It’s official: NOTL adopts new official plan, 25 years later

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

A new official plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake has finally been approved by town council but at least one area resident thinks council rushed the decision.

Austin Kirby, a member of the town’s agricultural advisory committee, said she had been working with council to address the farming community’s concerns with the final draft of the new plan.

In a special meeting Thursday evening at the community centre, council made some revisions but adopted the final draft of the official plan, a detailed land-use policy document that outlines the town’s intentions for potential growth and development. It’s been 25 years since the town had a new official plan.

Though Kirby said she couldn’t comment on what eventually was approved after the marathon six-hour special session because she hasn’t seen the final document, she said she hopes her committee’s concerns were addressed.

“It’s not an inhumane process to try to deal with a document, in less than 24 hours from the time they had seen the last comments from the consultants,” she said.

Councillors received the final draft barely one day before the meeting at which the document was to be debated.

“It was an unfair process, but it was the process they agreed to,” Kirby added.

However, she did offer kudos to council members, who despite not having a farming background, took time to learn the issues and educate themselves on the agricultural community’s concerns.

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“arrest made in fatal NOTL hit-and-run

Zenaida, a migrant worker from Mexico, died Monday after being struck by a pick-up truck that Saturday.

Story on Page 2, SUPPLIED PHOTO

Mailbox mayhem

Vandals in truck damage post boxes along Concession 1 and Larkin Road

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The rural mailboxes of a number of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents were wrecked or stolen this week.

Larkin Road resident Kim McQuhae, who described herself as a “light sleeper,” said she woke up hearing loud bangs at about 12:30 a.m. Monday night.

At first, she thought it might have been her neighbours coming home as she noticed high beams going on and a truck rolling past her house.

She heard bangs again and loud voices, and that’s when McQuhae realized it wasn’t her neighbours.

It was a full-size dark-colored pickup truck coming toward Concession 1 Road, she said. The voices of at least two people in the vehicle sounded like they belonged to young men, she added.

By the time McQuhae jumped out of bed, got dressed and hopped into her car, the truck had already turned off Larkin Road.

McQuhae turned around the corner and saw the truck going past Marynissen Es-

Continued on Page 3

A mailbox on Larkin Road, after being smashed by vandals on Sunday.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

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Lake Report
Vol. 2, Issue 33
Niagara-on-the-Lake’s most respected newspaper
August 22, 2019

Queen’s Royal Beach closed, but warning sign ‘invisible’

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Queen’s Royal Beach closed, but warning sign ‘invisible’

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Continued on Page 2

Queen’s Royal Beach closed, but warning sign ‘invisible’

Page 8

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GoFundMe surpasses goal in less than 24 hours

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report  

Niagara Regional Police arrested a man Wednesday in connection with a hit-and-run that killed a 33-year-old migrant worker.

Patrick McCabe, 21, of Pelham turned himself in and is facing charges of fail to stop and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death, investigators said.

The vehicle belonged to be involved in the collision has been recovered, police said. McCabe was being held in custody pending a bail hearing on Thursday in St. Catharines.

The woman who died was a hard worker who travelled to Canada so she could improve the lives of her two young daughters at home in Mexico, friends and colleagues said.

The woman, identified only as Zenaida by friends, died on Monday afternoon, succumbing to injuries suffered late Saturday when a dark-coloured Dodge Ram pickup truck struck her as she walked along Concession 7 Road in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake. The truck failed to stop after the accident, police said.

She had been walking home after a church picnic. Zenaida was in her second season working at Tregunno Fruit Farms on the Niagara Parkway.

Marina Nava-Millín, one of Zenaida’s co-workers at the farm, said she was an incredibly hard worker, putting in as much as time as she could to support her family back home in Mexico.

Zenaida spent Saturday day evening at a church barbecue, Nava-Millín said.

Phil Tregunno, owner of Tregunno Fruit Farms, said the company is feeling the “tragic loss” this week and a lot of the workers have experienced “great sadness and loss.”

“There’s so much worry about the family back home. There’s concern because it’s such a random accident. I think everyone looks at their own mortality in something like this,” he said. “Could it happen to them and could their family be affected as it is a result of something like that?”

Pastoral worker Wilfred Bout said he was alerted about the accident on Saturday evening and stayed with Zenaida in hospital until the end.

“She was alone when she was hit, to my knowledge, but some workers from St. Davids saw the flashing lights, and came out and called me,” he said. He stayed with her the whole time.

Zenaida’s concern was always for her family back home, her two young daughters, ages 7 and 11, and her elderly parents, whom she also was supporting, Nava-Millín said.

Bout created a GoFundMe to help cover the funeral costs, and to send the rest of the money to help support the family at home in Mexico.

Within the first 24 hours of the fundraiser being launched, more than $18,000 was donated by about 180 people, surpassing the target goal of $10,000 in the first 20 hours. The goal has since been increased to $30,000.

“The support has been overwhelming,” Bout said. Police said the woman was walking alone on the shoulder of the southbound lane of Concession 7 Road near Line 6 just before 11 p.m. when she was hit by the southbound pickup truck. The driver sped off and was last seen heading south, away from the scene. A passing motorist alerted police.

Zenaida initially was taken to hospital in Niagara Falls, but was later transferred to an unnamed out-of-region trauma centre in critical condition. Bout said she was taken to Hamilton General Hospital.

Some residents not satisfied with official plan being “pushed” by council

Cameron said she shared McCormack’s sentiments about the limited time to review the revised draft, she agreed it was time to make a decision.

“I do feel it’s unfortunate that after all of that effort, there were only 24 hours and about 35 minutes for council and the public to see all of the documents we were discussing last night. That’s concerning because I feel good that we were able to move past that,” Cameron said.

Disero said there was more than enough time to go over the plan, the initial draft of which was completed in December 2018.

Council and town staff have been working with planning consultants from PlanSpace to create and revise the official plan.

The new plan, which still requires approval by the Region of Niagara and the provincial government, will replace that last official plan – adopted a generation ago, in 1994.

“It’s easy to ask questions. The difficulty is making decisions. I’m very proud of council for making decisions. I’m thrilled that we were able to work together to finally get this done,” Disero said.

Cameron, who is a deputy lord mayor, said her concerns were addressed while council meticulously combed through every section, adding that each councillor was given that opportunity.

“I’m feeling very good about the level of effort that’s been brought over the past eight months,” Cameron said. “To pull together comments from the public, all the public that’s made comments, I think there’s been a really good level of engagement,” she said.

Despite requests by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in February to put some planning decisions on hold, Disero said she pushed for a conclusive decision in order to outline a clear view of where the town is headed through the official plan.

With the looming uncertainty of possible forced amalgamation by the provincial government, she said it is important to define the importance of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s unique traits, including agriculture and heritage.

“If we don’t do it, someone else will tell us who we are,” Disero said.

“We are going to be adopting this tonight … this is not going to be an exercise in getting another draft,” Cameron said. “We’re not having another special council meeting to deal with yet another draft … I want to finalize this, to-night,” she told councillors.

Disero said the concerns of the agricultural community were a “top priority” in the revision process.

A motion was passed to include ponds, swales and drainage ditches as working farm areas and part of the agricultural infrastructure.

“We wanted to really express through our official plan the importance of our agricultural economy, what they need to function, so that’s why we thought it was best to identify what the farming community in Niagara-on-the-Lake needs,” she said.
No charges laid after man, 76, hit crossing road in Old Town

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

A 76-year-old man was in stable condition in hospital after he was struck by a vehicle in Niagara-on-the-Lake Sunday night.

Niagara Regional Police said the accident happened near Mississauga and Centre streets in Old Town around 9:30 p.m.

The man was taken to hospital via air ambulance for “treatment of what were believed to be critical injuries,” a police spokesperson said in an email to The Lake Report.

“The driver and his passenger remained at the scene after the accident. No charges have been laid, police said.

Mississauga Street resident Sharon Rooney said the accident happened right in front of her house.

At around 9:15 p.m., she heard brakes squealing, followed by a loud bang.

Rooney’s husband Neil went out to see what happened and saw a man unconscious on the road.

The driver and his passenger were at the scene. Both men stayed next to their vehicle, said Rooney, and they were talking to police, who arrived a short time later.

The pedestrian is a NOTL resident, Rooney said, and was crossing the street when he was hit by the vehicle.

“It was a big fright because it was very quiet. It was very dark. And there was very little traffic on the road, so it was bit of a shock,” Rooney told The Lake Report.

She said another driver, who was passing by, stopped their vehicle, grabbed a blanket and put it over the man.

A land ambulance took the man away, Rooney said, and the street between William and Centre streets was also taped off until around 2 a.m.

Police have not released the names of those involved or any other details about the incident.

It was the second incident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle in as many nights in NOTL.

Late Saturday, a 33-year-old migrant worker was struck in a hit-and-run near Concession 7 Road and Line 6.

She suffered serious injuries and died Monday afternoon.

Police said they are looking for a dark-coloured Dodge Ram pickup truck.

Vandals damage rural mailboxes

Continued from Front Page

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**Editorial**

The worst times and the best times

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

It’s been a tough few days in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Tragedy struck late Saturday night when a 33-year-old seasonal farm worker from Mexico was killed by the driver of a pickup truck as she walked home along a rural road after a church barbecue.

Less than 24 hours later, a NOTL man was hit by a vehicle as he crossed the road near Mississauga and Centre streets in Old Town. Thankfully, and appropriately, the driver in the second incident remained at the scene, a passing motorist comforted the victim as he lay on the pavement, and police have laid no charges in the accident.

