

The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 33

Queen's Royal Beach closed,
but warning sign 'invisible'
Page 8

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Hyper-local news for Niagara-on-the-Lake



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August 22, 2019

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-coloured 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-



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



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.

"In my opinion, as a former councillor, I think that was 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.

"To be quite honest with you, they tried hard to address our concerns ... They are not from a farm background so they wouldn't understand perhaps the changes that needed to be made to address the issues, but I give them a lot of credit because they tried to learn for sure," she said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

Continued on Page 2



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



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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 believed 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 say.

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

Zenaida spent Saturday evening at a church barbecue, Nava-Millin 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 families be affected as 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. David's 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-Millin said.

Bout created a GoFundMe page 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



Zenaida, a Mexican farm worker, was killed by a hit-and-run driver who turned himself in to police this week. SUPPLIED PHOTO

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 'rushed' by council

Continued from Front Page

was "ecstatic" that the new plan was approved. It was a top priority for the councillors elected last fall.

"It's the right thing to do," Disero said.

The vote to adopt the plan was almost unanimous, with one opposing vote from Coun. Stuart McCormack, who said he didn't think there was enough time to properly review the document before moving forward.

"There was a relatively short period of time, 24 hours, that we were given to review the document. In my previous career (as a lawyer) I was used to a situation in which we had clarity about crossing the t's and dotting the i's ... I didn't think we had enough time to do that," McCormack said in an interview Friday.

Though Coun. Clare

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 a concern but I'm feeling 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 Planscape 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 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. We're not having another special council meeting to deal with yet another draft ... I want to finalize this, to



Austin Kirby, a member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, shares concerns about portions of the Official Plan and its impact on the farming community.

BRITTANY CARTER

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 agriculture, 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.

Cameron noted, "Now, it'll go to the province, it'll go to the region. They'll make whatever amendments they want. We might go back to square one, but at least it will allow the agricultural community the opportunity to make their arguments to those levels of government," she said.



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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



Emergency vehicles attend the scene after a pedestrian was struck Sunday night in Old Town. SUPPLIED PHOTO

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 pass-

ing 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

tates Winery on Concession 1 Road and approaching Line 3.

"I suspect they're more locals because they knew the roads," McQuhae said in a phone interview.

"When they went around the corner from here, they went a lot faster. When they were driving down the (gravel) road hitting the mailboxes, they were going very slowly. Really slowly."

When McQuhae turned on to Line 3, whoever was driving the truck probably realized she was following them, she said, so they "gunned it" and didn't stop at the stop sign on Niagara Parkway.

McQuhae chased them for a while and then she thought it was not "worth everybody dying" so when she lost them around Line 6 and returned home.

"I realize sometimes it's just kids having fun, but still ... It's just the fact they were driving along smashing mailboxes and I don't



Larkin Road resident Draga Velicevic with her smashed mailbox. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

understand why they take mailboxes because once you smash them, they're crap."

McQuhae's mailbox was left untouched. She said a neighbour's mailbox was taken – but their mail was left on the post.

Frogpond Farm Organic Winery owner Jens Gemmrich said he received a text from McQuhae at 1 a.m. Monday, informing him his mailbox was com-

pletely gone, not just thrown away somewhere nearby.

Gemmrich said such incidents have happened before, although not for a long time – about 10 years.

He said it was "not that uncommon" for kids to drive by and smash mailboxes with a baseball bat. "You shouldn't damage other people's property and think it's funny," he said.

Another Larkin street res-

ident, Draga Velicevic, said in the 38 years she's lived in the area, it was the second time this has happened.

One side of Velicevic's mailbox was taken down and the back of it was also damaged.

The numbers and the sign on the mailbox were pulled down so, "somebody stopped and did a really good job," she said.

"I'm surprised who wants to do that," Draga said. "I guess they have nothing else to do."

Across from the Velicevics, Jim Wiecha's mailbox was smashed, removed from its post and dropped off at another neighbour's driveway.

The residents said they are not going to file any reports to police. Velicevic said she contacted the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake but was told there is nothing that can be done about the incident.

Some comments on social media indicated mailboxes were smashed on Line 7 this past week as well.

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Green Tip of the Week

Contributed by Norm

Arsenault:

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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



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

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.

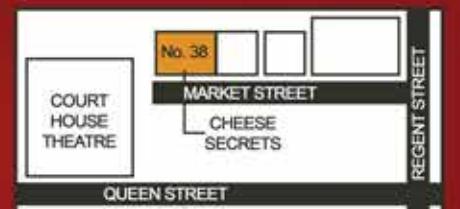
Patricia Gregoire
St. Davids

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OPINION

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 Dennisport on the Cape. My summer job as afternoon/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 sniper 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, suntanned 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 slammer, after the local cops had taken us in after



A youthful Ross Robinson, left, and his summer of '69 buddy Mike Aillet at the beach in Cape Cod. SUPPLIED PHOTO

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 misdemeanour, 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, very little food, lots of rain, 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 disgustingly 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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Irish scouts thank NOTL for hospitality



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.

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 yous. We hope we get to repay your hospitality someday.

Best regards,

*Kieran Cody
Scouting Ireland*

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

log would be sent to the town when completed. Then a second log for one more month would have to be completed.

Only then will action be taken.

I have recorded the noise level on occasion and the recordings provide substantial proof of what is happening in our neighbourhood.

The town has not requested to listen to any of the recordings I have made.

Our regional police force has been called on numerous occasions to bear witness to the disturbances, only for us to sit and wait

needlessly.

