



Flight of the Monarch | Page 10

Protesters descend on NOTL

Large crowd of residents comes out to support Sentineal family's business



Protesters and counter-protesters filled the streets of NOTL Sunday afternoon. SUPPLIED/SEAN SENTINEAL

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

In the latest episode of Niagara-on-the-Lake's carriage wars, animal rights activists descended on the town again on Sunday, but this time they were met with strong opposition by residents.

The protest, too, was different than usual and the

two sides went head-to-head to express their views.

However, the leader of the demonstration claimed the protest never would have happened if a NOTL carriage supporter had not displayed a sign in Burlington "degrading" a woman who died defending animal rights.

Sunday's protest doubled as a vigil for Regan Rus-

sell, a 65-year-old activist who died after being struck by a transport truck while protesting outside Fearnans Pork slaughterhouse in Burlington on June 19.

While Russell's death doesn't have any ties to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the group was angered by supporters of the town's horse-drawn carriages who attended a Burlington rally

and held up a sign that said Russell committed suicide.

Russell had been trying to block trucks carrying pigs from entering the slaughterhouse when she was killed. The activists claimed her death was murder.

In response, carriage supporter Jen Jones and Meagan Sentineal, daughter of

Continued on Page 2



Police say Aubrey Blake Clements was in possession of a drug suspected to be fentanyl. SOURCED

Driver in fatal crash impaired by drugs, investigators allege

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

Police allege that a Niagara-on-the-Lake man was impaired by drugs when his car was involved in a head-on collision that killed 60-year-old NOTL resident Liz Hawley.

Aubrey Blake Clements, 32, is charged with dangerous driving causing death, impaired driving causing death and possession of a drug suspected to be fentanyl.

After a hearing last Thursday via video, Clements was released on \$50,000 bail and \$100,000 in sureties posted by Linda Clements and Aubrey Clements Sr.

Clements is required to

live with his sureties at their home in Niagara-on-the-Lake unless he is in a residential treatment program. He is prohibited from driving or possessing weapons.

He was ordered to appear in court in St. Catharines again on Oct. 29.

Clements was driving his Chevrolet Caprice northbound on Niagara Stone Road on July 29 when he collided head-on near Eastchester Avenue with a Porsche driven by Hawley.

She was pronounced dead at the scene and Clements was flown by helicopter to an out-of-region hospital in serious condition, police said in a media release the day after the crash.

Feds unveil \$500K to boost NOTL tourism, plus \$400K for Shaw

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The federal government has unveiled a \$500,000 grant to support the tourism industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government also announced plans to contribute up to \$400,000 to the Shaw Festival to support outdoor theatre performances and visitor activities in NOTL.

With the \$500,000 grant,

the Town of NOTL will establish a fund to provide contributions of up to \$20,000 to small- and medium-sized businesses in the tourism sector, said Mélanie Joly, minister of economic development, in announcing the contribution during a virtual news conference Tuesday afternoon.

The project is expected to support 50 businesses and maintain about 100 jobs, the government said. The money is being provided

through FedDev Ontario, an economic development agency overseen by Joly.

"This funding from FedDev Ontario will help Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Festival continue welcoming visitors, adapt to the new reality and keep supporting the region's visitor economy," Joly said in a statement.

The announcement follows news last week that the Ontario government is giving the Town of NOTL

\$500,000 to help with losses due to COVID-19.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero revealed the provincial contribution during the livestream broadcast of her monthly Coffee Chat.

Joly said her message to Niagara's tourism sector is, "We're here for you now as our economy reopens and we'll get through this, together. We're working with you to support good, local jobs and help Niagara tourism come back strong."

Shaw Festival CEO Tim Jennings said he was "thrilled" by the news and said the festival will use the money "to provide free and low-cost outdoor performance activities and purchase equipment to ensure the safest possible experience for everyone."

Disero said the FedDev money will be "a life preserver for many local businesses, especially heading into the shoulder season."

The government noted

that Niagara-on-the-Lake attracts more than 3 million visitors annually and about one-quarter of the town's population works in the tourism sector.

As well, the Shaw brings in more than 250,000 visitors in a normal year and generates over \$220 million in economic activity, the government said.

** Shaw Festival cancels remaining fall shows, hopes to stage holiday program. Story Page 11.*



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Protest **shuts down** street for part of afternoon

Continued from Front Page

the carriage company owners, attended the Burlington rally a few weeks ago and displayed the sign saying Russell committed suicide.