Then late Monday, it seems some immature yahoos with too much time on their hands went racing around the area near Larkin Road, smashing and, apparently, stealing rural mail boxes. But it seems they didn’t want to mess with the mail, as at least one resident found theirs placed atop the post where their mailbox once sat.

Such idle foolishness. Police announced early Wednesday evening that a man surrendered to them and is facing charges in connection with the fatal hit-and-run. The community can be thankful for that and the family of a hard-working, dedicated mother of two young girls perhaps can have a bit of closure.

***

It’s been a good few days in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The community has rallied to help the family of Zenaida, the victim in the hit-and-run. As of Wednesday afternoon, more than $18,000 had been raised to help her survivors. The man struck by a vehicle on Sunday night is badly hurt, but thankfully he was in stable condition in hospital and someone was there to comfort him as he lay injured on the road.

There’s simply nothing positive to say about the fools who feel smashing mailboxes is great fun. But kudos to NOTL’s Ken Eden and Terry Weiner of Bikes for Farmworkers. They donated 10 bikes to migrant workers who were affected by the major fire at Pioneer Flower Farms in St. Catharines last Friday. That’s the spirit we love to see.

editor@niagaranow.com

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**Green Tip of the Week**

Contributed by Norm Tang

**Age is something that doesn’t matter, unless you are cheese.”** - Billie Burke

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**Fixed**

After two years, weed-plagued area has been cleaned up

Dear editor:

I am thrilled and delighted to announce that, finally, after two years, the weeding of the landscaping on Four Mile Creek Road near my home has been completed. (“Fix It: Will someone at Town of NOTL please solve this weed problem,” letter to the editor, The Lake Report, Aug. 15).

I heard from a neighbour that the pond on the corner of Line 9 and Concession 3 Road was also cleaned up, but there remains a very unpleasant odour, which needs to be attended to.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, on my daily dog walk I was greeted by the wonderful sight of a young woman with a big truck and a shovel removing weeds. The truck was from Dawland Construction and Landscaping. The young woman was not able to tell me who had authorized the work, only that Dawland Construction had been contracted to do the job.

I have requested from my contact at the Town of NOTL that someone tell me who authorized the job, the town, the Region of Niagara or the developer.

I certainly do not want to go through this challenge again in 2020 and make it an annual event.

Patricia Gregoire
St. Davids

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**THE LAKE REPORT**

August 22, 2019

**EDITORIAL & OPINION**

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**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

Patricia Gregoire is happy now that the weeds have been removed. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

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The worst times and the best times
Woodstock: How I missed the greatest musical event in history

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

In early June 1969, cool young people started talking about an upcoming weekend of peace, love and rock ‘n’ roll, with Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Arlo Guthrie and other bands. Tickets were cheap and about 25,000 were expected to show up at a farm to “share the love.”

I guess I wasn’t cool. Working on Cape Cod, partying with new friends from around the States, who needed to travel anywhere? In late May, I had borrowed my mother’s Dodge Dart and driven about 10 hours from St. Catharines to Denisonport on the Cape. My summer job as afternoons/evening manager of a casual and very busy restaurant was perfect, and great experience for a freshman at the Cornell School of Hotel Administration. I was livin’ the dream, eh? We were serving about 1,200 meals on a good day, for fair prices to hungry tourists.

That summer, I learned the hard way that everyone has their own terms of reference and that “context” is important before making a decision. Life lessons, never to be forgotten.

The owner, a Cornell alum, owned a large house he rented to his management team each summer. This time, one Canadian and five Texans. Four of them had recently returned from Vietnam. They didn’t talk much about their time there. Mike Aillet, a helicopter pilot, became my pal, and we spent most of our free time discovering the sand dunes and pubs of Cape Cod. He thought differently than I did about things. He had seen horror in ‘Nam.

We worked hard at the Pancake Man, untanned hard on the beaches and partied hard wherever there was action.

In early August, the six of us spent a night in the Cape Cod slummer, after the local cops had taken us in after coming to our house for the third time in four weeks. Too much music, too late for some neighbours. We were each allowed one call from the pay phone: 25 cents. Aillet phoned for two pepperoni and mushroom pizzas, later delivered to our cell by a laughing cop who was stuffing a slice or two into his mouth.

I used my call to contact Judge Begora back in St. Catharines. I kinda’ knew his son Dennis. At 4:30 a.m., the judge wasn’t amused, but assured me it was just a misdemeanor, not a felony. “Obey the police, be respectful in court, pay the small fine and be quiet. And, take a few pictures of the six of you cuffed and in the paddy wagon. You won’t have a record.” That’s what we did.

A week later, our general manager Eric told us he had modified our work schedules, to give all of us three days off to “drive three or four hours to the concert near Woodstock.” Great excitement from the Texans and a half-dozen waitresses. Didn’t rattle my chain a bit. “Eric, I’m not really into rock music, and, eight weeks ago I drove 10 hours from near there to get here to the Cape. I’m not up for 20 hours in a car, for a long weekend with a bunch of music.” They left on Thursday. I stayed and covered some of their shifts at the Pancake Man. The television coverage was exploding. Woodstock was big and making headlines, and even more people were deciding to go. Because the promoters couldn’t handle ticket-taking, it became a free concert.

It was a chaotic weekend that defined a generation. Jimi Hendrix was the highest paid performer, at $18,000. Joan Baez and Jefferson Airplane got $7,500 each. There were no toilets, lots of mud mixed with lots of excrement, and lots of peace and love. Fun, eh?

Over 400,000 people loved it. I was happily back on Cape Cod, working and sunning and funning. Not really paying attention to the amazing concert 10 hours away.

My roomies and the waitresses arrived home late Sunday night, after fighting traffic and inhaling funny smoke. They had all felt the love, exchanged peace signs, shared food, changed the world, and were disgustedly filthy from the mud.

“Yeah, Ross, it was a long six-hour drive back.”

“Guys, it was at least 11 hours each way.”

Eric got his road map out. I finally said, “Oh, I thought it was in Woodstock, Ont., about an hour from St. Catharines.”

Lessons learned:
Each of us has our own terms of reference.
Seek context. As much context as possible, before making a decision.

Woodstock was voted the greatest musical event in history.

Still darn! I missed it.

Twenty years ago, I heard that my summer of ‘69 buddy Mike Aillet had re-upped, and gone back to Vietnam. He was killed in a chopper crash.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada … in 2019.
Noisy Airbnbs are ruining neighbours’ summer evenings in Garrison Village

Dear editor,

The Garrison Village community of Niagara-on-the-Lake has had some problems of late with Airbnbs, though not all are operated without consideration for the neighbourhood and our privacy.

Some quiet neighbourhoods like ours, where we once could sit in our gardens on a warm summer’s evening, are now plagued by noisy partiers, forcing residents to retreat into our homes and close the windows.

We do this to avoid weekenders who feel there are no boundaries to the amount of noise, music and partying that is acceptable. This is their home for a night, “So live with it,” we’ve been told on occasion.

There has been very little support from the Town of NOTL, which we have contacted on numerous accounts through email and phone. We have been told if we wish to go forward with any complaints, we must be willing to become involved. This would mean filling in a logbook (provided to us) and recording for one month how and when we are being disturbed. The local fire chief who stopped by to check that all was OK. The scouts spent their final night in Niagara-on-the-Lake dry, in great spirits and sharing memories of their time in Canada.

As you may know, the scouts spent the two weeks before our stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. In planning for our post-jamboree visit we looked at several venues. We wanted somewhere where we could experience the community and culture of the locals, and we are so happy we picked Niagara-on-the-Lake as we achieved our aim tenfold.

Once again from all the Irish scouts, as we say in Irish, “Mile Buiochas” – One Thousand Thank you. We hope we get to repay your hospitality someday.

Best regards,

Kieran Cody
Scouting Ireland

The following letter was sent to Lord Mayor Betty Disero. The author submitted a copy to The Lake Report for publication.

Dear Mayor Disero:

I was the head of contingent of the more than 300 Irish scouts who visited Niagara-on-the-Lake early in August.

I wanted to express our sincerest thanks to the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake for their hospitality and friendliness during our stay. The scouts were awed by the number of residents who stopped and talked to them, and the welcome they gave us. From day one of our stay on the Commons we felt welcomed and very much part of the community.

In particular, I would like to thank the local Kinsmen and the Legion for opening their doors to us on the final night of our stay, after the deluge that flooded our camp.

Thanks also to your kind self for offering us the use of the community centre and the local fire chief who stopped by to check that all was OK. The scouts spent their final night in Niagara-on-the-Lake dry, in great spirits and sharing memories of their time in Canada.

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Scouting Ireland

I do hope we will see more such thoughtful opinion pieces from Steinberg and others.

Michael Eagen
NOTL

Irish scouts thank NOTL for hospitality

The Irish and the Chinese built large tracts of our national railway system and the reward for the Chinese was a federal Head Tax applied to any family member a Chinese worker wished to bring to Canada.

It is important for citizens of any country to be proud of the achievements but, as Steinberg pointed out, it is also imperative to appreciate the ongoing contributions of the many newcomers and be confident that they also will contribute to the fabric of Canadian society.

I do hope we will see more thoughtful opinion pieces from Steinberg and others.