If local police would respond to a call in a decent amount of time, they would fully hear and see the impact of the situation and could take immediate action.

I feel we, as a community, must take a stand to protect what Niagara-on-the-Lake stands for: A town of historic values, a place to visit with family and friends, to take part in the charm and the beauty this great town has to offer.

Let's hope it's not too late for us or future generations.

*Angela Welch
NOTL*

We welcome your letters

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

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

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

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

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

The Lake Report



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Residents weigh in on designs for two new playgrounds

Dariya 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 Park 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 5-6," Lidstone said.

Lidstone's children – Carter, Charlie and Will – said they wanted to see monkey bars, more climbing obstacles and a firefighter's pole at the park.

Another area resident,



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

Carol Millet, shared the same sentiment, saying the Cannery Park playground looked "too junior."

Millet's 11-year-old granddaughter Victoria said the playground design wasn't "fair to older kids."

She also recalled how she sprained her ankle after falling off a so-called Hurricane or Flywheel Spinner at a campsite some months ago. When Carol Millet saw the same spinner on the proposed playground design, she said she was afraid "kids would fly off" it.

A member of the Glendale Taskforce committee, Steve Hardaker, praised the town for getting feedback from the public.

"I'm excited that Niagara on the Green is actually getting some money spent in our park to make it into a nicer park than what it is right now," he told The Lake Report. "It's great

that the town has dedicated funds for this and that is going to result in a more improved park.

Niagara on the Green resident Dianne Barnes said she expected to see a gazebo 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 said it "all depends on the dollar amount."

"Sometimes you're just locked into the budget that we have set," Turcotte said. "And \$175,000 that we have for (Cannery Park) is

really healthy. It's a healthy budget for a neighbouring playground."

Tony DeJongh, a sales representative with ABC Recreation hired to do the design of the two playgrounds, said most of public needs can be accommodated but they are "budget-dependent."

"Some of their wishes and desires are beyond of what the scope of the budget might allow," he told The Lake Report. "But everything I'm hearing from comments being made from a variety of sources is good information and all easily done and taken into consideration in terms of the playground designs."

Residents have until Aug. 30 to send their feedback through town's online Join The Conversation page. After that, the town will decide what features the new playgrounds will have.

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

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

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 on 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 later was changed to safe, once the latest water test results were released.

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

park, where the parking lot and restrooms are located along Front Street.

Isabelle Richard from Boston said if she had seen the sign, she wouldn't have allowed the children in the water, adding that if the beach is unsafe, the sign should be bigger and clearer, and in the middle of the park.

"It should be a bigger sign, not on the garbage bin. It should be in an open area where people can see it," she said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero agreed that the sign should be moved to a more prominent location on the beach.

"We've been discussing how we can make them more visible. I think (senior managers) Sheldon Randall and Kevin Turcotte will be looking at how that can happen. They are almost

invisible where they are now and they should be more prominent," she said.

An email response from Victoria Steele, community engagement co-ordinator for the town, said the town takes direction from the Niagara Region public health department, and if the region directs the town to move the sign, it will be moved.

The region tests samples and immediately posts the result on its website, sending the information to the appropriate department in town at the same time, said Anthony Habjan, manager of environmental health for the region.

"A notification gets flagged to the appropriate place, usually it's parks and rec, that will then turn the sign from posted to open, or open to posted, whatever the

case may be," he said.

Habjan didn't immediately respond to a message asking whether the region tells municipalities where to post the signs.

The beach has failed water quality tests six times this summer, totalling about 15 days, and Disero said she is not in favour of keeping the beach closed until water tests consistently show it is safe.

"We want to leave the beach open when it's in fact possible to be open, so people can enjoy it. I wouldn't say, 'Close the beach for the summer,' " she 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.



Malea Singh dips in the water at Queens Royal Beach Saturday - the family said they didn't see warning signs of unsafe water. BRITTANY CARTER



Alexis Gagnon and Etienne Richard play in the Water at Queens Royal Beach on Saturday. The family complained of poorly placed warning signs. BRITTANY CARTER

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 pies, and some donated money without even taking anything.

"Even people that couldn't make it in the door, they



Joe Pillitteri raises money for the Terry Fox Foundation. SUPPLIED

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 greatestatesniagara.com.

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 to 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 net worth of \$1,255,495, NOTL ranked 31st on the magazine's annual list of the 100 richest communities in the country.

With a population of 18,652, the median household income in the town is \$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 top cities in the country.

Maclean's ranked communities in a variety of categories, including wealth and economy, affordability, population growth, taxes, commute, crime, amenities and culture, access to health care and weather.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said although she is proud and happy NOTL made it onto the best community list, she said there were some inaccuracies in the ranking and she wished it was more detailed. She noted the town doesn't have a high crime rate compared to other municipalities.

In the survey, NOTL's five-year crime severity index sits at 53, higher than Burlington's crime rate of 25, Disero said. The national rate is 73.

According to Maclean's, the lower the crime severity index, the better.

Disero added the town has a diverse community and to say NOTL is rich would be "unfair." But to say, "Niagara-on-the-Lake has expensive housing costs, I would say that's fair," she said.



The clock tower cenotaph. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYeva

NOTL realtor Chris Ridabock 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 wineries," 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."

As Old Town has a special historical significance, it is "quite normal" that housing prices there would be higher than in other areas of town, Ridabock said, noting if people wanted to live in Paris or London rather than in the suburbs, they would also expect to pay higher.

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 tourists," she told The Lake Report. "But if you don't have that privilege (of owning a vehicle) and try living here, this is more like a subdivision 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," McGraw 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 Neighbours vice-chair Suzanne Vaillant.

