutions are out there, if the residents' association is to pay, to make sure the findings can be posted at the beach for the public to see.

"I'm looking into the process and cost of water testing that could be paid for by community sources," said Zalepa.

# Finally, Lake Ontario water level on decline, town says

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The water level in Lake Ontario has crested and is on the decline, says Brett Ruck, town's manager of environmental services.

Earlier this spring, the lake level reached 75.83 metres, surpassing the 2017 record of 75.75 metres.

The high water prompted town staff to undertake flooding prevention measures but now that the water is receding, the town is removing some of its flood barriers.

About two weeks ago, nearly three metres of beach at Ryerson Park suddenly reappeared after being under about 30 centimetres of water since spring.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 13, the water level was 75.57 metres, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"It's crested already. We're on decline," Ruck said. "Right now, we feel we're safe enough we don't need flood protection anymore."

Town staff has removed bladders everywhere except Melville Street. Ruck

said the bladders there will soon be removed and the pumps will be staying until the system can drain on its own.

The existing groyne, a pile of rocks stopping onshore waves and wind, is located to the left of the historic culvert at Ball's Beach Park. More work involving the groyne will be done later when the water level is lower as high water levels prevent staff from seeing what's going on underwater.

Ruck said he's not in a big hurry to do the groyne

as shoreline protection is more important.

Back in May, the town widened a foot-path through a parkette near Delater Street to transport boulders and large rocks for the shoreline protection work. The bigger rocks have been put in place to stop the waves, but the rocks have to be placed a certain way to be fully effective, Ruck said.

The parkette will now be cleaned up and boulders will be removed so that pedestrians won't trip over them, said Ruck.

In case of a storm surge

and for additional protection, about 10 flood protection bladders are being stored behind the town hall.

In June and July as water levels in the lake rose, the town warned Dock Area residents to be prepared in case of flooding. Sandbags were available at several locations and town staff placed bladders along Melville Street to protect the area.

Check valves were used to keep the lake water out of the sewers and pumps were placed in the drains.

The town was also working on sealing manholes so the sanitary system wouldn't overflow.

"The water never went as high as the Ministry of Environment was saying it could go," Ruck said. "It never went that high. I think we went as high as eight inches up above 2017 (level). It didn't go to 10 inches."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said once the shoreline erosion protection, the town will have to come up with a master plan with long-term flood prevention solutions.



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# Trudeau visits town, makes announcement

Brittany Carter  
 The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents gathered outside the community centre Wednesday afternoon to catch a glimpse of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after he unveiled more funding for area municipalities.

The Niagara area will receive almost \$14 million directly, Trudeau said during his announcement in the greenspace behind the community centre, "getting shovels in the ground for important projects."

"Projects that matter to you," he said, adding that the top-up will double the amount of money municipalities get through the federal transfer.

Most people standing outside of the community centre Wednesday afternoon weren't there for the announcement, as residents crowded around to snag photos and selfies and to shake Trudeau's hand.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at the community centre Wednesday. BRITTANY CARTER

Though the Niagara Falls riding hasn't been Liberal territory for 15 years, Trudeau said he is working hard to "make sure the Niagara Falls riding turns red on Oct. 21." Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie also are part of the riding.

He said he is specifically focusing on helping communities like NOTL, where he said he knows it's essential to invest in lake water, public transit and housing. He'll also be focusing on areas where there's a tremendous amount of tourism, he said.

Before his entourage travelled to the community centre, the prime minister stopped at Silks Country Kitchen in Virgil for breakfast. He spent just over an hour meeting early-morning diners and snapping more photos.

Silks owner Joel Dempsey said Trudeau's media team contacted him Tuesday to arrange for a stop in the restaurant.

"It was a pretty big production, there are a lot of people involved in it. It was bigger than I was expecting it to be," Dempsey said.

His niece, Michelle Dempsey, said she'd never seen anything like the entourage that filed into Silks Wednesday morning to accompany the prime minister, though they have had celebrities in the restaurant on several occasions.

"I mean, it was pretty overwhelming. There are a lot of people that deal with him. The security and everything was absolutely insane," Dempsey said.

And what did the PM have for breakfast? Just a glass of orange juice, she said.

# Konzelmann family buys Harvest Barn and Rancourt Winery

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
 The Lake Report

The Konzelmann family has purchased Harvest Barn and Rancourt Estate Winery.

Konzelmann Vineyards Inc. announced Friday that it reached a deal to buy the popular Niagara-on-the-Lake fruit, vegetable and baked goods market on Niagara Stone Road and the nearby winery.

The purchase price was not disclosed. The deal closed at the end of July.

In a statement, the company said Stephanie and Fabian Reis, grandson of Konzelmann founder Herbert Konzelmann, will manage the Rancourt property and winemaking operations. Harvest Barn will continue to be managed by the Baum family.

The St. Catharines location of Harvest Barn wasn't part of the deal and is owned by the Baum

family.

The motivation for the purchase "really came down to family," said Andrew Niven, director of marketing at Konzelmann.

"With the recent purchase of Rancourt Winery, (Herbert Konzelmann) saw a chance to provide the same opportunity he was given many years ago by his grandfather in Ulbach, Germany, where the family winemaking business first began."

A connection to "sustainable farming and agricultural practices" as well as "connection and value to the community" are also important to the family, said Niven.

"There is a strong commitment to keep Harvest Barn 'as-is' and remain 'locally driven,'" Niven said in a statement to The Lake Report. "Going forward there will no doubt be synergies between the three properties, but as for now, the goal

is to keep them unique and separate."

It's the second time Harvest Barn and Rancourt have changed ownership in the past year. In 2018, both operations were purchased by Fabian Reis and Erwin Wiens, now a NOTL town councillor.

Wiens declined to comment, saying he doesn't want to discuss his personal business.

"I am both honoured and privileged to be able to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. Winemaking is in my blood. The acquisition of Rancourt allows me to step out on my own and create a product that I am proud to call my own," Reis said in the news release.

Rancourt Estate Winery, founded in 1998, operates a 22-acre vineyard. The winery sells its products through its on-site wine boutique, online and the LCBO. The winery also

offers on-site tastings and private winery experiences.

"Our extensive experience and reputation should help strengthen the Rancourt brand and continue to raise the profile of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a first-class wine destination," said Jim Reschke, a vice-president of Konzelmann Vineyards Inc.

Harvest Barn has "a great thing going there and we are excited to be a part of it," said Konzelmann vice-president Claudia Konzelmann. "Harvest Barn has become one of those local iconic businesses, no doubt backed by strong customer service, fresh produce and fair pricing."

Herbert Konzelmann added, "Rancourt will share our similar values, culture and passion, and together we hope to leverage our resources and build on the strong legacy we have developed for Konzelmann Estate Winery."

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**Contributed by Norm Arsenault:**

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## Editorial: The signs of the times

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

On five occasions, totaling 13 days, Queen’s Royal Beach in Old Town has been closed this summer because it failed water quality tests.

The latest closing was last Friday, Aug. 9, immediately ahead of the Peach Festival weekend. The beach remained posted, or closed, until Tuesday, Aug. 13, according to the Region of Niagara.

So, if you were down at the beach near the iconic gazebo, you would have known that it was considered unsafe to swim in the

water. Or would you?

The region does the testing but says it is the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s responsibility to erect signs (hence the term “posting”) whenever the popular body of water is declared unsafe for swimming.

On Monday, a reporter from The Lake Report knew that the beach was posted as unsafe and went looking for the signs informing residents and visitors about the water problems. We knew the water was unsafe but could not find any signs indicating its condition. We looked high and low. Nothing.

When we consulted the

town, we were assured that employees had properly changed the sign on the beach to help people make an informed decision about whether to dip a toe in the water.

Alas, there IS a sign there: well off the beach, to one side, in the shade, under several trees. On the side of a trash receptacle.

We’re not sure why the “Beach unsafe” sign is not front and centre (last winter, portable signs warning about ice dangers close to shore were prominently displayed at various locations). But we do know that a single, surreptitiously

placed sign, seemingly tucked away, could not possibly be an example of best practices in communicating with the public.

We are sure it is just an oversight, but it is one that needs to be remedied immediately. When a beach is closed because the water is unsafe, that information needs to be readily available to everyone.

Next: Why doesn’t the Region of Niagara issue email alerts or allow residents to sign up and automatically track when their favourite beach is safe for swimming? #technology.

[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

### LETTER:

# DO NOT STEAL FRUIT



Dear editor:

I am writing in response to the article “Trekking down the Heritage Trail,” (The Lake Report, Aug. 1), in order to make some corrections.

The plans for the trail are for a crushed stone surface, not an asphalt surface.

An awful statement was made that hikers along the trail “could snag a peach from a tree or grapes off a vine.”

**Editor’s note and clarification:** The Lake Report did not intend to condone or promote people stealing fruit or trespassing. We’re sorry to have given that impression. It was an inadvertent oversight on our part. On the section of trail about which the writer was commenting, berries, grapes and fruit are within easy reach of hikers, just a few steps away. However, no one should leave the trail, trespass on private land or take what isn’t theirs.