Michael Eagen
NOTL

Commentary was a timely reflection on society

Dear editor:

I would like to compliment Hermine Steinberg on her timely article on the present economic trend regarding the very uneven distribution of wealth in most Western societies which claim to operate under democratic forms of government. “Society can’t move forward by going backward,” op-ed, The Lake Report, Aug. 15.

We often have a romantic view of our economic success and Steinberg has aptly pointed out that slavery in the United States and indentured servitude in Canada have not always been factored in to our cumulative society’s wealth.

We in Canada are increasingly recognizing the contributions of the many waves of newcomers who have worked for poor wages and in deplorable living conditions without much historical reference. The Irish and the Chinese built large tracts of our national railway system and the reward for the Chinese was a federal Head Tax applied to any family member a Chinese worker wished to bring to Canada.

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Michael Eagen
NOTL

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@niagaraganow.com or drop them by our office at 724 Mississauga St., NOTL.

The Lake Report welcomes your letters.
Residents weigh in on designs for two new playgrounds

Daryia Baiguzhiyeva | The Lake Report

A proposed playground design for Cannery Park didn’t sit well with some area residents.

At an open house held at Centennial Arena Monday, several residents said Niagara on the Green’s park design was more appealing to them than the one proposed for Cannery Park.

Niagara on the Green will see an expansion of a basketball court, a replacement of the existing playground equipment, a community information board installation and refurbishment of the existing pergola. The town will spend $132,000 on the project and work is expected to start this fall.

The playground for Cannery Park will also be installed this fall.

However, the site work for Cannery Park, which includes pathways, planting, installing seating and entrance features, is expected to start next year. Because the project tender was over budget, the town staff recommended that council retender the site work in the winter 2020 and start construction next spring.

Temporary picnic tables also will be installed at Cannery Park until permanent seating can be set up next year.

Cannery Park resident Steve Lidstone, who came to the meeting with three of his children, said the park doesn’t have enough features that would allow children to develop relative strength and physical abilities.

“It seems very preschool age versus this (Niagara on the Green park) is more along with the age groups we see playing in the park, which is kindergarten all the way up to Grade 5,” Lidstone said.

Lidstone’s children – Carter, Charlie and Will – said they wanted to see monkey bars, more climbing plots of land, rather than clear-cutting forests.

“Sometimes you’re just locked into the budget that we have set,” Turcotte said.

Cannery Park resident Dianne Barnes said she expected to see a gashero in the park, but said she thinks the park will look nice with a pergola too.

Helen-Lee Carson said the tree line is close to the edge of the basketball court and the Niagara on the Green resident said she was concerned about children and college students playing basketball, getting bumped and falling into the trees as the court is located on a steep surface.

Town’s manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte, Town manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

Top: Will Lidstone looks at the proposed design of Niagara-on-the-Green Park. Bottom: Town manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte.

Remember the degradation of hearing sensory cells is permanent. Therefore, the best rehabilitative science and technology can provide for us through the use of hearing aids is not a fund of hearing loss, but it is a fund of hearing aids. When we are presupposed, we insist on the use of the best form of rehabilitation available for hearing loss testing.

It is imperative that we get informed about your rehabilitative options from a qualified hearing professional. During this time you should gain a more thorough understanding of hearing loss as it relates to your life as well as which rehabilitative option you will be successful with.

There are many factors that attribute to how successful someone can be with hearing aids. Acceptance and motivation are paramount predictors for a successful rehabilitative process.

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Vanessa Vani, MA, ABD, Reg CASLPO
Doctor of Audiology


Top: Will Lidstone looks at the proposed design of Niagara-on-the-Green Park. Bottom: Town manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte.

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Queen’s Royal Beach has now been declared unsafe six times this season, but the sign displaying the warning is obscure and poorly placed, several families said Saturday afternoon.

“The sign is affixed to the side of a garbage bin near the Delater and King Street corner of the beach. For much of Saturday the sign showed the water was unsafe and not recommended for swimming. It was changed to safe, once the latest water test results were released,” said Victoria Steele, the town’s community engagement co-ordinator.

Many tourists who were watching their children play in the water this weekend said they never saw any warning signs as they walked to the beach from the opposite side of the street corner of the beach.

“Almost invisible is how they describe the sign when they are here,” Steele said. “They should have it on the beach main entrance. That way people can see it.”

Many of the residents on the beach since the warning signs went up have said they want the sign moved to a more prominent location.

“People should be allowed to swim when it’s in fact possible to be open, so people can enjoy it. I wouldn’t say, ‘Close the beach for the summer,’ ” Steele said, adding that if the water tests come back safe, then people should be allowed to swim if they want.

The beach was posted this season on June 11, June 22, July 18, July 30, Aug. 9 and Aug. 15.

Alexis Gagnon and Etienne Richard play in the Water at Queen’s Royal Beach on Saturday. The family complained of poorly placed warning signs.

BRITTANY CARTER

*Beach closed sign ‘Almost invisible’ and needs to be more prominent, Lord Mayor and visitors say*

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

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Team Pillsy hits 80 per cent of $100,000 fundraising goal before September starts

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Joe Pillitteri’s Team Pillsy raised $6,500 washing cars and selling pies on Saturday afternoon with the help of Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil and a host of volunteers.

The car wash brought people through to clean their vehicles and to buy some of the 225 peach pies baked and sold by volunteers from the church.

“We couldn’t believe the flow of traffic that came in, considering most of them just had their cars cleaned by an inch of rain the night before,” said Pillitteri, the driving force behind the fundraiser.

He said locals and tourists piled in for the car wash and pie and some donated money without even taking anything.

“Every person that couldn’t make it in the door, they were like, ‘Oh I don’t have time for pie or a car wash, but take this,’ so, they were handing the kids at the side of the road that were holding signs $20,” said Pillitteri.

Between the car wash and the comedy show planned for Sept. 5 at the Jackson Triggs Amphitheatre, Team Pillsy is now 80 per cent to its $100,000 fundraising goal for the Terry Fox Foundation this year.

Aside from the upcoming comedy show, Pillitteri said people can support the cause by donating through the Terry Fox Foundation website. Search for Joe Pillitteri or Team Pillsy to make a donation.

The comedy show will feature Pillitteri hosting the event with guest comedians taking the stage. Tickets are $50 and the doors open at 7 p.m.

The show begins at 8 p.m. and there will be a cash bar offering local wines and craft beer.

Tickets can be purchased online at greatstateninagar.com.

Joe Pillitteri raises money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

*SUPPLIED*

Town’s new online service lets residents track complaints, questions

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Concerns and questions submitted through the town’s online form can now be tracked through the website’s new tracking service, to keep residents up to date on their requests through every step of the process.

The tracking service, which was announced last month, offers a more efficient method to stay informed on submitted requests.

Issues such as over-grown trees, parking infractions, potholes and required road service are some of the most common complaints the town receives, said Victoria Steele, the town’s community engagement co-ordinator.

Since the service request online form was implemented in April 2017, Steele said 2,000 requests have been entered into the internal database, 750 of those were through the online form.

Before the online service was implemented, town staff would enter requests manually into the database.

“It’s just another way for the public to get up-to-date information, and another way for us (town staff) to be more accessible online. We’re trying make things more efficient,” Steele said.

Through the form, photos and documents can also be submitted to create a clearer picture of the issue, she said.

“It’s also nice because it gives people the opportunity to put the problem into their own words, as opposed to you telling me over the phone and I’m interpreting what you’re saying and entering that into the database,” she said.

“It’s nice to hear the message directly from the residents.”
NOTL among best places to live, most affluent in Canada, Maclean’s magazine survey finds

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva

The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is not only one of the affluent communities in Canada, but also one of the best places to live, according to Maclean’s magazine.

With an average household income in the town of $93,425, Maclean’s said.

Among the 25 best communities in which to live, NOTL is number eight. The magazine decreed the top three significant features in NOTL are demographics, wealth and economy, and weather.

Burlington was named the top city to live in, followed by Grimsby and Ottawa.

The magazine collected data on 415 cities across Canada to produce its annual list of the 100 richest communities in the country.

With a population of 18,652, the median household income in the town is $131,349. The median house price is 73.5.

According to Ma-

the clock tower cenotaph. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYeva

NOTL resident MJ McGraw said the town shouldn’t be characterized as rich because, besides some wealthy people living here, there are also lots of people who should be considered middle-class.

“The community is rich. It’s certainly rich in heritage, in its roots to the agricultural world, it’s rich from its magnificent winer-

ties,” Ridabock said in a phone interview.

Another NOTL realtor, Arthur Wosinski, said many people have the impression NOTL is a rich community but he wouldn’t say “everybody is in that range.”

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Another NOTL realtor, Arthur Wosinski, said many people have the impression NOTL is a rich community but he wouldn’t say “everybody is in that range.”

NOTL resident MJ McGraw agreed, saying the town’s reputation of being a high-end community doesn’t define its residents.

She said there are gaps in some town services and gave an example of how it may be hard for people without a vehicle to move around the town.

“It’s hard for young people, it’s hard for tour-

ists,” she told The Lake Re-

port. “But if you don’t have that privilege (of owning a vehicle) and try living here, this is more like a subdivi-
sion than a town.”

McGraw said Grimsby, which was ranked the second-best community in Canada, has parks, public swimming pools, daycare and accessibility while some amenities in NOTL are harder to access.

“This town is built on a lot of assumptions of who lives here,” McGrav said. “If you just walk up and down Queen Street, that’s not Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

There are people in town who have to go to thrift shops and food banks, she said, adding they can’t be “put off into the corner somewhere (as) they’re the fabric of this community, too.”