"We live in a very generous 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 something for their homes.

Virgil Business Association president Richard Wall said NOTL is a "well-off community."

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

Eduardo Lafforgue, 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 days of snow.

With the population of people under 15 years old in NOTL at 15 per cent, the town was also ranked 89th on the list of Canada's best places to raise children.

Following Grimsby, NOTL is the second-best place for new Canadians. As well, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment here is \$1,127.

And 20 per cent of the population speaks a language 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 communities to retire in Canada, NOTL was in 49th place. NOTL is also number 92 among the best places for great health care with four doctor's 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 affordable real estate.



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@niagaranow.com

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

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 someone local first.

There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from — don't forget to mention you saw them in the paper!

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 52 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.

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The Great NOTL Summer Walkabout

Queenston

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

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

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 is 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, lining the driveway 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 1914, 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 limestone from the Queenston



Top: A jet boat roars down the Niagara River. Left: Brock University student Sarah Cecchini led the Queenston tour. Right: The wall next to the Stone Cottage is made from limestone from the Queenston quarry. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYEEVA

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 1810, 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 "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 Artpark, 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 Wray-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 News-

paper 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.

Farther 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 hub 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.



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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 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.

"People need to 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 people can remember that and have a little bit of patience, it's OK, be 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 group of cyclists quicker because there is less distance between the front and the rear of the group.

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,



Zoom Leisure Bike owners Rebecca and Steve deBoer. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYeva

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 mini-

mum 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 repair 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

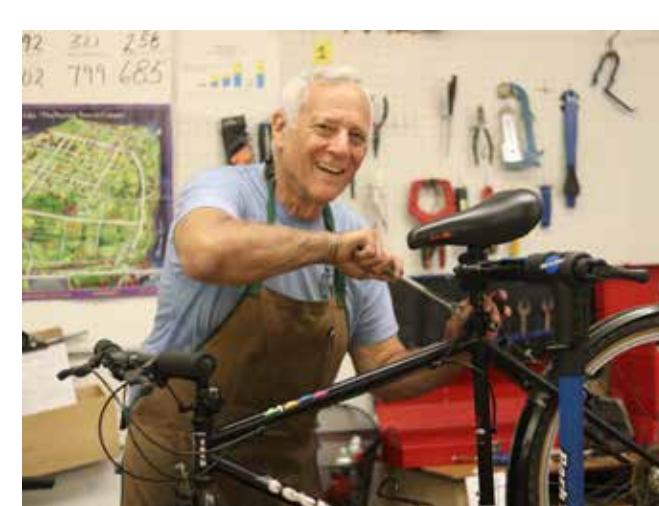
that's just concerned with the migrant workers, to make sure they have safe transportation," Weiner told The Lake Report. "They use (bikes) to get groceries, for social events. It gets them off the farm, so we wanted them to have safe working bikes."

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 Sik-

king 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



Terry Weiner of Bikes for Farmworkers in the shop repairing bikes. DARIYA BAIGUZHIYeva

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 Pen Financial Branches.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.

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Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays at 1

25

Echoes of Niagara's Past: A Military Timeline Event - Fort George

Gate Street Studio Open House - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Gate Street Studio

Family Friendly Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park

Car Show & BBQ - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Virgil Firehall

26

Outdoor Yoga in the Courtyard - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum

Famous & Infamous: Dusko Popov with Ted Rumble - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum

Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre

St. Davids Art Group Exhibition (Monday to Friday through Sept. 13) - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - United Mennonite Church (Red Brick Church)

27

NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre

Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

Maple Leaf Montessori School of NOTL (Open House) - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Maple Leaf Montessori School, 325 King St.

German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre

NOTL SupperMarket

9 p.m. - The Village

Farmhouse Yoga - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Community Centre

1

RiveBrink Art Sale (Free Admission) - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum

Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park

Ghost Tours of Fort George - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George

2

Fun Duplicate Bridge - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre

Italian Conversation Group - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

Card Making - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre

3

Tumble Tots - 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library

NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre

Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre

German Conversation - 9:45 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. - Community Centre

Michelangelo 'Il Di Penny-Lynn Cookson
RiverBrink Art Museu

Painting: Drop in - p.m. - NOTL Commun

NOTL SupperMarket 9 p.m. - The Village

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niag

port

LOCAL CALENDAR

PIN ME UP!

Aug. 22 - Sept. 7



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 p.m.	<p>22</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>End of Summer Party - 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson</p> <p>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: Bohemian Rhapsody - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant</p> <p>Miss Ilona's School of Dance: Registration - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Sports Wall of Fame Ceremony - 6 p.m. - Meridian Credit Union Arena</p> <p>Designer Handbag Bingo - 6:30 p.m. - Château des Charmes</p> <p>Proud Mary: The CCR Experience - 7:30 p.m. - Corks Winebar & Eatery</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Echoes of Niagara's Past: A Military Timeline Event - Fort George</p> <p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p>
28	<p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Miss Ilona's School of Dance: Registration - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - 470 Hunter Road</p> <p>Clare's Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Clare's Harley-Davidson</p> <p>Trius Red Presents Movie Night in the Vineyard: A Star is Born - 8 p.m. - Trius Winery & Restaurant</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Wayne Gates Office - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>RiverBrink Art Sale: Opening Reception (Tickets \$50) - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Grace United Church Festival Market - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Grace United Church</p> <p>RiveBrink Art Sale (Free Admission) - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum</p> <p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p>
4	<p>Sportball Niagara - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Drop in: Casual Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Moonlight Picnic 2019 - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Village</p> <p>Mori Gardens Fall Garden Seminar Series: Fantastic Fall Planters - 10 a.m. - Mori Gardens</p> <p>Walking Tours of Old Town - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>SourPalooza Beer Festival - Noon to 7:30 p.m. - Court House, The Market Hall</p>
			<p>7</p> <p>ATTENDANTS HOME WATCH</p> <p>Contact Nancy Established 2012 nancy@homewatch-attendants.com (905) 468-7111</p>
			<p>J&S CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>RENOVATIONS - CUSTOM BUILDS - ADDITIONS - DECKS & FENCES "Putting Niagara Residents First!"</p> <p>WWW.JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA 289.697.5757</p>



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 jazz musician Peter Shea.