The sign caused further outrage among animal rights activists, including a group called Toronto Pig Save, which is connected to local Niagara activists.

Adam Stirr, one of the leaders of At War for Animals Niagara, said Sunday's protest in NOTL only happened because of the "suicide" sign, which he said was in "bad taste."

"They specifically came out in relation to what happened at Fearnans Pork Inc. a couple (of) weeks ago," Stirr said.

"No matter how you feel about individuals, you don't go right to the spot that someone else actually died and then (expletive) on them in front of their family."

Jones said she doesn't believe she is the sole reason protesters were in NOTL on Sunday.

"I think that's the big giant pile of steaming you know what," she said.

"They were carrying 'Ban horse-drawn carriages' signs. And it's always about us. Let's be honest, it's become very personal for them. It's not about what they want you to think it's about," Jones said.

"It's specifically about Sentineal Carriages. They don't even go after the other carriage company any more."



Protesters use Simcoe Park as their home base for the day. RICHARD HARLEY

Jones, who issued an apology about the sign before the weekend protest, said they made it because animal rights activists had been calling Russell's death murder.

"What we had said to them was if they were going to call it murder, we would call it suicide — equally as stupid, equally as incorrect," she said. "It was a tragic accident and nothing more."

"We didn't ever intend to hurt her family or her friends," Jones added. "We went up to Burlington to support the truckers and the farmers."

Jones said she believes the protests have gone further than what was intended in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Everybody has the right

to protest. It's part of our Charter rights for freedom of speech. However, when it goes beyond protesting and turns into harassment and intimidation, that's not OK," she said.

"It's not a protest anymore. And it shouldn't be happening in our town."

She said she thinks carriage protesters used the opportunity "to gain support."

"That's what they're doing with Regan Russell. And that's what they're doing with those signs."

Laura Sentineal, an owner of the carriage company, said she also doesn't believe the protest was instigated by the sign.

"I feel like honestly, that's a very convenient excuse," she said.

She said the protesters are targeting Ontario's Bill

156, which restricts trespassing and access to farms. "They know that their traditional means of protesting and actions are going to be changing. And I think they have their sights firmly on Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Sunday's protest in NOTL was mostly peaceful, with no charges being laid by police.

However both sides claim there was violence and abuse.

"There were three of our people that got sprayed with f---ing animal piss," Stirr said, noting they knew it was urine because of the smell.

"It stunk really bad," he said.

On the opposing side, a NOTL resident who uses a wheelchair said she was punched in the leg by a

protester.

Police did not immediately respond to questions about the alleged incidents. A video recorded by the animal rights activists and viewed by The Lake Report appears to show no contact with the woman in a wheelchair.

Video footage has yet to surface of any further interaction between the woman and the protester she says struck her.

Laura Sentineal said it was "heartwarming and encouraging" to see so many people show up in support of the carriages.

She said the protest will be the last time she stands at future demonstrations, saying the carriage company is going in a "new direction" with support of some residents who have come forward to help.

"I really appreciate everybody coming out. But I think moving forward we're definitely going to be doing things a little differently and trying to move forward with the town and independently on coming up with more of a resolution," she said.

"We've also had somebody else step up to the plate, who is very financially solid and have a vested interest in this town. And they also want to take it on. So I can see the time is kind of gone where we need to stand out on the street. I don't think we need to do that."

She said Sunday was about showing protesters that residents have rights,

too.

"We have a right to be here too, we have a Charter too," she said.

Jones said she feels for the businesses on the street, acknowledging she, too, was using a megaphone and was quite loud.

She said a group of carriage supporters went to support local businesses after the protests were done, to help them regain some of their losses.

Protesters were instructed by fellow activist Jason King not to support any local businesses when they left.

Both groups estimated they had about 120 supporters on hand.

Former town councillor Martin Mazza attended the protest and said though things got a bit heated at some points, he was there to show his support for a local business, which he believes "treat their horses better than most people treat their pets."

Stirr said his group questions why carriage supporters would attend out-of-town demonstrations when they're fighting to end the ones in their own town.

"If I lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I would find that very problematic," he said, noting that people "kind of know" what to expect from carriage protesters.

"But when you're purposely going out and antagonizing very large groups like Toronto Pig Save, you're opening a can of worms," he said.