This is theft and trespassing on private property.

Apparently, there is a need for educating the public that the fruit and produce grown in our community is not there for the taking whenever you feel like it.

Any hint that it is acceptable behaviour to help yourself to fruit hanging from a tree or a vine is doing a disservice to the hard-working farming community and is encouraging unlawful

behaviour.

Would you or your readers steal fruit from a grocery store just because there is plenty available? I don’t think so.

Am I upset by this flippant remark? You bet I am!

Get out and enjoy the beauty of nature and the bucolic scenes of well-tended orchards and vineyards, but keep your hands off.

*Rick Meloen, chair  
 Heritage Trail Committee*

### CORRECTION:

Last week, in a story about the Heritage Trail, it was reported that the Equestrian Association “once” maintained the Heritage Trail. In fact, the association still does maintain the trail, and did so as recently as April of this year.

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# OPINION

## Society can't move forward by going backward

Hermine Steinberg  
Special to The Lake Report

American capitalism was built upon and prospered from a system of exclusion, dispossession, exploitation, and slavery. As was the case in Canada.

Donald Trump's anti-immigration agenda and mission to "Make America Great Again" imply that America needs to go back to what it was. It's an ideological retrenchment disguised by emotional propaganda that prevents political and economic progress.

The redistribution of power and restructuring of our economic system to make it more equitable and sustainable is feared by many. But fixing the foundation is the only way to build a strong house that will meet the needs of its citizens today and in the future.

More importantly, it is critical that we recognize the system we have now is increasingly enriching a small number of corporations and individuals while impoverishing and exploiting the majority of us. Its callous disregard for our environment, quality of life and right to self-determination can be seen all around us. Its promotion of dependence and anxiety, frenetic consumerism, conflict and division is diminishing us. But it is incredibly important to understand that this is nothing new, merely an extrapolation of what was.

The founding of European colonies in North America is often portrayed as a noble pursuit by romantic idealists and brave explorers. Not until recently have we openly talked about the fact that it was mostly established on the basis of genocide, slavery, cultural displacement and false promises. We rarely acknowledge the men, women and children whose blood, sweat and tears built our nations.

It could be argued that Europeans couldn't have developed the New World



We must never forget where we all originally came from, why we came, and that at some point, most of us were considered "the other," writes Hermine Steinberg. North America was largely built by outcasts, slaves, refugees, the oppressed and the marginalized: those desperate for a better life. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

without slave labour and that the United States may not have risen as a world economic power without a thriving slave economy.

By 1680, there were about 7,000 African slaves in the American colonies and by 1790 their numbers grew to about 700,000. Wealth was created by their hands and on their backs.

By 1840, the South grew 60 per cent of the world's cotton and provided 70 per cent of the cotton consumed by the British textile industry. The North established a variety of related industries, including textile factories, insurance companies, shipping firms, cotton brokers and banks.

Wall Street was born from the enormous growth of the slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. In fact, New York's first slave market was established in 1711 on what is now Wall Street. Moses Taylor, founder of Citibank, became the richest man in America through the illegal trade of slaves from New York to Cuba.

Meanwhile, at least 50 per cent of the white

Europeans who came to America between the 1630s and 1776 arrived as indentured servants. Many of them were kidnapped in European cities and forced into servitude in America. Additionally, thousands of English convicts were shipped across the Atlantic and sold as indentured servants. Orphans were sent to Canada, the U.S. and Australia as cheap labour.

Between 1870 and 1900, about 12 million people arrived in the United States from northern and western Europe, typically impoverished, uneducated, and desperate. They were the downtrodden and joined the newly freed slaves to make up the basis of the American workforce.

One of those people was a 16-year old boy who arrived from Germany in 1885. He was Donald Trump's grandfather, Friedrich Trump. He made his fortune by operating restaurants and brothels in Seattle, the mining town of Monte Cristo and in the Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1902, he returned to his native German town of Kallstadt and married,

then returned to New York for a short while. When he returned to Germany in 1904 authorities stated that his previous emigration to avoid military service was illegal and resulted in the loss of his German citizenship. Trump was issued a royal decree to leave the country. He petitioned the decision for several months but was unsuccessful and forced out, so he returned to New York in 1905.

We must never forget where we all originally came from, why we came, and that at some point, most of us were considered "the other." North America was largely built by outcasts, slaves, refugees, the oppressed and the marginalized: those desperate for a better life. And it was that desperation that led to innovation, co-operation and progress.

But we still have a long way to go and can't get there by going backward or refusing to dismantle the barriers that prevent us from building an inclusive, sustainable and democratic society that allows us to develop our most important resource – our people.

*Hermine Steinberg lives in NOTL.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fix It: Will someone at Town of NOTL please solve this weed problem?



Patricia Gregoire wants weeds taken care of in town. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dear editor:  
I have been trying to get this problem resolved for over two years. Here are the highlights. I have details and pictures to back up everything mentioned below.  
We moved into a new home in St. Davids in June 2017. The developer/builder installed some nice landscaping in September 2017 alongside a fence that had previously been installed.  
Spring 2018: The landscaping became totally engulfed with weeds.  
I contacted the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and was told it was the developer's responsibility to maintain the area until it was assumed by the Region of Niagara, about two years after completion of the development. NOTL said it would "encourage" the developer to address the weed problem.  
During the spring, summer and early fall, we cleared the weeds from the area adjacent to our property and tried to keep on top of the rest of the area, but it was a losing fight.  
October 2018: Weeding was completed. But no one could tell me who did it. We did not see anyone out there working on it.  
2019: A re-enactment of the situation in 2018. Of course, the weeds came back with a vengeance. We

began in the spring contacting the Town of NOTL telling representatives that the work done in October needed to be followed up before it got overgrown again.  
Now here we are in August and still nothing has been done. We have continued to try to keep our area weeded.  
There have been emails, phone calls and site visits, but no weeding. Varied explanations have been offered as to why the delay. I copied the latest emails to Lord Mayor Betty Disero, but received no response.  
You are maybe wondering why the big fuss over weeds. Well, you really

have to see the area.  
Some weeds are waist high, other areas are completely overrun, regular plantings have been overtaken.  
It is a total eyesore in an area that boasts to be the "prettiest" town around. Besides the obvious interest we have in keeping our local area beautiful, this is a blight on St. Davids and I would think that the Town of NOTL would care.  
I realize in the big scheme of things this would not be the highest priority, but it is also not quantum physics and would not take an inordinate amount of time to resolve.  
I am frustrated, I am also

tired. I am an 80-year-old woman weeding property that no one at the Town of NOTL can define/decide/direct who is actually responsible to do the work.  
The area in question is on Four Mile Creek Road at the intersection of Line 9 Road, north of York Road.  
There is also an area down Line 9 Road at Concession 3 where a pond is totally overrun. Residents have been cleaning, but town officials advised them they are not to do this. Nor will the town pick up the waste resulting from the residents' cleanup.  
Sincerely,  
**Patricia Gregoire**  
St. Davids

### Endless horse protests amount to harassment of Sentineals

Dear editor:  
The anti-horse carriage demonstrations continue and I wonder about Canadian law.  
As an American who lived through the civil rights demonstrations of the '60s, I remember the anger against "outside agitators" descending on southern communities.  
Those persons were using their freedom of speech and assembly to demonstrate against practices that were in fact in breach of federal law. The Sentineals have broken no laws.  
The fact the Sentineals treat their animals well may not have any bearing in this matter, but the premise that the Sentineals using horses to pull carriages is cruel is just incorrect.  
However, short of libel and slander, people do have the freedom to express what they wish no matter

how incorrect it may be.  
They can take their signs and express their views almost anywhere, but they choose to continually do it where the Sentineals do business.  
When these actions are targeted against one business or person or place it seems to me to cross the line and become intentional harassment.  
Wouldn't it be nice to see a trial between the parties in front of a jury of Niagara-on-the-Lake peers?

**Scott Hanson**  
NOTL



We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often.  
Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation.  
Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated.  
Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published.  
Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.  
**The Lake Report**


### Jet boat buses spew exhaust, tarnish a summer evening

Dear editor:  
I have to tell you of my experience on a recent Sunday at an open-air recording at St. Saviour's Church in Queenston.  
During that beautiful service I saw and heard five coaches pass by (this was from 6:30 until 8 p.m. on a Sunday evening).  
What upset me most was

the pollution from their exhaust that wafted our way as they struggled to get up the hill from the Whirlpool Jet Boats docking area.  
The benefit of tourism is for what in this quaint historic village?  
When coaches are not allowed in the Old Town area of Niagara-on-the-Lake, why should they be

allowed to ruin our roads and destroy the lives of residents in the village of Queenston?  
Surely they can find an alternative solution if they must continue running these Whirlpool Jet Boats from our side of the river.  
I was only there for a couple of hours to enjoy a wonderful Sunday Church

Evensong. I cannot imagine how the residents have had to cope with living there.  
They certainly have my sympathy now. All that carbon monoxide instead of fresh summer air: it is totally wrong to have allowed this business to move there.  
Sincerely,  
**Sylvia Angelkötter**  
NOTL

  
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# U.K. man **biking** around the world for charity rolls into NOTL

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

A cyclist from Nottingham, England, whose goal is to ride 18,000 miles around the world, made a stop in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week.