Those attending the opening reception will



Debra Antoncic, director and curator of RiverBrink, spends Wednesday afternoon getting ready for the three-day fundraiser this weekend. BRITTANY CARTER

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 fundraiser supports programming and education at the museum. The event is sponsored by Paul and Valerie Hancock.

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. She was invited to join



Karen Jantz, Donna Hatton, Lynn Sawatzky, Carol Rosenfeld Allan and Heather McKenna of the St. Davids Art Group. SUPPLIED

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 Baiguzhiyeva
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 samplings 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 can log into their hydro account and choose paperless billing. Donations are given only when paperless billing is chosen as combined paperless and paper billing options do 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

Trudeau visit from local teen perspective

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

of him being there, which I think is kind of weird because even if 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 were 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.

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 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.

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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 mirth-erlode 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



Grace United Festival Market 2018. SUPPLIED

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 knitting, and home-made jams 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 brews.

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, slotted 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 being poured. 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.

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NOTL author kicks off library's Wine and Words series

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Debi Goodwin grieves, gardens and heals in her memoir, *A Victory Garden for Trying Times* and this fall she'll speak about her book and gardening through loss at the first Wine and Words event at Southbrook Organic Vineyards.

Goodwin, a local author and retired CBC journalist, said she needed a project to help her through her husband Peter Kavanagh's cancer. He was also a CBC journalist, producer and author.

"We were both writers and project people. I really needed a project to sustain me through his cancer treatments," she said.

Kavanagh died on Sept. 7, 2016. Goodwin's memoir will be released exactly three years later, this Sept. 7. Once published, her book will be available at the NOTL Public Library and for sale through her website, debigoodwin.com.



Debi Goodwin in her garden. SUPPLIED

After learning about the concept behind victory gardens, which were home-grown gardens to sustain the public, encouraged by governments throughout the First and Second World Wars, she said she busied herself researching and designing her own victory

garden while going through her husband's treatments.

"I saw them as a symbol of fighting against an enemy you couldn't see," she said.

Kavanagh spoke at Wine and Words in 2015 for his memoir *The Man who Learned to Walk Three Times* also at Southbrook.

His book takes readers through three defining points in his life living through injury and ailment, and learning to walk again and again.

Goodwin said her husband had polio at two months old and suffered pain his whole life. "That

was one of my angers over his cancer."

Debbie Krause, community engagement co-ordinator for the NOTL Public Library, said it's going to be a sad, but powerful start to the season.

"She's speaking at Southbrook, where he did his talk. So, it's going to be a bit emotional, but beautiful," Krause said.

This year marks the eighth season of Wine and Words hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library. Six authors will speak over the six months, each at a different winery, from October to April, taking a break in January.

Krause said she's excited for this year's lineup, which feature a wide variety of authors and styles.

"We have a couple that are returning, and they're favourites. Terry Fallis is a big favourite of the community," she said.

"I'm excited to have Samra Zafar, she wrote the book *The Good Wife*. She's

a real advocate for women's rights, she works against child brides. It's real timely and I'm really excited to have her," she said.

The season ends with Guy Gavriel Kay and Krause said he was one of the authors she sought out for this year's lineup.

Goodwin will speak at Southbrook on Oct. 9; Fallis is at Palatine Hills Estate Winery on Nov. 13; Jennifer Robson visits Konzelmann Estate Winery on Dec. 11; Zafar is at the Hare Wine Co. on Feb. 12; Katherine Ashenburg will speak at a winery to be announced, on March 18; and Kay is at Caroline Cellars on April 15.

Wine and Words tickets can be purchased through the NOTL Public Library website and includes a glass of wine from each winery, with food pairings. Tickets are already selling fast, Krause said.

Tickets are \$30 each or season passes can be purchased for \$150.

Review: Victory a fine companion piece to Godot

Mike Keenan
The Lake Report

Warnings preceding the production reminded me of Disney's "Space Mountain," 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 "theatre of catastrophe," 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?"

Tim Carroll deserves full marks for directing this creative production,

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 pays homage to Samuel Beckett's "Waiting For Godot." Puritan widow Martha Burns (Bradshaw) leads Tom Rooney's Ball, a broken cavalier, attached by rope around his neck, similar to Becket'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,



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

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, *semper fidelis*, "always faithful," a motto for towns, families, schools and military units.

The intemperate group indulges themselves by fondling bars of gold and casually decides not to restrict the cavaliers 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, undergoes an astonishing transformation from lusty, belligerent bully to literally a broken man.

Sarah Topham, a court mistress, explores remarkable range from a haughty and affected favourite to a shattered woman afflicted by forced marriage and a miscarriage. (Yes, Barker's symbols run rampant.)