Council **snippets and tidbits**

Mask ambassador program **delayed** again

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's mask ambassador program has been delayed again.

Town spokesperson Beth Audet said the reason is the town is still waiting on t-shirts to be delivered, and that the town will be announcing a new start date once they have come in.

The original start date was supposed to be last Wednesday, but was delayed for the same reason.

Skatepark concerns to be addressed **after** completion

After some controversy and pushback from nearby residents and some councillors, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has decided to move forward with the new Virgil skatepark.

The park is expected to be completed in September, at which point town staff will consult with nearby residents to see what, if anything, needs to be done about potential noise issues for neighbouring residents.

Trees will also be planted to separate the park from nearby facilities.

Honk Mobile to provide **electronic** parking service

Soon you'll be able to pay for parking via your smart phone in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The town on Monday decided it will use the service to provide a better system to people looking to park in NOTL.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the app will function better than current manual-pay parking machines, some of which don't always work.

The new service comes into effect immediately, and with signs being installed in town.

On-demand transit coming to NOTL

Soon you'll be able to catch the bus for just \$3 a ride, and it'll pick you up basically from your home.

The town agreed to be part of a new pilot project by Niagara Region, which will provide service on a route that includes Old Town, Virgil, Glendale and some rural areas of NOTL.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she's "very excited" about the new program, which comes into effect Nov. 3.



Winners to be announced Sept. 3!

Thanks for 3,000 votes!



Let's listen to our frontline heroes when they say 'Staying HOME means Saving Lives!'.
 I also want to say a big thank you to everyone who is working during this time to keep our community safe - we will not forget what you've done for us.

Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls representing Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie
 905-357-0681 | wgates-co@ndp.on.ca | WayneGates.com

Pedal Pub to keep rolling for 2020 season

Richard Harley
The Lake Report



Pedal Pub owners Fernando Colavecchia and Tony Visca. FILE PHOTO

Pedal Pub NOTL will continue to operate for the rest of 2020, town council decided Monday. The unanimous decision is a 180-degree reversal from a vote on July 27 when council, also unanimously, decided not to support the renewal of the Pedal Pub's licence for 2021.

At that time it recommended that the Region of Niagara, which licenses the operation, not renew its permit when it expires Aug. 28. It is unclear what prompted the change of heart.

Interim chief administrator Sheldon Randall said the town's decision to allow the business to operate until Dec. 31, 2020, would be sent to Niagara Region. In response to questions Tuesday, he said he's not sure what the region's process will be, whether it extends the licence, renews

it or does not allow it.

On Monday, Pedal Pub owner Tony Visca and general manager Marlo Saganski offered councillors a few reasons they think the business should be able to continue.

Saganski said the business is taking a new route, which is "significantly reduced in length" and mainly goes through commercial areas. People in some residential neigh-

bourhoods had complained about noise from the operation.

The new route is from Mary Street, down Mississauga and across Queen Street, where it stops at Butler's Bar & Grill, Fournos Family Restaurant and the Exchange Brewery.

Saganski said she wants to make clear "there is no drinking alcohol on our bike."

She said they also make

sure nobody is bringing outside drinks onboard.

Regarding a noise complaint, she said the business has lowered its volumes. As well, when going through residential neighbourhoods, music is turned down completely and guides instead tell stories about the history of the town, she said.

"It really turns down the level," she said.

She said the company is ready and willing to make more changes if there are other problems and noted they're only doing about three tours per day, with two bikes.

Saganski also said the complaints received this year were made in June, before the Pedal Pub's season even started on July 11.

Visca said the business got off to a late start to the season due to COVID-19 and that if allowed to operate it would mean 10 staff members can keep their jobs, plus economic benefits to partner businesses.

Town irrigation app makes life easier for farmers

Richard Harley
The Lake Report



Environmental services supervisor Brett Ruck spent the last four years designing the app. SOURCED

In a quest to get Niagara-on-the-Lake's farmers more water for irrigation, Brett Ruck faced a unique challenge — none of them wanted to fill out the paperwork to report their water usage.

So Ruck, NOTL's environmental services supervisor, figured out a way to take the paperwork out of it, spending four years designing an app for the town, called eRigator, which helps streamline the process for farmers.

"Nobody likes paperwork," he said, when he updated council on the app at an Aug. 17 committee of the whole meeting.

"I had to find a way that really connects with not only farmers but anybody in general," Ruck said. Using the app literally puts control in the farmers' hands.