Although NOTL may be one of the richest communities, there are always people in need, said Newark Neigh-

bours vice-chair Suzanne Vaillant.

“We live in a very gener-

ous community who’s always ready and willing to assist us,” Vaillant told The Lake Report, noting people who come to the thrift shop are not necessarily people who can’t afford something but people who just might be looking to buy some-

thing for their homes.

Virgil Business Associa-
tion president Richard Wall said NOTL is a “well-off community.”

“When I read the article, there’s a lot of criteria into account,” Wall said in a phone interview, adding the town has always had strong business community, which could have played a role in the Maclean’s ranking.

Eduardo Laforgue, presi-
dent of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, declined to comment.

In other rankings, NOTL was placed on 35th among the cities with the best weather. NOTL has 127.5 days with a temperature above 20C, 238.1 days when it’s above 0 C and 150.7 of snow.

With the population of people under 15 years old in NOTL at 15 per cent, the town was also ranked 90th on the list of Canada’s best places to raise children.

Following Grimsby, NOTL is the second-

best place for new Cana-
dians. As well, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment here is $1,127.

And 20 per cent of the population speaks a lan-
guage other than English or French.

NOTL is also the 45th fastest-growing community, with a five-year growth rate sitting at 2.1 per cent.

Disero said she’s proud of what the town provides for people to have “high quality of life” and there is always going to be the need for improvement.

Among the best commu-
nities to retire in Canada, NOTL was in 49th place. NOTL is also number 92 among the best places for great health care with four doctors’ offices in town, 102 family doctors per 100,000 population in the health region and 119 specialists per 100,000 population.

However, NOTL didn’t make it to the list of the best communities with afford-
able real estate.

The Lake Report

The Lake Report strongly encourages readers to support the local businesses that advertise with us. When reading, we ask you to remember the businesses you see allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent.

When you’re looking for a service or product, check the paper and try somewhere local.

There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from — don’t forget to mention you saw them in The Lake Report.

The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque.

The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a “voluntary subscription” annually. For those interested in supporting us, we suggest $1 per issue, per household, at $2 issues per year. That’s only $52 — less than most people spend on pizza and wings.

Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. For transparency, donations of more than $1,000 will be published in the paper (with a big thank you) and donors will receive an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by staff. (Limit of 20 special mugs) to support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, L0S1J0. PO Box 724.

Please make cheques payable to Niagara Now Ltd. and note it as a donation.

Thank you.
Queenston is a village steeped in history and the Heritage Walking Tours conducted by the River-Brink Art Museum are an opportunity for visitors to step back in time. Our walk kicks off at RiverBrink, a former country home of Samuel Weir, who collected up to 1,000 art works during his life. Guide Sarah Cecchini notes Weir was buried on the property and, since his death in 1981, the museum has acquired more than 400 art works – and the collections and exhibitions change annually.

Across the museum is a First World War memorial monument. Some of the families named on the monument still live in Niagara-on-the-Lake and every Remembrance Day a service is held here. Walking down Queenston Street toward the next stop, Cecchini, a third-year visual art student at Brock University, talks about the area's history.

The village, first settled by loyalist refugees and American immigrants, was founded by Robert Hamilton in the late 1770s and is more than 200 years old. There are several bed and breakfast places and small-home businesses in town. Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, a national historic site located atop a hill, was originally built by Alexander Hamilton in 1834-36. Willowbank was a social hub for the upper-class in Upper Canada. When the Bright family bought the property in 1934, they reoriented the house, linning the drive with trees and adding double staircases. Fun fact: The front facing Queenston Street is known as the "Hamilton front" and the other side is the "Brights front." Crossing the street, we approach Laura Secord Memorial School, also known as Willowbank's lower campus. Opened in 1894, the school was funded by the Women's Institute, a community-based organization for women. With two large school rooms, a library and a kitchen, the school was closed in 2010 as it was "no longer the modern model of an educational building."

Down Maple Street and on to Princess Street, Cecchini points to a majestic Greystone house with exterior stone made from lime-stone from the Queenston quarry. The original home was damaged during the War of 1812 but the current owners restored it.

Next stop is the Stone Cottage, constructed in 1850, and originally built for Robert Hamilton’s mother who refused to live there as it reminded her of the house she used to live in. The stone building was part of the Hamilton’s family old estate. It was believed that the back room of the building was used to hide illegal liquor, says Cecchini. Nearby, two cyclists stop by to ask about a “a gorgeous mansion” and who owned the Greystone home. Celia Kope and Joanne Berdall, visiting from Virginia, say they stayed at a residence in Niagara on the Green and they love biking here.

"The trails are gorgeous," said Berdall. "This is a sweet, sweet town." Kope adds the town is also “very bike-friendly.”

Along Maple Street, a gorgeous view of the Niagara River opens before us. On the other side of the river is Artsark, a centre for the visual and performing arts, and the remaining structure of the original Queenston-Lewiston bridge can be seen. The controversial jet boats, which have caused noise complaints for years, rumble past. The jet boats launch off the Queenston docks area, which is also a popular fishing spot for locals and tourists. As the road turns right, we see St. Saviour, The Brock Memorial Church. Commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights, the church was built thanks to fundraising donations and was named in recognition of Sir Isaac Brock’s efforts during the battle. Back to Princess Street, we see the Way-Goring Robinson House, where three Robinson sisters used to live. The sisters and their families look after the property now but no one has lived there for a while, Cecchini says.

Making our way back toward Queenston Street, the next major stop is the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum, Canada’s largest working printing museum. With more than 500 years of printing history, the site also features the oldest printing press, which was used to print the Act Against Slavery in 1793. Around the printery, are three monuments: Alfred the Horse dedicated to Sir Isaac Brock, an obelisk commemorating the approximate location of Brock’s death and a stone marker recognizing the First Nations and Metis people’s contributions during the War of 1812.

Towering over Queenston Heights, Brock’s Monument is easily visible from here. Not many people are out on this humid Tuesday afternoon but several cyclists ride by. Back on Queenston Street, we come to the historic Laura Secord Homestead, which commemorates the Canadian heroine’s 32-kilometre trek to warn the British of an impending American attack during the War of 1812.

Further along is the Queenston Public Library and Community Centre, in what used to be a Baptist church. Known for its large arched windows and its acoustics, it opened as a library and community hall in 1972. Next up is Old Georgian Pub, a heritage building and one of the oldest homes in Queenston. It was a pub in the 1790s. Near the Paul Safari Land Rover repair shop, we spot a green-eyed cat that seems to belong to a nearby resident. We greet the feline and after a short uphill trek, we’re back where it all began. It’s remarkable how much history and heritage is quietly tucked away along two main streets in the village of Queenston. It’s a walk worth taking.

Tours run from Tuesday to Friday hourly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Led by summer students, each tour takes 45 to 60 minutes. Tours run from May to the end of August, and cost $10 for adults and $8 for seniors. The price also includes admission to the museum.
Drivers need to be patient around cyclists. NOTL bike rental shops say

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Frustration with cyclists has been a hot topic among drivers in Niagara-on-the-Lake this summer. Social media and letters to the editor of The Lake Report have featured strong views and criticisms of how cyclists behave on the roads around NOTL.

The operators of several noto NOTL bike tour and rental shops say they share the public’s concerns and outlined what kind of safety talks they give to cyclists before they hit the road.

Rebecca and Steve deBoer, owners of Zoom Leisure Bikes, said NOTL is a wonderful area for riding and cycling is not a dangerous sport.

Their shop does a big business in bike rentals and a “little bit” in guided tours, and the owners said customers are advised to ride in single file and to use hand signals. They’re also told to come to a full stop at stop signs and to ride in groups of six people or fewer.

“And always use common sense,” said Rebecca deBoer. “Follow the rules.”

They ask the drivers to slow down and treat a bicycle as a slow-moving vehicle. When passing a cyclist, at least three feet or one metre should be left between a vehicle and a cyclist, which is the legal requirement in Ontario. She also suggested the town should work on better communicating what it wants cyclists to do.

“Please remember that the person riding the bike is just as human and has just as much right to ride the road as the person driving the car. Roads were built for everybody. They are not just for cars,” she said.

“And if you can remember that and have a little bit of patience, it’s OK, it’s friendly. And remember, we’re all enjoying this beautiful town in our own way.”

She said riding single file is promoted but some studies suggest riding abreast may be better as it gives drivers a better chance to see cyclists and stay farther away from them.

In an online report, prepared by the Ontario Cycling Association, riding abreast is considered safer as a vehicle can overtake a cyclist and cause there is less distance between the front and the rear of the group.

Zoom Leisure Bike owners Rebecca and Steve deBoer. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

Grape Escape Wine Tours advises people to ride single file, in groups of five or fewer and to limit the number of winery visits to a maximum of four. When there is a designated bicycle trail, such as on Niagara Stone Road and Niagara Parkway, riding on the trail instead of the road is recommended.

Grape Escape co-owner Richard Mell said he personally thinks riding abreast is safer.

“With the width of our roads, lines and concessions, riding single file creates a longer line of bikers and means that a passing car would have to be in the oncoming lane for a longer period of time. This usually results in the car having to travel at high speeds to pass them,” he said in an email to The Lake Report.

“I strongly believe that riding two by two would be safer as the car would still need to head into oncoming traffic but need to be in that lane for a shorter period of time.”