From Morocco across Europe to India, Southeast Asia and Australia, Robert Cleave has been biking around the world for 16 months and Canada is the 28th country on his route.

Having visited London, Cayuga and Fort Erie, Cleave stayed over at Lulu's Bed and Breakfast in NOTL on Aug. 6. After stopping in Hamilton, he was headed to visit friends in Toronto for a couple of days.

Japan will be his last stop before Cleave reunites with his family and heads back home. The whole ride will have taken 17 months by the time he is done.

In some countries, Cleave has spent several days to a couple of weeks. In other places, such as Australia, India or the United States, he spent two or three months.

Cleave mentioned a Scottish cyclist, Mark Beaumont, who broke the record for cycling 18,000 miles around the world in 194 days in 2008. Beaumont beat the record of 123 days, set by Andrew Nicholson, again in 2017 by completing the ride in 79 days.

Cleave realized he couldn't ride 100 to 200 miles a day, so instead of completing the journey in a year, he decided he would spend time sightseeing and meeting people.

With no intention of beating any records, Cleave left his hometown of the U.K. on April 7, 2018.



Robert Cleave made a stop in NOTL last week before continuing his bike rike around the world. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Before embarking on the journey, he'd done a risk analysis on his computer, colour coding every country – red, amber or green – trying to choose a route that was as safe as possible.

"When you start, you don't know that you can do it. You don't know how it's going to work out," he said. "But I always felt that, to me, failing wouldn't have been setting out and not being able to do it. Failing would've been not setting out in the first place."

"I didn't want to grow old thinking, 'I wish I tried that.'"

The ride is funded by Cleave himself but any donations received through his journey go toward two charities in England: Cancer Research UK and Traidcraft Exchange.

He chose those organizations because he lost his mother to cancer three years ago. He was also one of the first volunteers representing Traidcraft, a development charity working with poor producers, artisans and farmers in Africa and Asia.

About \$32,000 has been

raised for the charity so far, Cleave said.

He said he aims to ride about 100 kilometres a day cycling for five or six days before having a day off to rest and see some sights. The most he's biked in a day is 155 kilometres, which he admits is "tiring."

Cleave travels with two sets of casual clothes and two sets of cycling gear, GPS navigation on the bike, first-aid kit, bike repair kit and spare tubes.

He has a spreadsheet on his iPad where he keeps track of his stops, daily mileage, average and top speeds as well as the number of hours he spends cycling every day.

"It's not just cycling, you're juggling so many different things," Cleave said.

"It's the logistics of making sure you got places to stay, set up, knowing what the route is, having plan B if something goes wrong, keeping an eye out on visa situation ... keeping in touch with people at home."

Relying on technology, Cleave said he video calls his wife every day and they also met up in Chicago for

their 40th wedding anniversary. His wife and daughter will also meet him in Japan where they will have a holiday after his trek ends.

Weather, language barriers and navigation are some of the challenges Cleave has encountered during his ride. The bike has broken down several times and, having gone through seven sets of tires, Cleave recalled how he was once repairing his bike in the middle of a monsoon in India. There were times when he's biked 9,000 kilometres without any punctures though in India he had six punctures in one day.

"You just focus on what's ahead of you ... There's no point in sitting down and crying. You just get on with it," Cleave said.

"It emphasizes what a wonderful and fascinating place the world is," he told The Lake Report. "How good and helpful most people are, being offered lots of help and advice on the way from people I've encountered."

You can follow his journey online at [robertsride18000.com](http://robertsride18000.com).

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# Region passes new **smoking** laws

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The Niagara Region updated smoking and vaping bylaws. Announced on Aug. 7, benches and recreational

trails, and within nine metres of entrances and exits of publicly accessed buildings, have been added to the list of outdoor spaces where tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products are prohibited.

Also on the list of prohibited areas are parks, playground and sportsfields, splashpads and outdoor pools, arenas and recreation centres, bus shelters and the outdoor area of municipal buildings.



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# The Great **NOTL** Summer Walkabout The annual Peach Festival

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

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

There was no shortage of peaches in Niagara-on-the-Lake last weekend.

The annual Peach Festival, hosted by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, took over a part of Queen Street all day Saturday as festivities were held in celebration of the peach harvest.

And celebrations continued the next day when St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church held its annual peach fest on the church grounds.

Along Queen Street, a wide variety of peach-flavoured foods – from pies, gelato and crepes to nachos, hotdogs and chimney cakes – were offered to thousands of visitors.

The popular corn-on-the-cob was also back. By using a steam boiler, the corn was steamed instead of being cooked which allowed preserving its flavour, said Elmer Neufeld.

Some 1,500 corns-on-the-cob were sold, said Ed Biega, who noted some people travelled from Toronto specifically to buy their

corn but arrived after the last cob was sold.

“The corn is amazing and the process is amazing, too,” said Pat Benitez, who was staying in NOTL from Connecticut. Rosa Garcia, who lives in Georgia, agreed saying the corn was “so tender” and “delicious.”

Walter and Anne Eadie, who live in Milton, have been coming to the festival for six or seven years. They said they loved the peaches at the festival and they were also big fans of the Toronto All-Star Big Band, so it was one more attraction for them to take in.

“The event is getting busier,” said Eadie, noting it’s getting more difficult to find a place to park.

Back in the Daze, Melodie Italiane choir and the Caribbean Steel band performed throughout the day. The St. Catharines Pipe Band and the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps also provided live music.

Ben Burland of The Ben Show and Caroline’s Caricatures entertained the crowd.

Further down the main street, on the corner of



A series of photos taken at the Peach Festival Saturday. Clockwise: Visitors perused and purchased freshly harvested peaches/Lucas Rankin, and Angelina, Mateo and Gabriele Palumbo sell peaches donated by local farmers/Mark Lepp of Lepp Farms. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Queen and Gate streets, eleven-year-old Morgan Mitchell was selling lemonade.

Sitting behind a stand with painted lemons on it and wearing a lemon hat, Mitchell said he’s been selling lemonades since he was four. All raised money goes to Red Roof Retreat and he said was hoping to raise over \$2,000. Helping Michael was also his brother Spencer.

“I really wanted to raise

money for them (Red Roof) because it’s a good cause. I had a lot of fun doing it,” Morgan said.

At St. Vincent de Paul’s festival on Sunday, NOTL resident MJ McGraw observed that it is interesting how different churches in town host their own fruit festivals during each summer month. St. Mark’s Anglican Church, for instance, held its cherry festival in July, while St. Andrew’s

Presbyterian had the strawberry festival in June.

“I find this refreshing,” McGraw said, noting there is no sense of rivalry. “Just the fact they (churches) all take turns having their month and their fruit and their weekend where everybody comes to church.”

The peach festival had a “nice communal feel,” she said, and involved people of different ages.

Margarette Miarecki, who

was at the event with her family, said she got married at the church and her two daughters, Emily and Grace, were also baptized there.

Money raised at the festival, which saw a “great turnout,” will go back to the church, said Terry Choules, the event’s chair.

“It’s a great day and it’s a great way to meet people in the parish and everywhere else,” he said.



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# Shades of Summer dinner wraps up peach celebrations

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

When U.S. visitors Eric and Tina Harper witnessed the Shades of Summer dinner in Niagara-on-the-Lake last year, they knew it was something they wanted to be a part of.

So, this past weekend, the New Jersey residents returned, donned their white attire, and dined al fresco in the middle of Queen Street on Sunday evening.

The first time the Harpers visited NOTL was for the Shaw Festival, and they've been coming back for 12 years.

"We're well-travelled and we still come back here," said Tina, adding they loved the event.

Hosted by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, the annual dinner concluded a two-day peach celebration. The event runs in conjunction with the chamber's

annual Peach Festival, held on Saturday.

Part of Queen Street was closed to vehicles as the chamber set up tables near the cenotaph. Participants had to bring their own tablecloths, cutlery, dishes and food. The Thomas Nelson band provided live music.

Lyuda Tsonev was at the event for the first time as well. She came from Toronto with her husband Georgi Tsonev and two children, Vira and David.

"It's amazing how open and warm people are here compared to Toronto," she said.

Some other guests were veterans of the dinner.

Sharon Cooper was there for the fifth time. Being with good friends, planning and having a good time celebrating the peach festival is what brings her back every year, she said.

For Nancy Hummel, who has been coming to the din-

ner since it started, it was a "beautiful event" to have in town and a "nice excuse" to get dressed up. She said by bringing her children along, she hopes they will remember it as a family tradition and would bring their own children to it.

Dimitar Minkov, who owns the Historic Wilson-Guy House B&B with his wife Maria, said the Shades of Summer dinner was emblematic of the peach festival.

"More people have to know about this event," he said.

"It's the best event of the summer for Niagara-on-the-Lake," added Maria. "It is very classy and a lot of fun."

For former Niagara regional chair Alan Caslin, the evening was a chance to socialize and meet people.