The app allows farmers to generate automatic reports of their water usage by simply clicking a pump on or off using their smartphone. Instead of do-

ing paperwork each time, a farmer only has to input the information about the pump once.

The reports will then be sent automatically to town staff.

Proving how much water the town needs will help the town get access to more water, he said.

The town draws irrigation water from several sources, including the Niagara River, but there is a limit on how much water can be used. Helping to more accurately measure consumption gives the town a better case when asking for more, Ruck said.

The ultimate goal, "is

to be able to prove to the (government) ministries we have a greater need."

"I can use these analytics to be able to prove that we need it, and how badly," he said.

He said most people who have used the app have been surprised how easy it is, and hopes to get 60 to 70 per cent of farmers on board.

He said 146 farms use the town's irrigation system — about 80 to 85 per cent of farms in town.

One of the main reasons some farmers aren't using the town's water is because the municipality can't always provide it, he said.

"That's probably the larg-

est single thing I have going on with the farmers, (them) being able to say, 'We pay for water, but you never deliver it.'

Ruck said sometimes now when people want water, "it's just not there."

"There's always somebody at the top end, there's always somebody at the bottom end. So when you're at the bottom end you're constantly struggling to find the scraps of water that are left. The guys in the top end love it because it's always there first for them to use. So being able to put more water in the system will probably get a greater buy-in overall."

He said the Ministry of Agriculture "loves this app."

"They wish that it could be just marketed out there, but as I keep telling them, it's got the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake logo on it for a reason."

He said town staff developed the app "in combination with an outside source."

Ruck said the town is in a renewal year for the town's water allowance contract, so he's trying to get more.



Notice to Residents Regarding NOTL Hospital Letter

A letter sent via mail and titled "Please bring back the NOTL Hospital" has been circulating to residents within various areas of Town. The letter, inviting residents who wish to have a hospital in Niagara-on-the-Lake to contact Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Town Councillors, is signed by Angela Bell on behalf of the "Committee to Bring Back NOTL Hospital" and concerned citizens of NOTL.

While Town Staff and Council appreciate residents' joint efforts in this regard, the letter has created quite a bit of confusion for residents. It is important to note that the "Committee to Bring Back NOTL Hospital" is not a Committee of Council, and Staff were not aware of the contents of the circulating letter.

The Town has a Hospital Site Steering Committee which was established to provide recommendations to Council regarding the process for determining the future use of the former hospital land (176 Wellington Street). This Committee recently provided recommendations to Council for Staff to send out Requests for Expressions of Interest for the site.

Further public engagement is anticipated in the future, to ensure stakeholders in the community, along with members of Council, have their interests represented during the consultation process.

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Contributed by Patty Garriock

"I have no special talent ... I am only passionately curious."

= Albert Einstein.



Contributed by Norm Arsenault:

Bulk Purchases: Avoid products that are packaged for single use (i.e., drinks, school lunches, candy, cat and dog food, salad mixings, etc.). Instead, buy in bulk and transfer the products to your own reusable containers.

Editorial: Advocacy, yes. Extremism, **no**

Richard Harley
Editor-In-Chief

Sunday's two-sided protest in NOTL demonstrated a couple of things pretty clearly.

One is that there is a lot of resident support for Sentineal Carriages. Despite some other cities across the globe deciding to ban horse carriages, Niagara-on-the-Lake is not willing to let radical movements affect one of its traditional local businesses, or harass our residents and visitors.

That's great. And kudos to residents for showing their support. Let's be clear: The Lake Report is firmly in favour of the Sentineals and their right to operate their business without being regularly impeded by animal rights protests.

Kudos also to Sentineal Carriages, which this week said it is done with the protests, and is focusing on alternative, legislative ways to keep protests in check.

However, we must question how effective counter-protests are in this case, and how far they can go before they do harm to their own cause.

Yes, standing and showing resident support is a good way to firmly illustrate how the town backs this long-time local business.

But at what point does counter-protesting negate the positive results many are hopeful for, which is (or was) ensuring protesters are not targeting individuals



who have no stake in the game, or impeding a local business?

And at what point do the counter-protesters become the very thing they so despise?

Arguably, Sunday was also a catalyst for people to start thinking that extreme views exist on both sides. (If you have any doubts, just read some of the language used – by both sides – on social media.)