Vino Velo owner Steve Irwin limits his groups of cyclists to maximum 10 people. He also recommended riding single file and if it comes to drinking, only three one-ounce wine samples at three different wineries are allowed. Irwin said if people feel tired or too intoxicated to ride a bike, the company will come and get them.

“I don’t think there is one safety initiative in town to protect cyclists,” he said, suggesting three solutions to biking issues in town; speed control, a share-the-road campaign and creating connections between the town’s bike paths.

Motorists see cyclists as an inconvenience, he added, with people sometimes cutting cyclists off when they’re on the bike path. “People ride on sidewalks out of survival because the roads are just way too dangerous,” Irwin said.

Niagara Wine Tours’ owner Lance Patten said his company requires cyclists to return the bikes by 4:30 p.m. and it’s done for several reasons. One is that cyclists won’t stay out late visiting additional wineries and another is that the area gets busier in the evenings with visitors leaving wineries and heading out for dinners and shows.

Patten also recommended riding single file, saying, “It’s the right way to do it.”

“Cycling is very popular and it attracts a lot of people to wine country,” Patten said. “We encourage motorists to be aware of cyclists and to have some patience and not surprising cyclists or scaring them, coming up very quickly behind them or honking the horn.”

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, drivers must have a minimum of one-metre clearance when passing a cyclist. The penalty for not doing so could be a fine ranging from $100 to $500. If a driver is found guilty, two demerit points will also be added to the driver’s record.

Legally, a vehicle can cross the centre line of the road in order to pass a cyclist when it’s safe to do so. Cyclists are also required to obey all the rules of the road. Cycling on a sidewalk is “strongly discouraged,” as cyclists ride faster than pedestrians and more accidents happen at driveways or intersecting streets, according to the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18.

The law does not mandate a helmet for people over 18 years old, but all bike rental companies recommend wearing one.

NOTLers pitch in to help migrant workers affected by farm fire

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

NOTL’s Ken Eden and Terry Weiner of Bikes for Farmworkers have donated 10 bikes to migrant workers who were affected by the major fire at the St. Catharines’ Pioneer Flower Farms last Friday.

No one was hurt in the blaze but more than two dozen seasonal workers lost their belongings and homes. Community donations have been pouring in since the fire broke out. Drop-off locations have been set up at Hernder Estates Wines and at a plaza at 318 Ontario St. in St. Catharines where people can bring clothing, food, toiletries and cash donations.

Weiner and Eden, who run pair bikes for migrant workers for free at the old Virgil Public School, decided to donate 10 available bikes they had to the burned-out workers. They loaded all the bikes in a trailer and brought them to Hernder Wines, said Weiner.

“We’re an organization that’s just concerned with the migrant workers, to make sure they have safe transportation,” Weiner told The Lake Report. “They use (bikes) to get groceries, for social events. It gets them off the farm, so we wanted them to have safe working bikes.”

Pioneer Flower Farms is one of the largest bulb forcing farms in North America, producing over 40 million blooms per year, according to the farm’s website.

In a statement posted on the website, the Sikking family, who own the farm, asked people to cease all donations of clothes and toiletries as they have enough to “share amongst our migrant and local staff.”

“Anything above and beyond, we will be donating to Community Care,” Kristen Sikking said in a statement. “We assure you all funds will be divided amongst our staff to ensure their families are taken care of. Our workers are family who have been a part of our team for many years, and we will continue to support their future employment.”

An online GoFundMe page, started by Joni Sewist, has surpassed its goal of $5,000 but donations are still accepted. There is also a Facebook donation, set up by Carli Taylor-Hoffmann and Emergency Trust by Carli Taylor-Hoffmann.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.
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<tr>
<td>Legion Fish Fry - Every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon</td>
<td>NOTL Community Centre - 1:30 p.m. Seniors Euchre</td>
<td>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</td>
<td>Farmers’ Market - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. - The Village</td>
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<td>Italian Conversation Group - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>German Conversation Group - 9 a.m.</td>
<td>NOTL Public Library - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Miss Iona’s School of Dance: Registration - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</td>
<td>Echoes of Niagara’s Past: A Military Timeline Event – Fort George</td>
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<td>Regional Native Centre - Niagara Historical Society - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>German Conversation Group - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
<td>NOTL Public Library - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>German Conversation Group - 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen’s Royal Park</td>
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<td>NOTL Public Library - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>German Conversation Group - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
<td>RiverBrink Art Sale: Opening Reception (Tickets $50) - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</td>
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<td>Miss Iona’s School of Dance: Registration - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road</td>
<td>German Conversation Group - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
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**RiverBrink to host three-day art sale**

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

The RiverBrink Art Museum is opening its doors for an exclusive reception this Friday to kick off its weekend art show. Over the following two days, more than 200 donated pieces of art will be available for purchase, displayed throughout the galleries on the main floor of the museum.

Friday’s opening reception, from 4 to 7 p.m., will offer hors d’oeuvres by Treadwell Cuisine and wine from Reif Estates, as well as music by local musician Peter Shea. Those attending the opening reception will have the first stab at purchasing art before the gallery is open for general admission throughout Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The three-day fund-raiser supports programming and education at the museum. The event is sponsored by Paul and Valerie Hankock.

Tickets for the opening reception at $50 and can be purchased by contacting the museum by phone at 905-262-4510, or by emailing rostryhon@riverbrink.org.

**Exhibition features art by St. Davids’ own ‘group of seven’**

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

An exhibition featuring seven members of the St. Davids Art Group will showcase new, emerging and established artists in the lower level gallery of the United Mennonite Church.

The art display in the church gallery at 1775 Niagara Stone Rd. will run Monday through Friday, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 13. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 20 works from the seven artists will be featured. Some will be available for purchase after the exhibition but none will be for sale during the showing.

One member of the art group credited Heather McKenna with being the driving force behind the gallery showing. McKenna is a local artist who has guided the group of creatives for six years, through their own mediums and art styles, said Lynn Sawatzky.

“It was Heather’s thinking,” Sawatzky had said. “She was invited to join another artist in another gallery showing some time ago. I think she saw enough talent in our little group, that she actually declined that showing to put something on with all of us, which was pretty generous on her part,” said Sawatzky.

She said the gallery will showcase the unique artists in the “little community group.” The collection of neighbours and friends in St. Davids meet casually to share their combined love of art, she said.

“I just find there’s so much diversity in the artistic talent in Niagara-on-the-Lake and this is just another example,” she said.

**Convert to paperless billing and NOTL Hydro donates $10 to tree fund**

Dariya Baigzhuzyeva  
The Lake Report

When Niagara-on-the-Lake residents switch to paperless billing, they can help make the community a little greener.

NOTL Hydro is donating $10 to the town’s Tree Fund every time a customer chooses to go paperless. The fund helps replace ash trees with a combination of sampungs and mature trees. NOTL Hydro said news release.

Tim Curtis, president of NOTL Hydro, said converting to electronic bills is better for the environment and saves money as it costs about $10 a year to mail the bills.

“E-billing has a number of benefits for customers, including ease as the balance and notification comes to your inbox, historical bills are available online, no paper to handle and no concerns in case of a postal strike,” said Curtis.

As of early August, 19 per cent or 1,870 hydro customers had opted for e-billing, said Curtis. That’s an increase from under 17 per cent when the initiative was launched in February.

“Getting people to change takes time and effort,” Curtis told The Lake Report. “It’s something we have to proactively do and when we have new customers come in, we try to put them on electronic billing. But getting people to change is never easy.”

NOTL Hydro is planning to donate all money to the tree fund by the end of this year.

Residents wishing to switch their bills online can log into their hydro account and choose paperless billing. Donations are given only when paperless billing is chosen as combined paperless and paper option does not apply to the promotion.

**Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with Kelly McGirr and Chase Brunton on Wednesday morning at Silks Country Kitchen in Virgil**

Supplied

When the prime minister visited a popular restaurant in town last week, some patrons grumbled about his policies or the latest political scandal — but 14-year-old Chase Brunton simply told Justin Trudeau she liked his socks.

“I didn’t get to talk to him very long, I only said one thing to him — which was that I liked his socks. They were nice socks. They were red and blue, and polka dotted,” she said. It was the first thing she noticed when she saw him.

When she arrived at Silks Country Kitchen in Virgil on Wednesday morning, where she has been working as a busser for about a year, she said she had no idea she would be meeting the prime minister.

“I walked in at 8:45 a.m. and I was half-asleep. They told me Trudeau was coming in 10 or 20 minutes,” she said. Though unexpected, she said it was an interesting and chaotic experience.

The restaurant was full, and Trudeau’s convoy of security and staff members took up much of the bar, she said.

Aside from complimenting the prime minister’s stockings, Brunton said she didn’t have a chance to say too much else to him. Though she did say she was unimpressed with some of the patrons’ attitudes toward meeting the country’s leader.

“I thought it was really nice that he went around to all of the tables in the restaurant and talked to all of them. There were a couple of tables that were not fond of him being there, which I think is kind of weird because you’re not a part of the Liberal party, it’s still kind of cool to meet your prime minister,” Brunton said.

“They weren’t being very nice, and I just thought that was rude. He would ask them questions and they would just give one-word answers. One table, I heard say, ‘I guess we picked the wrong day to come in for breakfast,’ ” she said.

Though some diners weren’t happy with Trudeau taking over their breakfast spot for the morning, Brunton said some tourists in the restaurant were surprised by his accessibility.

“There were American tables, too, who thought it was crazy that our prime minister can just come into a family restaurant, and we’re still allowed to be in here. They said you never see the president just out and about. Even though he had a lot of security, they just shocked that he was out in public,” she said.