Shaw regulars are equally dazzling. Gray Powell's robust voice, second only to McCamus, excels as the conniving banker, Hambro. Patrick Galligan as Scrope,

terrific as a cowardly faithful servant who longs to be unfaithful. Sanjay Talwar's poet laureate, Clegg, an exquisitely foppish composer of verse.

Designer Rachel Forbes vividly depicts 17th-century England with few props, the costumes and wigs stunning, Burns' black and white Puritan dress contrasting between court frivolity and outside harsh reality. Original music and a soundscape by Claudio Vena, and lighting by Kevin Lamotte complement the set and costumes. The staging is flawless.

At the end, all that remains is the bag of her husband's bones carted by Burns à la Sisyphus, and the audience briefly applauds its seemingly own mortality, devoid of the cast long since departed.

I thought everyone should see Beckett's Godot. Now there's a companion piece by Barker. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

"Victory" plays at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre until Oct. 12.



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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 interested in being involved with musical theatre, said artistic director Andorlie Hillstrom.

"Everything else we've ever done has simply been choreography that we've offered in particular with our



Gregg Kirchofer, board member of Yellow Door with Andorlie Hillstrom, founder and artistic director, show off cheque from Shaw's Town Previews program in July.

FILE PHOTO/BRITTANY CARTER

fall performance programming. So, this is a departure from what we've offered previously," she said.

The aim is to help students improve technique, stamina and flexibility, while being able to develop confidence and connections with each other, she said. She's filling a need in the community, offering lessons 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.

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

Waverly Neufeld
Special to The Lake Report

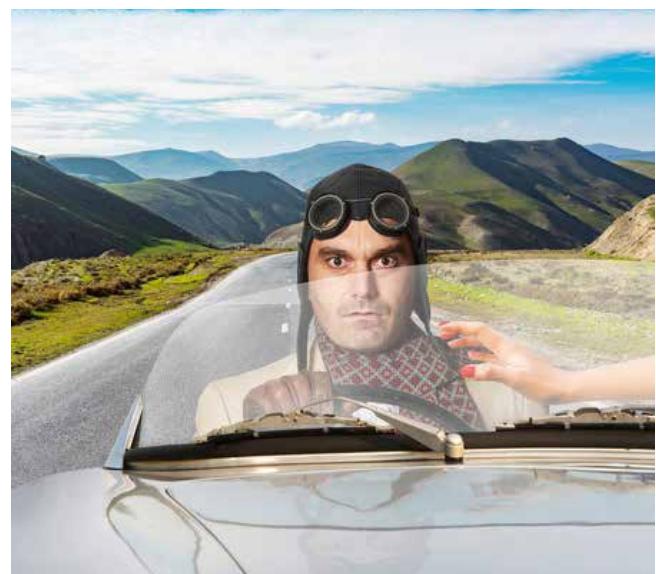
The Shaw Festival's four-act mega production of "Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell" has opened.

The play is literally an all-day affair, directed by the festival's intern 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 Tritt, 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.

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Have some fun

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 (8)

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)

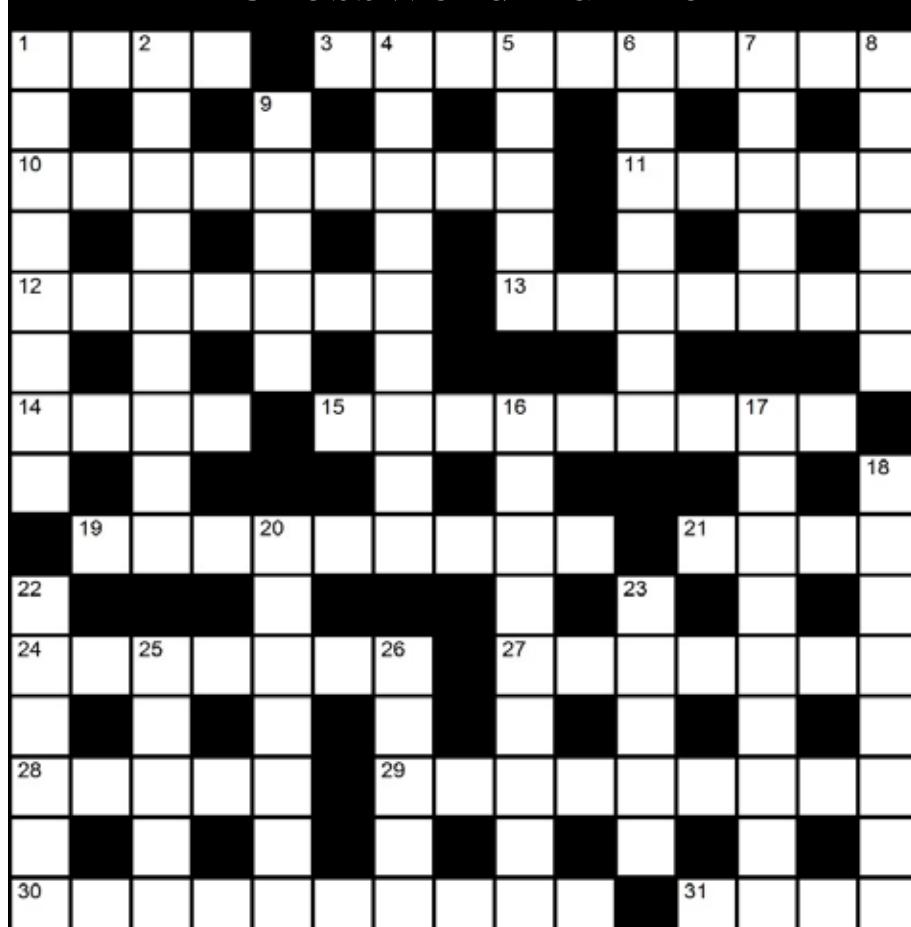
22. Las Vegas setting (6)