"The food was fantastic and the weather was cooperative," he told The Lake Report.



Top: Dimitar Minkov with his wife Maria Minkov, and Lyuda Tsonev with her children Vira and David. Bottom: Fallon Harper in the middle of a dance with her father Eric.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA



# Peace, peaches and perfect weather

Ross Robinson  
Special to The Lake Report

Peach Festival Day and the living was easy.

Our town was among the best places in the world to be last Saturday. Peace, peaches and people being happy.

The peaches, the music, the festive atmosphere, the strolling tourists. Corn on the cob, peach pie, Algonquin Canoe ice cream cones (not cups) at Taylors.

All of this on Queen Street, which was vehicle-free (yes, the merchants and the town figured it out.) Not one car or truck on the main thoroughfare of Canada's prettiest town. "Friends greeting friends, saying How Do you Do, They're really saying, I

Love You."

Peaceful, thank goodness, even after rumours were spreading at the sports bar and other local watering holes during the previous week that a few aging local troublemakers were going to perpetrate an act of unpleasantness during the Peach Festival.

Congratulations to the organizers. There was so much going on. Local fruit farmers were featured, and our tender fruit industry was front and centre. Vendors under tents added to the ambience and store windows were dressed gaily.

Three bands played off and on for over four hours at the festival, each of them drawing crowds happy to stop, listen, smile and applaud. All of this



Niagara-based band Back in the Daze performs at the peach festival.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

under blue skies with a few puffy white clouds for contrast, and regular cooling zephyrs from the northwest. The subtle smells of fresh fruit and sunscreen and boiling corn.

So many people closed their eyes, put away their smartphones and lived in the moment. We savoured the senses here in our wonderful hometown.

We live in a safe and

peaceful corner of our world. Our police officers keep the streets safe and we look out for each other. In these times, though, we just never know what might happen. It only takes one

or two lone wolves to cause a problem, and each of us must be vigilant and alert, watching for any possible dangerous situation.

Three times during the week leading up to this year's Peach Festival while quaffing a cold Oast House Barnraiser draft at Butler's Sports Bar and the Sandtrap Pub, I heard whispers that a few elderly NOTLers were up to no good. They were planning to put a dozen or so rotten peaches in a plastic bag, rent e-scooters and drive carefully along Queen Street to create some excitement.

While passing Taylors, they were going to heave the rotten peaches at the popular cover band Back in the Daze. This would cause excitement, make a mess, and nobody would be injured. No arrests would be made.

The incident would be reported as Canada's first "drive-by fruiting."



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<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Fife &amp; Drum Muster &amp; Soldiers' Field Day</b> - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George</p> <p><b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p><b>The Canadian Table Culinary Festival</b> - 3 p.m. - Outlet Mall</p> <p><b>Annual Garden Party Fundraiser</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Community Garden</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Fun Duplicate Bridge</b> - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard</b> - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</p> <p><b>Therapy Tails with Jasper</b> - 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Club Code - Noon to 1 p.m.</b> - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre</b> - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>Simpson's Seniors' a.m. to 8 p.m.</b> - Simpson's Seniors' Community Centre</p> <p><b>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Maker Club: Polym System</b> - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p><b>NOTL SupperMarket</b> - 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p><b>Miss Ilona's School Registration</b> - 5 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Echoes of Niagara's Past: A Military Timeline Event</b> - Fort George</p> <p><b>Gate Street Studio Open House</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Gate Street Studio</p> <p><b>Family Friendly Art Studio</b> - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p><b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Fun Duplicate Bridge</b> - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard</b> - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</p> <p><b>Famous &amp; Infamous: Dusko Popov with Ted Rumble</b> - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society &amp; Museum</p> <p><b>Community Drumming Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre</b> - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p><b>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b> - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p><b>NOTL SupperMarket</b> - 9 p.m. - The Village</p> <p><b>Farmhouse Yoga Night</b> - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>15</b> <b>Special Council Meeting</b> - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers <b>Art &amp; Fashion Lecture Series: Indigenous Fashion rEVOLUTION</b> - 7:30 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Silver Linings Playbook</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant <b>Ghost Tours of Fort George</b> - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George <b>Looking Back, Forging Forward: Trench Art &amp; Ronald Boaks (Opening Reception)</b> - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre	<b>16</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Friday Flix: Monsters University</b> - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>YDTP Summer Camp Program: Final Performance</b> - 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Yellow Door Theatre Project <b>The Canadian Table Culinary Festival</b> - 3 p.m. - Outlet Mall	<b>17</b> <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>Shred.It NOTL Community Palliative Care</b> - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union, Virgil <b>3rd Annual Ashley Simpson Golf Tournament</b> - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Heritage Woods Golf Course <b>Five &amp; Drum Muster &amp; Soldiers' Field Day</b> - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Fort George <b>Party in the Vineyard: Wine Country Fare</b> - 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - Peller Estates Winery
<b>21</b> <b>Day</b> - 8:30 <b>son's Pharmacy</b> <b>ion Group</b> <b>m.</b> - NOTL <b>er Clay Solar</b> <b>noon</b> - NOTL <b>t</b> - 4:30 p.m. to <b>of Dance:</b> <b>n.</b> to 8 p.m. -	<b>22</b> <b>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe &amp; Strong</b> - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>End of Summer Party</b> - 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>Clare's Bike Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Bohemian Rhapsody</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant <b>Miss Ilona's School of Dance: Registration</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road	<b>23</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>NOTL Sports Wall of Fame Ceremony</b> - 6 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena <b>Designer Handbag Bingo</b> - 6:30 p.m. - Château des Charmes <b>Proud Mary: The CCR Experience</b> - 7:30 p.m. - Corks Winebar & Eatery	<b>24</b> <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>Echoes of Niagara's Past: A Military Timeline Event</b> - Fort George <b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park
<b>28</b> <b>ion Group</b> <b>m.</b> - NOTL <b>t</b> - 4:30 p.m. to <b>agara</b> - <b>m.</b> - NOTL	<b>29</b> <b>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Miss Ilona's School of Dance: Registration</b> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road <b>Clare's Bike Night</b> - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson <b>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: A Star is Born</b> - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant	<b>30</b> <b>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL)</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Mahjong Game: Drop in</b> - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre <b>Wayne Gates Office</b> - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library <b>RiverBrink Art Sale: Opening Reception (Tickets \$50)</b> - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum	<b>31</b> <b>Farmers' Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village <b>Grace United Church Festival Market</b> - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Grace United Church <b>RiveBrink Art Sale (Free Admission)</b> - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum <b>Walking Tours of Old Town</b> - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park

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## Co-workers describe Dowd as 'professional, loyal, humble'

Continued from Front Page

Another former councillor, Martin Mazza, described Dowd as "professional, loyal, humble."

"Every decision she made ... she always had the best interests of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake at heart," Mazza said. "It was

never a personal mission or personal interest in her decision-making."

Dowd is a member of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario. During her tenure, she instituted an electronic records system and a vote tabulating system by which ballots are counted by machine, Disero noted.

She also refreshed pay equity as part of the provincial requirements and streamlined the criteria for council's in-camera sessions in order to increase public transparency, Disero said. Sheldon Randall, the town's director of operations, has been filling in for Dowd during her medical leave. "Holly has had a long



history of loyal and effective service to the town and council, as well as many years of leadership for the town's staff," Disero said in a statement. "Holly has earned a well-deserved retirement and our thanks."

## Retired CAO gives a bit of advice to successor

Continued from Front Page

"are all open to change," just take the time to listen to the people, she said. "Our staff is really dedicated and hard-working."

Dowd, 56, was born and raised in NOTL, and was still a teenager when she started her career at the municipality. She spent years taking night school courses to obtain her municipal academic credentials and rose through the ranks, holding several senior jobs. She was appointed CAO by the previous council.

Dowd was eligible to retire at the end of 2018 but agreed to stay on for one more year.

Now that she has called it quits she'll have more time with her husband Rob, who retired two years ago from General Motors, and son Kevan. She'll also be golfing, curling, biking and travelling. And one of her first destinations will be Hawaii, a "dream" trip.

She'll miss her colleagues but not the 24/7 stress of managing the municipality. Exercising and staying healthy will be priorities. "I have fibromyalgia and if I don't keep moving then that doesn't help," she said. And stress can exacerbate her condition.

Dowd admits she had mixed emotions about leaving. "I'm a workaholic and I wondered, 'What am I going to do?' "And part of her felt she'd be letting her colleagues down by departing with some things unfinished. "But we've got a great dedicated staff" and they're all doing just fine, she said.

When she finally made the decision, "It was like a big weight off my shoulders."

So now she's still getting up at 5:30 a.m. but instead of having to rush to work, she has a new routine. "I walk the dog, can sit down and have a cup of tea, and then go sit in the hot tub if I want."

## Zoom Leisure Bikes honoured for support of Heritage Trail restoration

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The Heritage Trail committee presented a thank-you plaque to Zoom Leisure Bikes owners Steve and Rebecca deBoer for their generous donation toward the Upper Canada Heritage Trail's restoration.