Overall, she said it was an experience she was happy to have stumbled into. Whether she supports the Liberal party doesn’t make a difference, she said — she was still happy to meet the prime minister. She even managed to snag a picture of herself, her mother, Kelly McGirr, who also works at Silks, and the prime minister.

Trudeau, though maybe a little “shocked” by Brunton’s acknowledgment of his socks, was just as polite as she would have expected, she said.

“I guess it’s not really a normal thing to say to the prime minister. He just thanked me and was really polite,” she said.
Giant book sale returns to Grace United Church’s annual Festival Market

John Sayers
Special to The Lake Report

It’s been described as the biggest and best book sale in town, and this year’s Grace United Church Festival Market on Labour Day weekend will feature more than 4,000 items.

Included in the motherlode is a donation of hundreds of drama and Shaw-related books from a local estate and a number of special and collector books.

Organizer Marnie Taylor estimates more than 1,000 volunteer hours have been spent organizing all the tomes so people can easily find what they want.

Taylor noted that in the digital era, books are still popular in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She believes readers appreciate the tactile nature of those pages of paper, whether it’s a work of fiction or an insight into local or national history.

When the doors open at 8 a.m. on Aug. 31, Taylor expects people will rush in to find their favourite topics and authors. It happens every year. But there’s still plenty of good reading available later in the morning and right up until the sale ends at 2 p.m., she said.

The sale is indoors and air conditioned, so weather is never an issue.

And books are only part of the Grace United sale. There is also home baking, breakfast, produce, jewelry, traditional sewing and knits and sauces created by a legend in local jam-making.

The church is located at 222 Victoria St. in Old Town.

SourPalooza brings more sour beers to NOTL

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Prepare for tart tastings during this year’s SourPalooza, where nine Ontario craft breweries, and three out-of-province producers will sample their cultivated sour beers.

The three sampling sessions on Sept. 7 will be hosted by The Exchange Brewery and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce at the Market Room of the Old Court House.

During each session, slot time will be from 12 to 2:30 p.m., 2:30 to 5 p.m., and 5 to 7:30 p.m., ticket holders will be given one 4 oz. souvenir glass, to fill with samples of each beer produced.

Each brewery will offer two to four varieties.

The Exchange Brewery is one of Niagara’s foremost sour beer producers; lead brewer Sam Maxbauer has been honing the craft of sour beer production since before the brewery’s inception.

Exchange Brewery hosts its second annual SourPalooza on Sept. 7 to bring more sour beers to NOTL. SUPPLIED

This is the second year The Exchange Brewery will host SourPalooza, but it certainly won’t be the last, said owner Robin Ridesic.

“It was such a success and so much fun that we were thrilled to have it back this year,” she said.

The event was created to bring sour beers to NOTL in a fun and innovative way, Ridesic said, adding it’s a great way to introduce new varieties of sour beers to connoisseurs and to introduce new drinkers to the style.

The festival also offers education on sour beer production and serves as a networking opportunity for budding brewers from Niagara College’s brewery program, she said.

“Because all of these best-in-their-class sour producers are there, and their staff are there, it’s a great opportunity to interact with the different breweries and get an understanding of what they’re doing.”

The festival is broken down into three two-and-a-half hour sessions to manage capacity and allow more people through the doors. The Market Room can hold about 100 people, so to allow 300 people to experience the festival, the time had to be split up.

“It seems to be a good amount of time to enjoy the full experience,” she said.

SourPalooza is “very much the Exchange’s baby,” she said, because it makes a lot of sour beers and it’s something the staff is passionate about. Teaching and exposing people to sour beers is one way to share that passion.

“Part of what we do with our beer production is teach people about sour beer and hopefully expose people to sour beer, because a lot of people have never heard of it, let alone tried a sour beer before,” she said.

Tickets are $55 each and can be purchased online for one of each time slot. The souvenir glass is included and there will be free snacks available throughout the festival.

Did you know?

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

Content provided by:

niagara now
News that hits home.

www.niagaranow.com / www.lakereport.ca
Review: Victory, a fine companion piece to Godot

Mike Keenan
The Lake Report

Warnings preceeding the production reminded me of Disney’s “Space Mounatin,” a dark, indoor, roller coaster encountered in 1977 replete with signage suggesting caution for heart patients. What one should read beforehand are the instructive program notes, particularly “Four Decades Since Writing Victory,” by Howard Barker himself. He explains his craft as “theatres of castration,” tragedy that stems from emotion, the darkness “neither depressing nor pessimistic, for pain is in life and can never be separated from it. The dramatic crisis rests in this – what can be made of our pain?”

“Victory” is a visceral experience from the onset with the arrival of King Charles II (Tom McCamus) with cronies who spit bawdy adolescent epithets. It’s instinctive, animalistic and primitive, and leads to the final scene wherein Barker punishes by Samuel Beckett’s “Waiting For Godot.” Puritan widow Martha Burns (Bradshaw) leads Tom Rooney’s Ball, a broken cavalier, attacked by a whip around his neck, simi­lar to Beckett’s Act I, with Pozzo driving Lucky ahead of him, a rope around his neck. The only prop that’s missing – a whip, but Burns does carry a newborn, a symbol the audience must decipher. Hope? Humanity? Or more pain?

Tim Carroll deserves full marks for directing this creative production, unlike any I have ever seen with touches of brilliance throughout, like thunder­ous lightning that briefly illuminates.

A case in point – a dark, gloomy foray into the vaults of the Bank of England, the audience compelled to transfer to this intriguing set located one flight below the stage, by candlelight, we re­alize who actually controls affairs of state – bankers and bureaucrats who chant a ritualistic oath and utter the Latin phrase, “always faithful,” a motto that is rock solid, but the play belongs to Burns, who reminds me of Gaia, Greek ancestral mother of all life, the primal Mother Earth goddess who is physically and emotionally ravaged by friend and foe alike and yet survives, her comfort and compassion amazing to behold.

Tom McCamus as Charles Stuart with the cast of Victory (Shaw Festival, 2019). SUPPLIED/DAVID COOPER

The intemperate group indulges themselves by fondling bars of gold and casually decides not to restrict the cavalry from their reign of terror because they need to blow off steam after a 10-year civil war. One remembers Vietnam’s My Lai massacre as a result. Carroll’s impressive cast is rock solid, but the play belongs to Burns, who reminds me of Gaia, Greek ancestral mother of all life, the primal Mother Earth goddess who is physically and emotionally ravaged by friend and foe alike and yet survives, her comfort and compassion amazing to behold.

McCamus, a Stratford vet­eran, blessed with a boom­ing voice, picks up where he left off with Shaw’s 2017 “Madness of King George III.” His brilliant portrayal of monarch Charles Stuart reminded me that noth­ing has changed since the 1600s. He is carnal, vengeful, sadistic, proud and petty – much like a certain current world leader.

Other Stratford heavy­weights are equally gifted in this talented tour de force. Rooney as Ball, a cavalier who under­goes an astonishing transforma­tion from lusty, belligerent bully to literally a broken man. Sarah Topham, a court mistress, explores remark­ably ra­range­able from a haughty and affected favourite to a shattered woman afflicted by forced marriage and a miscarriage. (Yes, Barker’s symbols run rampant.) She is indeed a young Jane Eyre, and the female sex of course, are returned to nature.

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Yellow Door Theatre expands its classes, adds dance

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Hopeful musical theatre stars can now get even more targeted instruction from the Yellow Door Theatre Project, which will introduce dance classes for the first time this fall.

Registration is open online at yellowdoortheatre.com and an in-person registration day is scheduled for Aug. 29 from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Yellow Door Theatre rehearsal space at 504 Line 2 in Virgil.

The new classes, which will be available from September to June, are recreational musical theatre for ages three to 13 and introductory jazz, tap and ballet classes for 13 and up.

The new programming will help provide an overall skill program for youth that will help students achieve more on their path to musical theatre.

“I really just wanted to be able to offer them more. And there has been a lot of demands from my families,” she said.

At the end of each term, she said there will be an open house to demonstrate the learned skills for family and friends, with a final showcase at the end of the year.

Hillstrom said anyone interested in registering can find scheduling and availability online. Classes begin Sept. 3.

Shaws opens six-hour Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell

Waverly Neufeld
Special to The Lake Report

The Shaw Festival’s four-act mega production of “Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell” has opened.

The play is literally an all-day affair, directed by the festival’s interim artistic director, Kimberley Rampersad.

Performances, recommended for ages 14 and up, start at 11 a.m. and run for six hours, including two intermissions and a 70-minute lunch break.

Set in the early 1900s, the George Bernard Shaw classic tells the tale of Ann Whitefield (Sara Topham), who has been left in the care of her childhood friend Jack Tanner (Gray Powell), a radical thinker and confirmed bachelor.

Tanner assumes that Ann will marry Octavius (Kyle Blair), the poet who hopelessly adores her, but it soon becomes clear that Jack could not be more wrong.

What follows is a dynamic debate for the ages, in which surrender to the life force seems both irrational and inevitable.

“Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell” also features Martha Burns as Mendoza and the Devil, and Tom McCamus in the roles of Goatherd, Officer and Mr. Malone.

Although set more than 100 years ago, Camellia Koo’s scenic and costume design hints at a present-day sensibility. Sets are constantly shifting to create a feeling of openness, allowing natural elements to infiltrate the ordered world of Edwardian society. Music composition by Joseph Triti, is influenced by Mozart’s Don Giovanni.