23. Racecourse (5)

25. Island in the Bay of Naples (5)

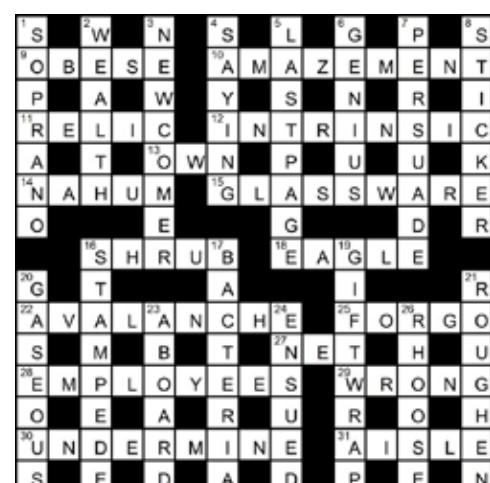
26. Resort lake in both California and 22 down (5)

Crossword Puzzle



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

Last issue's answers



Sudoku



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Some of the winning crew at the Chautauqua Open last week. KEVIN MACLEAN

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 former club champion, 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.

Women's league: Lisa Allen took low gross honours on Aug. 20, shooting 86, followed by Maria Townley and Janice White (91), and Brenda Bell (94). Low net: Townley (66), White (67), Allen (68). Fewest putts: Townley (30), Judy Mantle, Andrea Douglas (33), May Chang, Allen,

White (34). Closest to pin: Bell (#4), Marilyn Cochrane (#13). Birdies: Cochrane (#2), White (#7). Chip in: Douglas.

Men's league: Jim McMacken continued his stellar play of late, shooting a 1-under 35 to win low gross in Aug. 15 men's competition. He also scooped a \$20 gross skin, had the longest drive on #8 and shared A flight honours. Other winners: Gross skins: Sean Simpson, Ron Newman, Ted Carmichael. Net skins: Mike Scott, Ralph Rickard, Cal Cochrane. Closest to pin: Mike Scott, John Grimstead, Paul Dickson,

Bob Lavery. Long drive #3: Wil Neufeld. A flight: Tom Goodbody, Ken Porter (24 points). B flight: Bill Garriock, Rai Lauge, Bob Lavery, Gerry Shelly. 50/50: Alan Dickson (\$190).

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 Shaw Festival's cricket team had its final dress rehearsal this week in preparation for its annual fixture against the Stratford Festival on Aug. 26. The Shaw squad features actors from all the plays in the 2019 season. Pictured before this week's game versus the Niagara Cricket Club is the team with captain Jeff Irving (seated, centre) and the captain from several previous years, Martin Happer (standing, third from left). Unfortunately, the designated opening bat, artistic director Tim Carroll, was away on business in the U.K. and no doubt gleaned some tips from the current England/Australia Ashes cricket series. (SUBMITTED PHOTO/TAN QURESHI)

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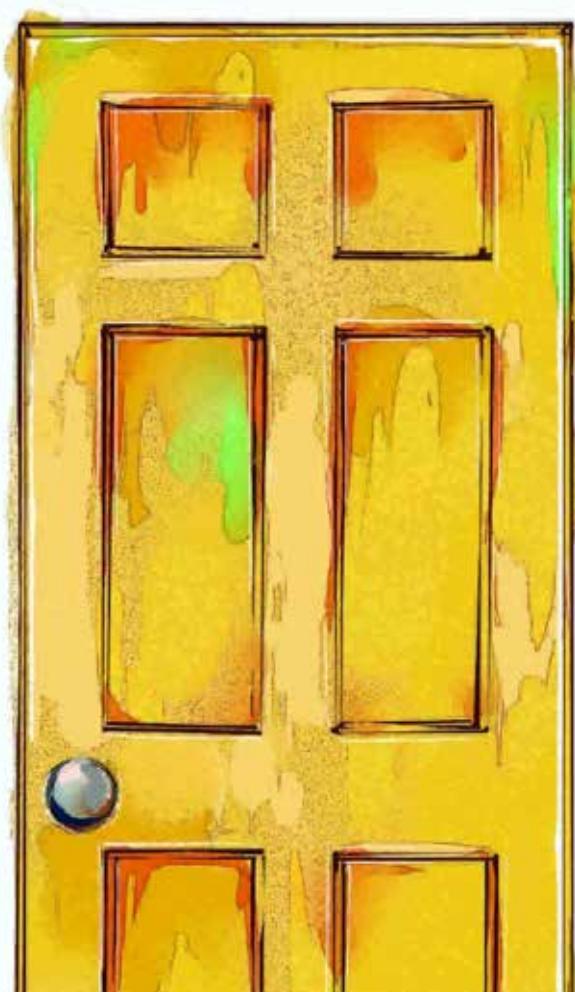
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The Yellow Door

By Bill Hamilton
(dedicated to Pat Brzczka)

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 unearthly 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."

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. She was worried 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. Appearances were 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 expressed shame and remorse afterward. Their son, Sean, left home when he was 18. On his last day in their house, he begged Ellen to leave. She couldn't. She and Ralph knew each other since high school, grew up together and she held on to the hope that one day he would change. And he did. He became more domineering and threatened that he would kill her if she also abandoned him.