The deBoers donated \$3,000 as it is a "really important project" which would connect villages in the community, said Rebecca.

"Having good biking infrastructure in the area, as cycling is growing, and for walking and for pedestrians, is really important," she told The Lake Report.

Rick Meloen, the Heritage Trail committee's chair, noted, "There's been a lot of individuals and families



Cheryl Morris, Kevin Turcotte, Fred Sentineal, Coun. Allan Bisback, Steve deBoer, Rebecca deBoer, Rick Meloen, Dick Coyne and Tony Chisholm at the presentation Monday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

that have contributed and now we're having businesses doing that."

"So we're really, really pleased. And this is such a good fit. A bicycle business and recreation of trail."

The whole historic trail is 10 kilometres long and

stretches from John Street to York Road.

Phase 1 of the project, to be completed in 2020, includes restoration of the trail from John Street to East and West Line, and will create a pathway made of crushed stone, three metres wide and

1,500 metres long.

It will cost around \$150,000 to restore that section of the trail – \$100 per metre. The committee has raised more than \$17,000 over the past three weeks, said Tony Chisholm, the committee's vice-chair.

## Fife and Drum Muster at Fort George this weekend

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

Fort George will be marching to the beat of the Fife and Drum Corps during its 20th anniversary celebration this weekend.

Visitors to the national historic site will be met with military music during the Fife and Drum Muster and Soldiers' Field Day event.

Music demonstrations, military tactics and cannon fire will take place throughout the day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17 and 18.

The Fife and Drum Corps program at Fort



The Fort George Fife and Drum Corps on Canada Day. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

George was created for youth between 10 and 14. The young "duty drummers" receive free uniforms and equipment once they

can demonstrate adequate performances of the 10 fife songs. All that is required is that they attend regular practices from July 1 to

Labour Day.

The annual Fife and Drum Muster will bring about 50 to 60 fifers and drummers from Canada and the United States together for a weekend-long display of military music, celebrating the history of the fife and drum corps and their contributions to the military, said Drum Major Peter Alexander.

"The muster is the pinnacle of the season for everyone. It's exciting to see everybody and have the chance to perform in front of the different corps and visitors to our site," Alexander said.



Derek Rooney at the annual boot drive. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

## Firefighters' boot drive raises \$9,500

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

The annual boot drive by Niagara-on-the-Lake firefighters raised \$9,500 Saturday for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

During the Peach Festival, firefighters stood near the intersections of Queen and Mississauga streets, and on the corner of King and Queen, collecting donations from bypassers and vehicles.

About 25 past members

and retirees from Station as well as volunteers from Station 2 participated in the drive, said deputy fire chief Nick Ruller.

"The firefighter involvement in the community goes beyond responding to fire calls and training. So this kind of community involvement gives an opportunity to give back," Ruller said.

"It's encouraging. It adds a sense of community and connection for the firefighters to the members of the community."



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Former Kinsmen Club member Richard Sobschak and wife Angelique enjoy the laid-back feel of the NOTL Show 'n' Shine car show that took place during the weekend. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

# Huge crowds turn out for Kinsmen Car Show

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

More than 500 cars and thousands of car enthusiasts were on hand at the 21st annual Kinsmen Car and Shine Show on Sunday.

Angelique and Richard Sobschak, a former member of the NOTL Kinsmen Club, came from St. Catharines to check out the wide variety of classic cars showcased. Angelique, who was at the event for the first time, said she's partial to cars from prior to the 1950s.

"Anything '30s, '20s. And foreign, I love the British cars they brought in," said Angelique. "They had MGs and there were little Minis. Things you kind of remember from the movies, I love that."

"It's so laid-back," said Richard and Angelique added the show was held in the shade, which makes "a very pleasant atmosphere."

Sharon Seymour and Ian Bridge, visiting from England, said the NOTL car show was different from the ones back home, with many muscle and tiny cars showcased.

"It's really difficult to paint it into words," Seymour said, explaining how with music in the background and people

being more "enthusiastic and friendly," she felt "like a kid in a candy shop."

Terry Nord, who had his 1949 Mercury at the show, said this type of car was made popular after James Dean starred in the movie "Rebel Without a Cause."

"People like us like to bring cars to show them for people to appreciate," Nord said. "A lot of people come by and say, 'I can remember when I was a kid, I rode in the back seat.' So it brings back many memories."

NOTL resident Ottavio Tulini shared the same sentiment, noting that seeing old cars makes "you remember your youth."

"I like old cars that you never see, that's what makes (the show) special," he told The Lake Report. He also added the event was bigger than he expected.

The event raised at least \$10,000, said club president Bob Forbes and the turnout was so large that the club ran out of food.

"It was a fantastic day. The weather was beautiful" said Forbes. "It was great."

The 50/50 draw had a \$1,700 payout, which is \$200 more than last year, he said.

In September, the club will start giving away the money it raised to people



Top: The NOTL Kinsmen's annual Show 'n' Shine car show took place during the weekend, showing off hundreds of classic and super cars. Bottom: Terry Gord with his 1949 Mercury. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

and community-minded organizations such as Red Roof Retreat, the NOTL library, Cystic Fibrosis Canada, Gillian's Place, Women's Place of South

Niagara and others.

The new Kinsmen sign, which was damaged in a hit-run accident in June, is expected to be up in two weeks, Forbes said.

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*Have some fun*

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

**Across**

- 9. Corpulent (5)
- 10. Extreme surprise (9)
- 11. Souvenir (5)
- 12. Inherent (9)
- 13. Possess (3)
- 14. Hebrew minor prophet (5)
- 15. E.g. wine goblets (9)
- 16. Bush (5)
- 18. Double birdie (5)
- 22. Large mass of sliding snow (9)
- 25. Renounce (5)
- 27. Open mesh fabric (3)
- 28. Staff (9)
- 29. Mistaken (5)
- 30. Weaken insidiously (9)
- 31. Passageway (5)

**Down**

- 1. Highest singing voice in women (7)
- 2. Affluence (6)
- 3. Recent arrival (8)
- 4. Saw (6)
- 5. Book end, perhaps (4,4)
- 6. Exceptional intellect (6)
- 7. Convince (8)
- 8. Adhesive label (7)
- 16. Frenzied rush (8)
- 17. Single-celled organisms (8)
- 19. Conceal with decorative paper (4,4)
- 20. Neither solid nor liquid (7)
- 21. Abrade (7)
- 23. Part of a group (6)
- 24. Followed (6)
- 26. Cardiff International Airport (6)

### Crossword Puzzle

**Last issue's answers**


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

**Sudoku**

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




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## Doria, Robitaille crowned NOTL club champs

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

Joe Doria wasn't going to let this one get away.

After losing the NOTL Golf Club men's open championship in a playoff last year, Doria held off three tough opponents to win the title Sunday by one shot over former champ Stephen Warboys.

Doria went up two shots on the 17th hole of the two-day tournament when Warboys took an uncharacteristic double-bogey 6.

Heading to the 225-yard, par-3 finishing hole, Doria looked focused and determined. "I had to be," he said afterward, "because I was shaking inside."

He played it conservatively and bogeyed the tough 18th while Warboys made par – but it was just enough for Doria to claim his first title.

After 36 holes, only four shots separated the top four players, Doria (156), Warboys (157), Jim McMacken (158) and 2018 champ Jim Panetta (160).

Warboys' score won him the seniors champion crown and McMacken took A flight honours. Warren Tutton (167) won the men's super senior title.

The women's open championship also hotly contested. Louise Robitaille defended her title, shooting a 36-hole total of 166.

Runner-up Yolanda Henry finished at 172 to take the



Club champions from the NOTL Golf Club tournament last weekend. KEVIN MACLEAN

senior women's title and Martha Cruikshank (176) was named super senior champ.

One of the highlights of the women's side was the weekend performance of the incomparable Barbara Ahluwalia. The 86-year-old, who underwent hip surgery a little over a year ago, wowed the crowd Sunday with a birdie 2 from just off the back of the green on the 18th to finish at 178.

The two open division champions, the seniors champs and junior boys winner David Dexter all qualified to compete in the Champion of Champions Tournament on Sept. 7 in Port Colborne.

Other winners: Men's B flight: Sean Simpson, C flight: Ron Planche, D flight: Butch Rive, Bantam boys: Marsden Tataryn, age 12, in a three-hole playoff with his brother Grayson,

age 10.

Women's A flight: Ginny Green, B flight: Margot Richardson, Net flight: Therese Rothwell-Downes.

Earlier, during regular league play, McMacken warmed up for the weekend by shooting a 3-under 33 in Thursday men's league competition. He also won closest to the pin (#1), long drive (#8) and took A flight with 26 points. Other winners: Closest to pin: Nick Miller (#4), Ralph Rickard (#7) and Don Allen (#9). Long drive: John Read (#3). B flight: Gerry Shelly (25 points).

Gross skins: Nick Miller. Net skins: John Nicholson, Mike Eagen. 50/50: Martin Vagners (\$210).