Special menu options can be ordered. Lunch pricing is per person and is on top of ticket prices. More information can be found at shawfest.com.

The play runs until Oct. 5 at The Festival Theatre, 10 Queen’s Parade, in Old Town.
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@niagaranonw.com

Across
1. U.S. space group (1,1,1,1)
3. Court game (10)
10. Consequently (9)
11. Female sovereign (5)
12. Survive (7)
13. Bowling pin (7)
14. Skin eruption (4)
15. Pachyderms (9)
19. Sue (9)
21. German Mrs. (4)
24. Passage (7)
27. Surrey commuter village (7)
28. Trembling poplar (5)
29. Mouth organ (9)
30. Science of numbers (10)
31. Undiluted (4)

Down
1. Belonging to a country (9)
2. Enticement (9)
4. Papal (9)
5. Leg joints (5)
6. Mexican liquor (7)
7. Proficient (5)
8. Beam over a door (6)
9. Started (5)
16. Medley (3-6)
17. Frighten, usually by violence (9)
18. Take away (8)
20. Squeeze together (7)
22. Las Vegas setting (5)
23. Racecourse (5)
25. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
26. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)
Fearsome foursome shoots -8 to win Chautauqua Open

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

A golf pro, a respected officer of the court, a Niagara golf legend and a neighbourhood celebrity – those were all the ingredients required for winning the annual Chautauqua Open championship at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club last week.

NOTL club assistant pro Ricky Watson, lawyer Patrick Little, 92-year-old golf legend Doug Garrett and Ross Robinson teamed up to shoot an incredible 8-under par 28 in the scramble format tournament. Included in that performance were two eagles and Watson driving the green on the 320-yard sixth hole to set up one of the eagles. The team members were awarded a green fee voucher by organizer Kurt Hamm in recognition of their victory.


WOOFs league: Peter Falconer won low gross in the Tuesday men’s league on Aug. 13, with a 2-over 38. John Hinchley clinched the low net with a 31. Peter Danakas won closest to the pin and Daryl Fry won the hidden hole with a birdie 3 on #7. In the Legends championship tourney, for gents over age 80, Doug Garrett was again crowned champion.
The Yellow Door

By Bill Hamilton

(dedicated to Pat Brzeczka)

There before me, stands a yellow door.

Framed in brown, it sits in an open field.

What lies beyond this portal is a mystery.

A young woman approaches, intense.

Her young body flows to the entry.

She stops and stares into the colour.

A closed fist opens to reveal a key.

Inserted, she twists; it does not give way.

It remains locked, only to a special user.

From shadows an older woman appears.

“I have the key you need.” She beckons,

“You must listen before you see beyond.

This man you love is special to me.

You must love him and respect him,

As he will promise to do for you.

You both have your lives together.

Though I enter now, I enter alone.

You may view, but cannot follow.

What you see may not be shared.

For mine is a journey of one.

She moves forward and uses her key.

It turns the lock with precision.

She rotates the knob in her hand.

The latch releases and creaks begin.

An uneasily drone fills the air.

It is a deafening silence that unbolts

What lies on the other side?

The older woman gives an empty stare.

The young girl questions her expression.

Mystically, the lady passes through.

The young woman watches … mesmerized.

Within a moment the door closes behind.

She withdraws from the door mystified.

Her young man watches from nearby.

Looking for meaning of this vision.

“Where is my mother going?”

“What lies beyond that yellow door?”

The girl turns to answer him,

“She follows the path chosen for her.

But charges me to be the gatekeeper.

Of this door you see before you.

One day we too will use this key.

To find what lies beyond its wood.

Until then a promise made.

Will be a promise fulfilled,

It is what it is.

On this side … of the yellow door.”

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Writers’ Circle: The Gift – Ellen’s choice

Hermine Steinberg

NOTL Writers’ Circle

In the previous installments of The Gift, I shared the story of five friends who encountered a magical spirit. Although they had been drinking, it became clear that they weren’t hallucinating and the gift she gave them could change their lives. The enchanted tea could transform them to the idealized version of themselves at half their age. The five friends were given three days to make up their minds. When the sun set on Monday, the magic tea would dissolve into mist. This is Ellen’s story.

Ellen and Brandy, her red miniature poodle, ran all the way home. They were not surprised Ralph might have arrived before her. Every week she set the table and prepared dinner before meeting the girls so everything would be ready when he walked through the door.

On Fridays, Ralph would meet his friends at the local pub for lunch and a few pints. It always turned into a drinking session that lasted until dinner. He came home inebriated and usually in a combative mood.

When they were working professionals there was more space between them and less time spent alone. Appearance was important to him, so his public persona was a charming man who adored his wife and son. In private, he was a demanding, controlling and insecure husband and father who lashed out verbally at what he perceived the least provocation.

He often resorted to physical violence but always with the least provocation.

Ralph just wore her down.

She held a prestigious position as the manager of economic development for the City of Toronto. Everyone was surprised when she announced her early retirement. She was offered her dream job in the United States. Cher had dual citizenship as she was born in California and moved to Canada with her parents when she was 12. Now they were happily married and expecting a child. More importantly, she took Sean’s family name and all her American ID was changed accordingly.

Ellen phoned Sean and told him she had finally decided to leave but needed his and Cher’s help. Ellen wanted them to meet her in Toronto on Monday afternoon at an Airbnb she had rented. She would explain everything then and it was critical that everyone behind to rebuild her life, to have her official name would be listed as Cheryl Thompson.

Later that day she went to a BMW dealership and sold her car. She agreed to deliver it Monday morning in exchange for a cheque made out to Cheryl Thompson in the amount of $60,000. She booked a flight to Vancouver for Tuesday.

A few minutes after Ralph pulled out of the driveway on Monday morning, Ellen took her prepacked bag out of the closet and put Brandy in his travel crate. Her note to Ralph was short and to the point – “Goodbye, I’m starting a new life.” She sent an email to her friends – “I’m taking my second chance. Wish me luck.”

The next day Ellen walked through the airport with Brandy in tow. She never felt so tall and hopeful. She also couldn’t stop from looking at herself in every reflective image she passed.

There was no doubt Sean and Cher would keep her secret. Ellen had left everything and everyone else behind to rebuild her life, to have her second chance. Only time would tell. To be continued...
Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

Noel Haines, 1944

Seen in this picture taken in 1944 is a very young Noel Haines, who died in June. Noel delivered coal from his coal yard, which took up most of the block behind the Prince of Wales Hotel. There are two lanes behind the Prince of Wales, Haines Lane and Reid Lane. Noel’s coal yard took up both these lanes. A lifelong Niagara firefighter, Noel also was once fire chief. He was one of the most outstanding men in town and was a close friend to myself and many others.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

Another eclectic

Brian Marshall  
Featured

Different countries can have separate and distinct architectural traditions. Even countries as closely linked as Canada and the United States can diverge in both expression and experience when it comes to architectural styles. Consider late 17th and early 18th centuries, during which Americans moved from the Colonial Georgian to Federal to Early Classical Revival and then to Greek Revival, while in Canada, we shifted from the Colonial Georgian, U.S. Federal, Neo-classical and Greek Revival traditions.

Over time, even these different evolutions can be the source of some confusion and the term Neo-classical is a prime example. In Canada, the term refers to a style associated with other styles, forms more commonly as the theme using building elements popular from 1815 to 1845, but in the U.S., Neo-classical is one of the Eclectic expressions of the early 20th century. Incidentally, on this side of the border, that’s called Eclectic Classical Revival.

Developed during the mid-years of the Eclectics, their Classical Revival designs tended to illustrate the flexible approach typical of that period. These houses ranged in size from relatively modest to monumental. Most early designs were based fairly closely on the mid-1800s Greek Revival criteria with its closed pediment and Tuscan columns supporting a full-height entry porch. However, in very short order eclectic designers introduced variations on the theme using building forms more commonly associated with other styles, which they appointed with classical elements. Over time, even these elements were simplified; the porch could be a single storey, occasionally wrapping two or three walls or the entire house, supported by simple, slender columns. In truth, the Eclectic Classical Revival quite quickly became an amalgam of Georgian, U.S. Federal, Neo-classical and Greek Revival traditions.

The home shown in the photograph illustrates this merging of styles. Its building form and main entry, complete with its broken pediment atop the surround, leans heavily on the American Federal style. The full-height porch with its closed pediment and Tuscan columns draws directly on both Neo-Classical and Greek Revival styles. And despite the classical appointments, the two-level end wall colonnades sheltered under extensions of the gable roof (unique in my experience) I can only attribute to the creative flexibility of the Eclectic school.

Traditions merge in this Eclectic Classical Revival. BRIAN MARSHALL

Yum - recipes

Local recipe book planned for 2019

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

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

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we’ll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity. Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: recipes@niagararow.com

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

“Great responses from the article. We have been approached at least five times with ‘hey, you’re that guy in the paper.’ One thing’s for sure, everyone in town reads your paper front to back! Great use of our marketing funds and great article.”

- James Green  
Owner, Ravenshead Homes

Send your testimonials to
editor@niagararow.com

Rob Weier

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The invasion of Niagara

The Taking of Niagara, 1813. IMAGE COURTESY NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

One company of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles Regiment was sent to join the Indigenous allies but they lost their way and were cut down by American sharp shooters who had been able to land and outflank them.