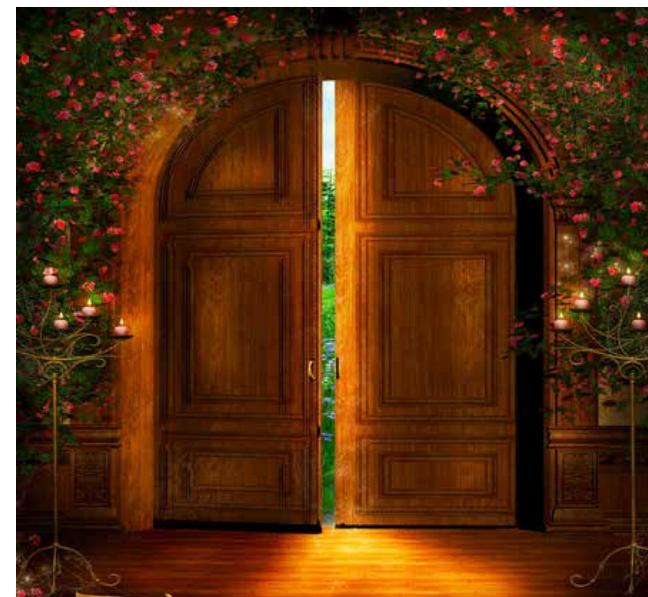
Ellen held a prestigious position as the manager of economic development for the City of Toronto. Everyone was surprised when she announced her early retirement so she could move with her husband to a small town.

Ralph just wore her down. He promised her a better,

more peaceful life. He would go to counselling, they would travel, and she could teach at the local university. She gave in but after selling their house in the city and buying his fantasy estate and "image" cars to create the right impression in his new community, she quickly realized he now saw himself as the lord of the manor and she as his dutiful housewife.

Working at the university, doing consulting, or even accepting speaking engagements became battlegrounds where he no longer felt the need to restrain himself and used his full arsenal of weapons to demean and punish her if she didn't concede. Even his charming public persona was abandoned and he often ridiculed Ellen in front of their new friends.

Euphraxia was right when she said Ellen was secretly wishing for a second chance. For months she played out various scenarios in her mind in which she could disappear and start a new life, safe from his reach. But she could never figure out how she would be able to establish a new identity. And now she worried if she accepted Euphraxia's gift even her own ID would



be questioned as she would appear half the age of the person described in her documents.

But time was running out. She also didn't want to disappear out of Sean's life, especially now. Cher was a young economics professor at the University of Toronto who had invited Ellen to be a guest speaker on a number of occasions. When she introduced her to Sean, the attraction was immediate and within the year they were living together. When she was offered her dream job in Washington, they moved to 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 there but it was critical that Cher brought her Canadian

ID in which she knew 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 strong 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 ...

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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

ARCHITEXT

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 a much more conservative Georgian expression to Neo-classical and from there into Greek Revival.

On occasion, these dif-



Traditions merge in this Eclectic Classical Revival.
BRIAN MARSHALL

fering 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 with Roman-influenced 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 an emphasis on hipped roof and correctly proportioned Ionic or Corinthian 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.

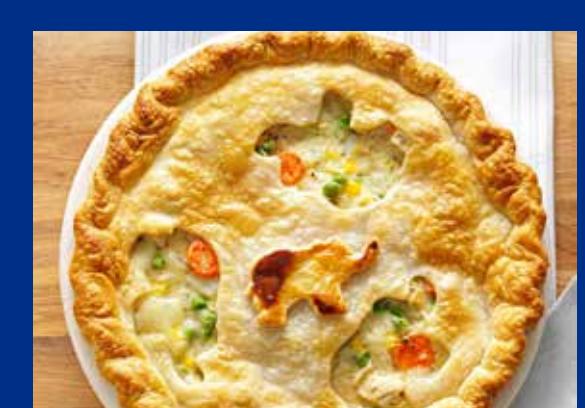
Over time, even these

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.



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@niagaranow.com

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

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The invasion of Niagara



Denise Ascenso
Exclusive/The Lake Report

In the first year of the War of 1812, the Americans suffered many losses. The capture of Fort Michilimackinac, July 17, 1812; Gen. William Hull's campaign to invade Upper Canada, July 12-Aug 8, 1812; the capture of Fort Detroit, Aug 16, 1812, and the battle on Queenston Heights, Oct 13, 1812, were all victories for the British, Canadians and Indigenous allies.

When war was declared by U.S. President James Madison (1809-1817) these results were not what the American government had anticipated. In fact, former President Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809) on Aug 4, 1812, had declared that taking Upper Canada would be a "mere matter of marching."

However, the fact is the American government was not prepared to invade any foreign country. The American army was poorly trained and not well led. As well, since the end of the revolutionary war, many of the experienced officers had been relieved of their duties because they were suspected to be sympathetic to Britain.

The American army was still poorly trained in 1813 but had a better cadre of officers and an overwhelming superiority of numbers. That year, they were ready to take on the British, Canadians and Indigenous allies of Britain by once again invading Upper and Lower Canada.

Lake Ontario was split by American and British fleets. The Americans wanted complete control of the lake and had at first thought to capture Kingston, considered essential for control over the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

The War of 1812, on Lake Ontario, was a matter of ship building. The American Lake Ontario squadron, based at

Sackets Harbor, N.Y., gained superiority when it was able to launch a new ship that was more powerful than any ship in the British squadron based at Kingston.

The British then launched a larger ship and gained control of the lake, only to be forced to take refuge in Kingston when the Americans launched something bigger. This went back and forth throughout the war. As well, the British had unsuccessfully attacked the Sackets Harbour shipyard and the Americans were unsuccessful in their attempts to capture Kingston.