**Friday Couples:** First: Tim & Kathy Taylor and Mike Eagen & Michele Darling (34), second: Ken & Karen Burr and Rob & Valerie Chubey (36), third: Martin & Margot

Richardson and Grant & Debbie Williams (36). Most honest: Charlie & Suzanne Rate and Bernard & Sharon Marlow. Closest to pin: Rob Chubey, Sue Avent. Long putt: Ron Newman, Valerie Chubey.

**Tuesday women's league:** Barbara Ahluwalia, Lisa Allen and Yolanda Henry had dominating performances in Aug. 13 action. Low gross: Ahluwalia (84), Allen (85), Henry (86). Net: Ahluwalia (65), Allen (67), Henry and Robin Foster (70). Fewest putts: Ahluwalia (25), Henry (28), Allen (31). Closest to pin: Sharron Marlow, Ginny Green. Birdies: Ahluwalia, Green, Henry, Valerie Chubey (#2, #7). Chip-in: May Chang, Donna Lailey, Peggy Larder, Henry. Keep It Straight Contest: Marie Ellison and Chang. Winning team: Judy Mantle, Lailey, Ahluwalia and Chang.

## Mcilhone and Schlange claim tennis titles



Gerry Mcilhone and Harry Schlange, left, are the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's men's singles tennis champions. Mcilhone defeated Manny Umoquit to win the A division Saturday, while Schlange beat Rob Lamond for the B championship. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

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# Gypsy, Devil's Disciple, Holmes highlight 2020 Shaw season

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva  
The Lake Report

Gypsy, The Devil's Disciple and Prince Caspian are just some of the productions on the Shaw Festival's playbill in 2020.

The new season will start on April 1, 2020, and will wrap up on Dec. 23, 2020.

"This is a season of classics across the board: classic musicals, classic comedies, classic dramas," artistic director Tim Carroll said in a news release. "Every single one features the brilliant writing which has always been at the centre of our mission, and for which we have assembled one of the world's great acting ensembles."

Four plays will be staged at the Festival Theatre next season.

Gypsy, written by Arthur Laurents, is based on memoirs of Gypsy Rose

Lee, a burlesque entertainer and a striptease artist. The play, directed and choreographed by Kimberley Rampersad, explores the "human cost of blind ambition."

Another play, The Devil's Disciple by Bernard Shaw, is an "action-filled comedy" directed by Eda Holmes.

Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson will also be making a comeback on the Festival Theatre stage next season. The play, Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse, is directed by Craig Hall and follows Holmes's investigation of his uncle's mysterious death.

Another show, Mahabharata, will be presented in collaboration with Toronto's Why Not Theatre. The play is one of 200 projects that were funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter initiative. Directed by Ravi Jain,

Mahabharata is "a visually stunning spectacle" of a more than 4,000-year-old Sanskrit epic.

The Royal George Theatre will host a number of plays as well.

Charley's Aunt, a farce by Brandon Thomas, and Flush, a lunchtime one-act based on a novella by Virginia Woolf, are both directed by Carroll.

Prince Caspian, based on the Chronicles of Narnia novel by C.S. Lewis, has been adapted for the stage by Damien Atkins with Molly Atkinson directing.

Meg Roe will direct Assassins, a "darkly comic" musical about the nine men and women who have attempted to kill an American president.

Former artistic director Jackie Maxwell returns to direct The Playboy of the Western World, an Irish comedy presented at the eponymous Jackie

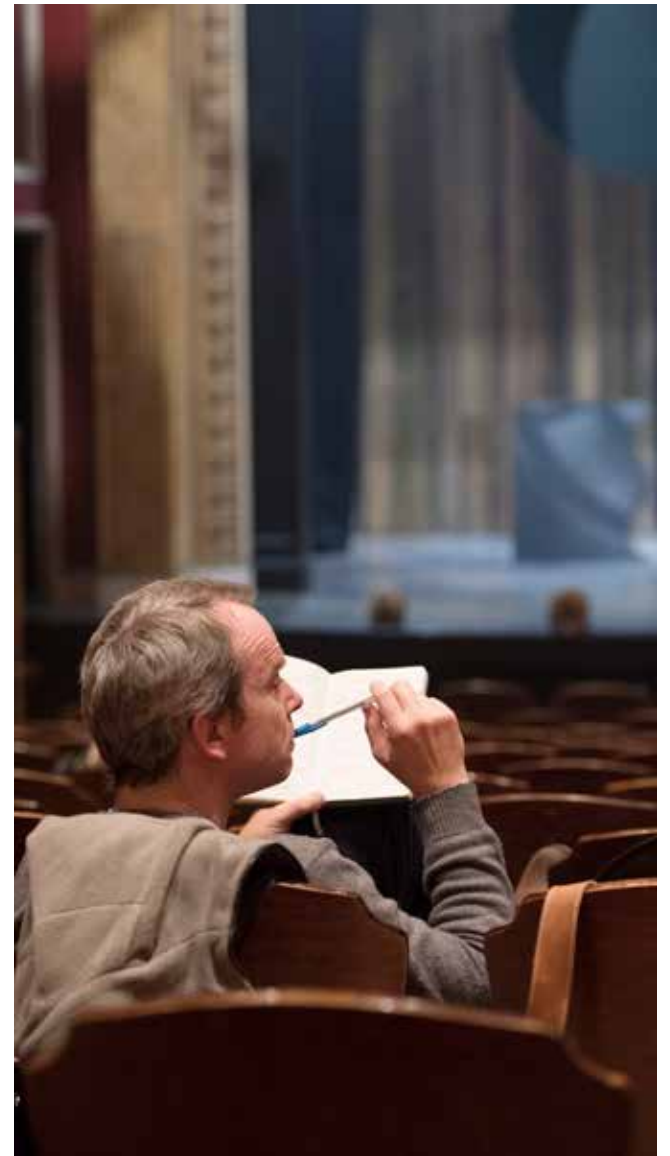
Maxwell Studio Theatre.

Philip Akin will direct Trouble in Mind, "a painfully funny and truthful" piece about race, privilege and power, while Selma Dimitrijevic will direct Desire Under the Elms, a "poetic tale of forbidden love."

In association with Parks Canada, the Shaw will present The History of Niagara, a 30-minute puppet play created and performed by Mike Petersen and Alexandra Montagnese under the direction of Carroll. The show will be presented at the Fort George National Historic Site.

During holiday season, A Christmas Carol, also directed by Carroll, will return to the Royal George Theatre for its fourth year.

As part of the holiday season, *Me and My Girl* will be back on the Festival Theatre stage with Ashlie Corcoran directing.



Shaw Festival artistic director Tim Carroll. SUPPLIED PHOTO/DAVID COOPER

## Writers' Circle: *The Gift* – A second chance

Hermine Steinberg  
NOTL Writers' Circle

As you may remember from last week, my friends and I were on our weekly Friday afternoon walk with our dogs at The Commons when something incredibly strange and unbelievable happened as we were strolling, or to be more precise, singing and dancing through the forest. I admit we were drinking, but this was no alcohol-induced hallucination. I think.

From inside the trunk of a large ancient oak, a pale, tall women appeared. She had flaming red hair cascading down her shoulders and wore a long diaphanous gown that flowed behind her as she walked toward us.

"Circle of Five, you have summoned me." Her voice was deep but soothing. "Are you witches?"

I heard Maggie's trembling voice. "No, of course not. Who are you?"

"I am Euphraxia. It is the



first time in over a hundred years I have been called."

"Called?" said Irma. "We didn't call you."

Euphraxia smiled patiently. "You did summon me. Like all the witches before you who invoked magic to bring me forth and sought to regain their youth."

"We're not witches," insisted Ellen. She turned to me. "I'm not sure any of this is real."

Euphraxia looked puzzled. She then walked toward Ellen and gently placed a hand on her face, caressing it as if she was a small child. "But my dear, I heard your plea the most loudly."

"What do you mean?" I

felt as if I was in a dream, but somehow more aware than I had ever felt before.

"Your hearts spoke in unison to me, strong and true. And as the ancient laws dictate, I must now offer you the magic you seek. To each one I can give the gift of youth, not a turning back of the clock but a second chance. The appearance and vitality of half your age, but in your ideal form. The exuberance of youth is yours."

Beth laughed. "We really must be suffering from some mass delusion. You are just going to turn us into a younger version of ourselves?"

"No," Euphraxia said. "The ultimate decision is

yours to make and you will have exactly three days to make it."

With a wave of her hand, a gold cord with a velvet satchel materialized around each of our necks. "You will not go back in time; your current life will remain as it now exists and will only change according to the choices you make. Only you will change physically, the most glorious version of yourselves. All your memories and knowledge will remain."

"I still don't understand." Irma looked down at her satchel.

"It's simple. Each one of you has a powerful concoction of herbs and magic that you can brew into tea. If you decide to accept my gift, you must drink the potion before three days are up – Monday before the sun goes down. If you decide to forego my offering to you, on the third day when the sun sinks below the horizon, the satchel and its contents

will dissolve into mist."

Euphraxia then turned and floated back up to the doorway, stepped into the tree, and when the doors shut behind her, they faded right before our eyes.

Ellen ran up to the oak and felt the trunk. "Nothing, there's nothing there!"