Next, the Grenadier Company of the 8th Regiment of Foot was ordered by Sheaffe to stand their ground to block the American advance. The men of the King's 8th were outnumbered four to one by the Americans, but were able to drive the Americans back at the point of the bayonet four times before being overwhelmed by the U.S. soldiers. Of the 113 men of the 8th Foot, only 30 survived. The rest were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Sheaffe retreated to Fort York but realized it was futile to defend it with so few men. He then ordered the destruction of the armaments magazine and the burning of the ship HMS Isaac Brock. He fled to Kingston.

Fort York was surrendered to the Americans; this was their first victory, on land, in the War of 1812. The Americans, afterbooting the fort, the town and harbour, left York and headed south to Fort Niagara.

While the American forces were haranguing Fort Niagara for many weeks, the British in Fort George were preparing for the invasion which was known to come. However, like Brock before the Battle of Queenston Heights, the British did not know where the invasion would start.

On May 25, 1813, the residents of Niagara (NOLT) started their usual morning activities when suddenly canons could be heard booming from Fort Niagara. The bombardment of Fort George and the town of Niagara started.

"Hot shot" (cannon balls heated in furnaces and then loaded into cannons) rained down on the town. What the initial impact of the cannon ball caused was minimal compared to the fires the hot shot balls started.

After two days of constant shelling, the morning of May 27 was silent; but the enemy was approaching. As the fog lifted off Lake Ontario, Maj.-Gen. John Vincent, commander of Fort George, saw from the lighthouse a two-mile arc of enemy vessels. In total, there were 16 American ships and schooners as well as another 134 smaller boats carrying over 4,000 American troops.

The attack of Fort George was coming from Lake Ontario, west of the Niagara River. The main landing area and battlefield was on the Lakeshore properties just west of Old Town, where the former Department of National Defence rifle range was later located.

The battle field was immense. To give you an idea of how big, at the north end of Queen Street, near the lake and golf course, you will find a Cairn indicating the burial plot of three British soldiers who were killed in the early stages of the battle to take Fort George. Vincent realized that they were outnumbered. He had under his command an assortment of regiments, ranks and soldiers. Out of the 1,000 regulars, there were soldiers from the 8th and 9th Regimental of Foot, the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, the Glengarry Light Infantry, approximately 300 Canadian militia and a small number of Indigenous allies. Vincent had all his forces out to fend off the invasion but was driven back by the superior number of American soldiers. The British forces suffered great losses. In all, 52 men were killed and another 306 were missing or injured. For the men of Niagara, this was the bloodiest and costliest battle ever, including the First and Second World Wars.

Vincent ordered the retreat to Fort George where he had all the cannons spiked and armaments destroyed. To "speak a cannon" a barbed piece of metal is driven into the "touch hole," the place where the cannon would be ignited; this spiking temporarily disabled the cannon. The cannon could be repaired but it took a great amount of effort and time.

Fort George and the town of Niagara were now under American control. The American forces lost only 40 men and another 120 were wounded in this battle.

The American general pleased that they had taken Fort George but nothing remained of the fort except the stone powder magazine. Note: this building is still standing today and you can visit it during a tour of Fort George.

The day-to-day life of the residents in the town changed greatly. Although it might seem callous that the fighting forces marched out of town leaving women, children, the elderly and infirm to fend for themselves, during this war was time between men. No one else would be harmed.

The delay in the landing of the American reinforcements on May 27, 1813 was a second land victory for the Americans in the War of 1812. It was all part of their multi-pronged strategy for 1813, which would see the Americans take Fort George, then march on to Burlington Heights, Fort York (in a second attack), Kingston and Montreal. The plan was totally dependent on the Americans starting from Fort George. A plan that was doomed to fail. References: Ron Dale, renowned historian; Niagara Historical Society and Museum; Great Canadian Battles – Edward Humphreys; Canadiencyclopedia.ca; Toronto:plagues.com. More Niagara's History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagaranow.com
We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to editor@niagarano.com for a chance to be featured.

RIDDLE ME THIS:
I was the world's largest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered. What am I?
Answer: Your left hand
Also accepted left wrist and elbow.
Answered first by: Margie Enns
Also answered correctly by: Jillian Mantini, Alayna Hollemans, Katie Reimer, Louise Rogalski, Ann Ghirardi, Peter Newman, Marion Briston, and Patricia Kierans
Email answers to editor@niagarano.com for a chance to win a prize.

The Golden Plunger
With Betty and Jane Twisted Vine

As its name implies, the Twisted Vine Kitchen & Market has a theme. A portion of the seating is in their market area. Favourite restaurant sauces, canned goods and oils can be purchased for home use. And there’s a fabulous antipasti selection. The place had only been open for six weeks when we arrived. The first thing we noticed was the ceiling height. Gone are the low ceilings of the former Lawrenceville restaurant and the exposed ceiling really opens up the interior. The seating is divided into the dining space and market area. We walked through the market on our way to the highlight of our visit. You guessed it: the washrooms. They were new, clean, accessible and well-appointed.

We reviewers gave the Twisted Vine 3.5/5 and a Gold Plunger Award.

With Betty and Jane Twisted Vine

Top: Palliative Care program manager Bonnie Bagnulo with admin. assist. Erica Moncion. The event raised more than $4,700 from 150 cars. Right: Marc Lyons representing Queens Landing at the Garden Party Fundraiser at NOTL Public Library. Bottom: Beth Thiessen serenades the crowd during Stone Road Pharmacy’s grand opening on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY BRITTANY CARTER AND DARIYA BAISUDIYEVA

Gardens of the week

Top: The winning garden for Week 9 at 33 Prideaux St. belongs to Michael and Jill Burke. Middle: The winning garden for Week 10 is 1994 York St. owned by Mary Kiss. Right: Demi and Edward Nasello with Xavier Smith. The 125 Centre St. homeowners are Garden of the Week winners for Week 11.

PHOTOS BY BRITTANY CARTER AND DARIYA BAISUDIYEVA

Local snaps

Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs .... 12:00-9:00pm
Fri, Sat........................................... 12:00-9:30pm
Mon........................................... Closed
1502 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2486
Memorable summer for NOTL native in Scotland

James Grigjanis-Meusel is working at a course not far from the historic home of golf, St. Andrews.

Kevin MacLean Managing Editor

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland – It’s the summer of a lifetime. You love to play golf, are really good at it, and you get to live in a Scottish village – It’s the summer of a lifetime.

For Niagara-on-the-Lake’s James Grigjanis-Meusel, nothing could be better. He wasn’t sure what to expect when he saw an online job posting and applied last winter. The location, St. Andrews, caught his attention but he wasn’t sure if the course was part of the famous St. Andrews Links group. It isn’t. But it doesn’t matter.

Grigjanis-Meusel is a long way from home but he’s enjoying every minute of it, he says. The NOTL native grew up working at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club spread over almost a dozen seasons. He’s 25 now and having spent four years at Johnson and Wales University in North Miami, Fla., taking off to Scotland this year seemed like a great next step along his journey. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” he says, seated in the ornate lounge of his new employer. Until September, he’s working with the club pros at The Duke’s, a beautiful “parkland-style” course high on a hill overlooking historic St. Andrews.

The Jubilee, one of the Old Course-owned courses, is located beside the famous Old and New courses, and abuts the beach made famous in the Oscar-winning movie Chariots of Fire. “When we played the Jubilee, someone was walking on the beach and they came up onto the golf course and they literally just had three dogs walking all around them. The dogs looked around but never moved away from their owner. It’s amazing.” And it not just in St. Andrews, he says. “People take their dogs on trails and they just sit there. They’re so well-behaved.”

On Sundays, the Old Course is closed to golfers as it becomes a public park, with hikers and picnickers and dogs cavorting all day.

“I brought seven pairs of shorts with me for the summer and I haven’t worn any of them yet,” he says. Long pants, layers and wind or rain gear are mandatory. But especially layers. He’s really been impressed with how dog-friendly Scotland is. Even many restaurants welcome canines, something that’s just not allowed back home. And dogs often show up on golf courses, when people are playing. “Everyone has dogs here, no one has leashes,” he says. That may be a bit on an exaggeration, but it is indicative of how widely accepted pets are.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” he says, seated in the ornate lounge of his new employer. Until September, he’s working with the club pros at The Duke’s, a beautiful “parkland-style” course high on a hill overlooking historic St. Andrews.

Parkland courses are lush, North American-style layouts, rare in the land of links courses, known for their fescue and gorse and pot bunkers. The Duke’s is owned by Kohler, the company better known for taps and plumbing products. Kohler also owns the Old Course Hotel, located along 17th fairway, the famous Road Hole, on the Old Course at St. Andrews Links.

The toughest thing to get used to this summer? Scotland’s notoriously fickle weather. By early July, almost two months into his odyssey, Grigjanis-Meusel is still trying to figure out their fescue and gorse and pot bunkers.

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“If he ever tried that with his dog at the NOTL Golf Club, “she would be chasing someone down on Queen Street or chasing a bird into Lake Ontario,” he says with a laugh.

He’s leaving his plans for the future a bit open-ended. Having a British passport helps open a lot of doors (his mom Dina is British, dad Heinz is of German ancestry). While his brother Matthias resides in Toronto, another sibling, Patrick, is living near Glasgow, so maybe some more travel is in the offing. Meanwhile, he’s sure to stay in top shape with his 30-minute bike ride to work – uphill. At the end of the day, he looks forward to the cruise back to his flat, though. It’s a breezy downhill glide most of the way.