Maj.-Gen. Henry Dearborn, the commander of the American army, started to doubt that Kingston was the right place to attack. The information he received about the Kingston fortifications was sketchy as to how many British troops were actually stationed there, with numbers of 3,000 to 5,000 British regulars being reported. Commodore Isaac Chauncey challenged this information but there was no concrete proof to back up his challenge. In fact, there were only 900 soldiers stationed in Kingston.

With the uncertainty of numbers, Dearborn and Chauncey worked out a plan to attack York (the capital of Upper Canada, now Toronto), a smaller, weaker target in their eyes. On April 26, 1813, the American fleet approached York from the east and anchored off the Scarborough Bluffs. There were 14 ships in total with 1,800 men. The next day the ships sailed past York, an intimidating sight for all.

Maj.-Gen. Roger Hale Sheaffe was in command of Fort York and watched this massive flotilla sail past. With only 600 fighting men, he knew that surrender might be his only option.

The Americans anchored off of the ruins of Fort Rouille, built by the French in 1750 and abandoned in 1759. A plaque, in the west end of the Exhibition Grounds in Toronto, marks the location of the old fort.

Sheaffe dispatched 100 Indigenous allies to stop the landing of the American



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

forces. 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 ammunitions 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, after looting the fort, the town and harbour, left York and headed south to Fort Niagara.

While the American forces were harboured at Fort Niagara for many weeks, the British in Fort George were preparing for the invasion they knew was 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 (NOTL) started their usual morning activities when suddenly cannons could be heard booming from Fort Niagara. The bombardment of Fort George and the town of Niagara had 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 49th 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 ammunitions destroyed. To "spike 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.

Americans then went in pursuit of the retreating British and Canadians forces. The delay in the landing of American reinforcements on the Niagara River gave the British forces the time they needed and they made their westward retreat to Burlington Heights (Hamilton).

Once the Americans realized they had missed an opportunity to stop the retreat, it was too late and they were ordered back to Fort George. The British and Canadian retreat continued unchallenged for a week until the Americans finally followed up, only to be defeated at the Battle of Stoney Creek on June 6, 1813.

The American generals were 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, war, during this time was between men. No one else would be harmed.

The taking of Fort George 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; Canadianencyclopedia.ca; Torontoplaques.com..

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Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at:
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Queenston kitty



Local snaps

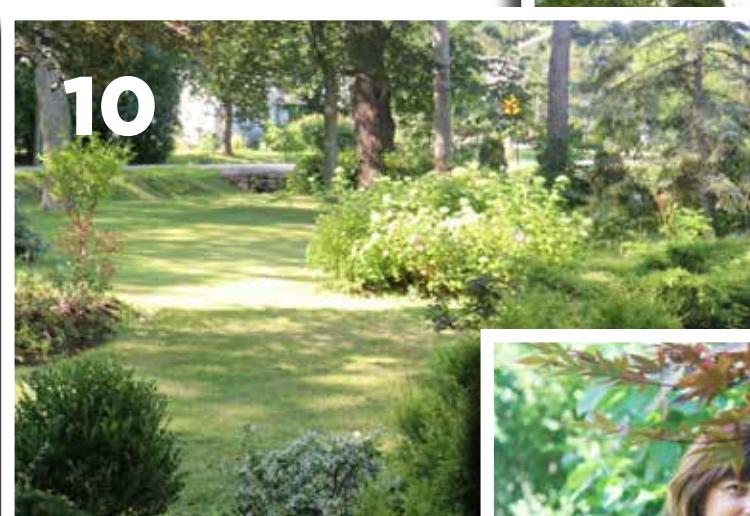


Top: Palliative Care program manager Bonnie Bagnulo with admin. assist. Erica Moncion. The event raised more than \$4,700 from 150 cars. Right: Marc Lyons representing Queens Landing at the Garden Party Fundraiser at NOTL Public Library. Bottom: Beth Thiessen serenades the crowd during Stone Road Pharmacy's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

Gardens of the week



9



10



11

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 BAIGUZHIEVA

Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs.... 12:00-9:00pm

Fri, Sat..... 12:00-9:30pm

Mon..... Closed

1502 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2486



The Golden Plunger

With Betty and Jane

Twisted Vine



Joe Marchese and Jill Fortuner accept the Gold Plunger for Twisted Vine. THE GOLDEN PLUNGER

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.

3.5/5 Gold Plungers



RIDDLE ME THIS:

I was the world's largest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered. What am I?

I can be held in your right hand, but not in your left. 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@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.

TWISTED VINE
KITCHEN & MARKET

Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs.... 12:00-9:00pm
Fri, Sat..... 12:00-9:30pm
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FEATURED LOCAL STORY



Left, James Grigjanis-Meusel golfing at Girvan, near Turnberry, while visiting his brother Patrick. In the background is Ailsa Craig. Right, Grigjanis-Meusel stands on the clubhouse balcony at The Duke's golf club in Scotland. In the distance is the historic village of St. Andrews. The NOTL native is spending the summer working at The Duke's. MAY CHANG

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 at the historic home of golf.

And you're working on a beautiful golf course, high on a ridge, with all of St. Andrews laid out before you.

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. 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 the climate.

"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.

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

"The dogs are so well-trained here," he says.

The Jubilee, one of the St. Andrews Links-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 trains and they just sit there. They're so well-behaved."

At The Duke's people often bring their dogs along when they are golfing, even if they're in a buggy (what we call power carts in North America). "They just take a tennis ball, chuck it out, the dog will go chase it, they'll play their shot, the dog comes back."

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.

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