"But I have more questions," whispered Maggie.

"The sun is going down. We better get going," said Beth, sounding shaken.

"Did this really happen?" I felt like I had just gotten off a roller coaster.

Ellen took the green velvet bag around her neck and raised it to her nose. "Oh, my God!"

"What is it?" I took my satchel and drew it close to take a whiff when I was suddenly overcome by a memory of when I was first going out with Frank, my husband. We were in the throes of a passionate embrace. I was overpowered by the intensity and excitement I felt. It had been a long

time since I experienced anything so deeply.

When I looked up, I saw Irma was weeping and Maggie had covered her face with her hands. Beth's eyes were closed and her face appeared more peaceful than I had ever seen.

"We better go," I said quietly.

As we walked down the dirt path leading out of the forest, none of us whispered one word. The weight of the decision we were about to make was almost too heavy to bear, but one way or the other had to be made.

If we accepted the gift, our lives would change permanently and there would be no going back. It would affect everyone around us. But if we rejected it, would we live to regret it? And we only had three days to decide.

Over the next five installments, you will read what each of us decided. What would you choose?

*To be continued ...*



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# Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

*Exclusive to The Lake Report*



## Simcoe Park

Simcoe Park in the 1950s was a different place for town kids and adults to find entertainment in the summer and winter. For kids there were large swings, a huge wooden slide and a heavy duty wooden teeter-totter. The dance pavilion, seen in this 1957 picture, had live entertainment and dancing on Saturday nights throughout the summer. On Sundays, there was an outdoor bandstand with a piano. Local crooners would entertain the townspeople, who brought their own chairs. In the winter, we had the best skating rink and sleigh ride hills you could ask for.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH



## The eclectics

Brian Marshall  
Featured

In order to be broadly accepted by the public, architectural designs must be reflective of the prevailing socio-economic and political attitudes of the time.

Just as society's attitudes tend to swing on a pendulum from liberal to conservative (and back again), architecture necessarily follows suit, and the closing decade of the 19th century was a case in point.

Decades of change, driven by Victorian innovation and expansionism, created a general desire to slow down and take a breath.

As often occurs during periods such as this, there was a general longing for simpler times and more



An eclectic Dutch Colonial Revival design. BRIAN MARSHALL

traditional ways. Architecture responded to this wave of nostalgia with the Arts & Crafts movement, Edwardian Classicism and a group of revival-based designs generally referred to as Eclectic houses.

Early Eclectic designs, beginning in the 1880s with the English neo-Georgian and the American Colonial Revival (designs taken from the Georgian colonial architecture of the Thirteen Colonies), rigidly adhered to the principles, criteria and elements of the archetypal forms.

By the early 1900s, con-

formity to heritage criteria had loosened up somewhat; designs staying largely true-to-form but often incorporating aspects of Arts & Crafts and/or selected elements lifted from other traditional styles.

Then, the combination of the "eyes-on" experience with actual historic houses by soldiers returning from the First World War in Europe and the advent of inexpensive photographic reproduction showing actual architectural details, forced architects back to designing largely accurate "period houses."

The Dutch Colonial Revival home shown in the photo is a terrific example of the middle "flexible" Eclectic phase. Here, the designer has created a basic gambrel roofed Dutch Colonial reproduction complete with gambrel side gables.

However, the second floor of the end gable has been projected out over a porch appointed with a classical pediment and Tuscan columns. Further, a prominent moulding at the roof-ridges (where the pitch changes) wraps around into the gables, thereby creating the impression of pediments which effectively double-down on the classical elements.

Thanks in part to summer homes built for vacationing Americans and Niagara's burgeoning middle-class of the period, our town is rich with Eclectic homes. So, is the old house you're looking at a Georgian or neo-Georgian? Hmmm ...

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# The famous Queenston peach



Linda Fritz  
Exclusive/The Lake Report

This is written with special thanks to Kathy Thomas and to Ken Slingerland and his colleagues, who provided me with so much information.

When Queenstonian Kathy Thomas was in North Carolina last winter, she discovered a pamphlet written in 1939 about the Fisher or Queenston peach.

The name Fisher is well-known in Queenston. The Fisher Building took pride of place in the village for well over a century. It was identifiable in an 1839 print by British artist William H. Bartlett. The building, however, is believed to have existed at the time of the War of 1812. Although there are no registry records, probably because the property had been handed down through one family, it is believed that the Fisher family bought the 25-room building in the 1860s.

Earlier, in 1840, it had been the office of the Niagara Suspension Bridge Bank and, in 1901, the first telephone exchange in Queenston was housed there. Over its lifetime, the Fisher building, which was also known as the Ivy Block because of the Boston ivy that covered its sides, was the home of the Queenston Hotel, the Imperial Bank of Canada, a restaurant, a bakery and a store.

By the mid-20th century the building was owned by Niagara Falls entrepreneur Dr. Djamal Afrukhteh, who planned to use it as an art gallery. Unfortunately it was in terrible shape, so, after checking to see if it had any historical significance, he had it demolished. Neighbours considered it an eyesore and there was some concern for local children who liked to play in it.

While the building was

important in Queenston, the Fisher family has a bigger, international claim to fame. They were the first to grow a peach variety that extended the growing season. Much of what follows came from a nursery catalogue that Kathy Thomas discovered in North Carolina.

The language in the pamphlet is delightful. It begins, "[I]n the very shadow of the Monument erected to the memory of one of Britain's gallant heroic figures, General Sir Isaac Brock, and on the site of the first commercial peach orchard in Upper Canada, an outstanding Star in the Theatre of Peach Culture made its bow to a delighted Horticultural audience."

The peach was "discovered" in 1934. It had been propagated at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre in Vineland, Ont. The peach ripened early, looked good and extended the season to eight weeks from five.

Before it was declared an outstanding "Star," it was closely watched to make sure that the high quality was sustainable. It was later patented in the United States and registered in Canada. Four nurseries in the States and two in Canada went into the business of propagating the variety. It was officially named the Fisher peach.

C. Howard Fisher was the first to grow the peach at his Dulverton Fruit Farm. The farm was located on Niagara Boulevard, one mile north of Queenston, and was named after Dulverton, England, the birthplace of Fisher's great-grandfather. The Fisher family had owned the land since 1882.

By 1939, Fisher claimed sales records showed the profits for his peach were much higher than that of any other variety on the Niagara Peninsula, and had been so since 1936.

In a 1941 publication called Bountiful Ridge Nurseries, the Fisher peach was praised for its high quality, its ability to be grown in any peach growing area, and the fact that it was easy to ship. The peach continued to be mentioned as a viable product into the 1950s, although

it was no longer mentioned in publications by 1964.

The Fisher family were noted for their knowledge of peach growing and the Queenston peach was not the family's first success. The following unsigned article appeared in *The Canadian Horticulturist*, Fruit Edition, Aug. 9, 1920.

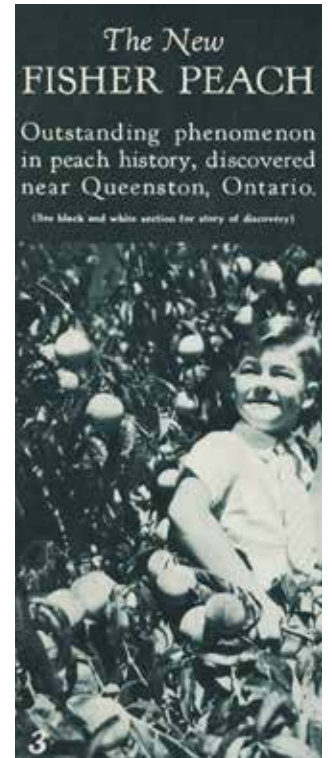
### *Handling Peaches by the Carload*

*"I instruct my pickers to pick by sight, not by feel," said Mr. Fisher. "A peach is ready for picking when the ground color takes on a yellowish tinge. The peach will mellow after picking.*

*Peaches have been grown on Mr. Fisher's farm for more than 100 years. He showed me a field that had grown peaches almost continuously for over a century. There are trees there now of the Jacques Rareripe variety that are 17 inches in diameter near the butt and 35 years old. Mr. Fisher claimed that the first commercial peach orchard in Canada was established on this same farm before the War of 1812, by a Mrs. James Durham, a United Empire Loyalist. The farm was procured from the Crown in 1797, and peaches set out some time later. This should be an important contribution to the historical study of the peach in Canada. The writer remembers how difficult it was some 15 years ago, when he prepared an article on the peach industry for publication in a report of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association (1906), to secure authentic information respecting the early history of the peach in this country. Palmer and Harris' bulletin on "Peach Growing in Ontario," published in 1916, records peaches grown by a Mrs. Simcoe, Niagara, as early as 1793, but not in a commercial way. Gould's book on "Peach-Growing," published in 1918, quotes a reference to peaches growing in Southern Canada in 1748—but, was not "Southern" Canada in those days, under the French, somewhere down along the Ohio River? At any rate, it is all very interesting, and Mr. Fisher can produce deeds and records to substantiate his contention. Facts on peach history from*



At left, peach farmers check out their crop. Right, the 1939 brochure promoting the Queenston peach. PHOTOS COURTESY KATHY THOMAS



other sources are requested for publication.

*There is a vast difference, however, between growing a few peaches for home use, or even for market, a hundred years ago and growing peaches today for sale by the carload. Mr. Fisher grows the leading varieties, such as St. John, Elberta, and the like, and is always on the lookout for new varieties that will lengthen or fill in the season. He has about 2,000 trees of Rochester, the comparatively new, early yellow freestone.*

Because peach farming was so crucial to the Niagara economy, its growth and harvest took a different slant during the Second World War. The young men of the region went to fight, leaving young women, the farmerettes, to look after the crop.

Former Queenston resident, T. Allan Clifford wrote in his memoirs:

*Eventually, with an acute shortage of farm help, the YWCA opened up what became known as Farmerette Camps. The Y recruited young girls from some of the better boarding schools in Toronto and set them up in camps in the Niagara area. What a windfall for all the guys who were in their teens at the time! There was a camp of sixty girls a block away from our house, sixty more a mile down the road, and another sixty at St.*

Davids. It wasn't all a bed of roses for me.

*We had a hired man on the farm at that time and he wanted nothing to do with managing girl pickers on the farm. I was given that job. It was really tough to get these girls to pick fruit all day and then try to take them out at night. As I recall the only lever I had to get them to pick was to threaten to send them to work in the packing house where my mother was in charge and they did not like working for her.*

Another story involving the girls who worked in the peach industry occurred during the 1950s. Canadian Canners in St. Davids employed young women to peel the fruit and cut out the pits for canning. They were paid per pit. One young woman found that some of the other girls were stealing her pits. She went to the plant manager, who made her supervisor of the others.

An email from Ken Slingerland brings the story into the present day. Slingerland worked in the soft fruit department at Vineland from 1975 to 2011. He wrote, "I know that we did not have the Fisher or Queenston peach at the farm based on my memory. So it likely was a local Queenston peach and was farmed there for 30-plus years. There has not been the Fisher peach being

harvested for the Marketing Board since the late 1960s.

Any peach later than Elberta and many of the old V peaches were phased out as consumers wanted peaches in August and September rather than October. Consumers also wanted peaches with more red skin and firmer for shipping. Many of the old V peaches were soft and were used mainly for canning."

In May 1998, W.R. Okie prepared the Handbook of Peach and Nectarine Varieties. In it, the Fisher peach was described as being attractive, with a yellow undercolour. The quality was good with a coarse texture; however, it was very susceptible to brown rot, and was by this time, too soft for commercial use. Slingerland says, however, that the remarks made in the latter part of the 20th century probably don't reflect the peaches' true value to the local growers some 60 years earlier.

Sources: Kathy Thomas, Ken Slingerland, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, the Queenston Community Library, the Jean Huggins collection Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Museum.

More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: [www.niagaranow.com](http://www.niagaranow.com)

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# COMMUNITY



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



*The water is calming*



Niagara Pumphouse board chair Lise Andreana and secretary Gwen Laing present the Pumphouse Ian Butler Scholarship to Lauren Riley. SUPPLIED PHOTO



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

TEALiSe Tea Shop



Dolores Ju accepts the Gold Plunger for TEALiSe Tea Shop in Virgil. PLUNGER PATROL

Wineries and craft breweries are plentiful in NOTL but if you find yourself singing... Ninety-nine bottles of "tea" on the wall... ninety-nine bottles of "tea"... you just might be in Virgil's TEALiSe Tea Shop sampling green, black, bubble tea or an exotic brew at the "tea bar." If you call ahead, you can make a reservation for "high tea," which includes a sampling of assorted goodies and delicate treats. The "loo" was bright and clean with greenery accents providing that natural organic touch. Whether it's "tea for two" or just you enjoying your favourite brew, tea lovers are sure to enjoy a visit to TEALiSe. There is ample parking in the rear and the shop is cyclist-friendly. This venue "steamed" up and received 3\5 plungers, making it a Gold Plunger Award winner.

3/5 Gold Plungers



Carson Lincoln and his border collie Stella run the carriages during the Peach Festival on Saturday. Stella, famous in town for being well-trained, waves at passersby when Lincoln does. The two are inseparable. RICHARD HARLEY



Catherine Novick was playing a game of bridge with friends at the community centre when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stopped by. "Best bridge game we've had yet," she said. SUBMITTED/CATHERINE NOVICK



## Therapy tales: Dogs at library

Jasper is a member of Therapy Tails, visiting the library each week throughout summer. BRITTANY CARTER

## RIDDLE ME THIS:

I can be held in your right hand, but not in your left. What am I?

Last Week's Riddle: Turn me on my side and I'm everything, cut me in half and I'm nothing. What am I?

Answer: 8

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly by:

Cheryl House, Katie Reimer, Keira Walker, Tamara Vassiliev, Laura Hollemans.

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com) for a chance to win a prize.



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## FEATURED LOCAL STORY



Leno Mori happily spends time in his Mori Nurseries office at age 92. His business has supplied tree stock for almost 70 years. TIM TAYLOR

## Leno Mori: Niagara's Johnny Appleseed

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

Leno Mori smiles at the thought that some people consider him Niagara's Johnny Appleseed, a fictional 18th-century character who wandered North America, planting apple trees wherever he travelled.

You can tell Mori has heard the comparison before.

The 92-year-old, builder of one of Canadian's largest and best-known nursery businesses, estimates that almost half of all the fruit trees in Niagara were supplied by his nearly 70-year-old Mori Nurseries.

"I guess a lot of people know me. I still get people from all over dropping in here, who remember me as president of both the Ontario and Canadian Nurserymen's Associations.

"I can't complain."

Mori's father arrived from Italy in 1923.

"He came with nothing," Mori says proudly. "He never borrowed a dollar from anybody."

"He worked here and there. But then he got a job at Queenston Quarries, farming the hay to feed their horses, and later, after learning tenderfruit farming from the Lowrey family, tending the Quarries' 25 acres of fruit trees."

Young Mori worked on the farm as a youngster.

"When I was 13, I started driving the farm truck. I took all the fruit away to the canning factory. We brought a lot down to the dock for the old Cayuga to take to Toronto."

In his early 20s, Mori wanted to buy some property but found it was just too expensive. Land was \$1,000 an acre, wages were just 25 cents an hour.

Mori realized he could make more by converting some of his father's recently acquired 20 acres on Line

2 Road into a farm for growing fruit tree stock. He added five acres of his own.

A business was born.

"I started out selling peach trees, and then cherries and plums and later apples, largely to local farmers. First, I did a few thousand. Then 50,000. Then 100,000.

"It just grew and grew."

At one time, his business cultivated over 2,000 acres in Ontario, New York, Mexico and British Columbia.

And while Mori Nurseries didn't invent new types of trees, it was responsible for helping many nursery industry innovations germinate and grow.

As an example, Mori cites his company's early leadership in securing royalties from licensing the sale of root stock from Europe.

"I flew to Germany and got the licence to exclusively sell dwarf cherry root stock in North and South America.

"We'd sell them as small shoots (they look like 12-inch pencils) to nurseries everywhere. When they were mature enough for sale to farmers for production, we took a good royalty."

Mori is proud of his part in the sector's innovations.

"Take apples. We've had dwarf apples for 60 years. And now they're getting 1,000 trees per acre. Some farmers are working toward 2,000 an acre. A good apple harvest used to be 1,000 bushels an acre. Now they are aiming at 3,000 an acre. Amazing."

Mori decided to retire in 2015. "I had nobody to take over and I didn't want to continue on my own."

Today's Mori Nurseries is a shadow of its former self. The various businesses are shuttered. All but 100 acres of prime land is sold and that is on the market.

Mori spends a lot of time at the company head office, next to Mori Gardens on

Niagara Stone Road. It's a quiet place. He has trimmed his staff to one part-time bookkeeper and two full-time workers out in the field, doing cleanup to be ready for the sale.

Mori's daughter-in-law, Toni, will continue to operate the existing Mori Gardens, on leased land next door.

For Leno Mori, the conversation does not dwell long on the past. His observations may be founded on a lifetime of experience, but this is not a retired voice.

"I still have lots to do."

"I always enjoyed farming," he says, pondering a lifetime of highlights. "I was born on the farm and from the age of six months watched my mother pick the cherries. My mother took me in a little wicker basket. And I watched her pick cherries."

Another lifetime highlight was truly embracing his

religion.

"I went to church almost every Sunday. But it wasn't until I went to a special service with my first wife who suffered from cancer that I really became a Christian. The experience changed my life. They prayed for us. I don't know what happened, but it changed me and gave her another 24 years."

Eleven years ago, Mori, and his second wife Heidi, responded to a difficult family circumstance by assuming the parenting role for two of Leno's great-grandchildren — both boys, now 11 and 14.

"It's a challenge at my age. People say it keeps me young. I guess so. That's life. Take it as it comes."

"I can't complain," he says again, a little tearfully.

When he gathers himself, he says: "I was born in Niagara. Lived here. Still here."

There's no question about that.

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