Firstly, the rally (according to the animal rights activists) was a direct result of Locals for Carriages members attending an out-of-town protest on July 30 about an issue that has nothing to do with horse-drawn carriages.

When they were there, at least one carriage supporter held a sign that claimed 65-year-old activist Regan Russell (who died protesting after being struck by a truck outside a slaughterhouse) had committed suicide.

Though Locals for Carriages has since apologized for that sign, we can only assume the intent was to rouse animal rights protesters.

But what is the end game? Is it to protest and antagonize animal rights activists, or is it to advocate for NOTL's carriage company and fight to ensure Charter rights for those on all sides are being upheld by our local law enforcement?

When carriage advocates start attending protests outside of town, it detracts from the original cause and could make carriage supporters look as extreme as the animal rights protesters.

Unfortunately, in this case, the result was more harmful than beneficial – it actually inspired the animal rights activists to bring more protesters to NOTL, disrupting the streets of Old Town for residents, tourists and businesses (more than just the carriages).

We recognize the frustration by the counter-protesters after three years of animal rights protests. But when carriage supporters stand outside with megaphones and march in the streets, they risk becoming no better than the animal rights activists they are protesting.

It's worth noting the carriage companies aren't the only ones to lose because of this behaviour, but also the long list of residents and visitors who aren't so much passionate about horse carriages, but just wish to be able to enjoy Niagara-on-the-Lake without being harassed, berated, sworn at, called animal abusers, etc.

Further, having two loud, opposing sides makes the job of enforcement harder for police. They're stuck between two opposing belief systems, of which they cannot (and we wouldn't want them to) take a side.

If there was only one radical group shutting down the streets, it might make things easier from an enforcement perspective. Or it might not. But the question can't even be answered if carriage supporters are acting the same way they have asked the other protesters not to act.

To Locals for Carriages, we applaud your dedication to the carriages. We appreciate your fight to hold police and the town accountable for not taking reasonable steps to limit the confrontation on the street.

But we do not want to see the group become as radical as the protesters who started this problem in the first place.

Keep the focus on our town's issues – or you risk becoming the very people you're trying to fight.

editor@niagaranow.com



Arresting abusive protesters could be solution

Dear editor:

Regarding the ongoing protests in NOTL against horse-drawn carriages and your story, "Police worry as tensions rise over carriage protests," (Aug. 20):

While it can be argued that citizens have a right to protest under our Canadian Charter of Rights, perhaps an argument can be made that abusive language belted out on a crowd might be viewed as a threat to

young children that might be present.

If parents used abusive language in front of their child, it is quite likely that children services would be called in. Should protesters be allowed to terrify children with their aggressive behaviour?

As to negotiating a settlement, the only result the protesters are interested in is to shut down the business. The very suggestion that

bringing the parties to the table would lead to a solution is absurd.

Finally, the article in The Lake Report discussed a Toronto incident where protesters blocked the road on the Bloor Viaduct. The police found a solution by arresting the protesters and later the charges were dismissed.

This has some merit. If you consistently disrupted the NOTL protesters' activities in this manner, it would

give some respite from the constant badgering.

In other words, why should the protesters be the only ones permitted to disrupt the day for residents and visitors?

Let's disrupt their day every time they arrive in town and become abusive. A few hours at a police station each and every time should just about do it.

*Lorraine Horton
NOTL*

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OPINION

Don't let Airbnbs **overrun** Niagara-on-the-Lake

Dear editor:
Re: Bill Garriock's opinion piece, "Short-term rentals are residences without residents," The Lake Report, Aug. 20:



A large pile of garbage bags, but no recycling, outside the Campbell Scott house after a weekend rental. SUPPLIED

Coincidentally, I recorded a program on TVO over the weekend – "Airbnb: Dream or Nightmare." It was mainly located in the U.K. but I'm sure the same things are happening everywhere – the most disgusting messes and destruction of property I have ever seen, resulting in costly repairs, cleaning and lawsuits, which were almost impossible due to loopholes in agreements.

Apparently, there are more than 80,000 Airbnb properties there, 39,000 in London alone. In multiple-family buildings such as apartments or flats, the people have no idea who is sharing their space or where to lodge complaints.

Also, people are buying council homes to use as Airbnbs. The program noted

that it is illegal to sublet a council property since they are provided for people in need. Therefore, they now must employ many people as inspectors to patrol these areas and try to determine if the law is being broken.

I think it would be disastrous if Niagara-on-the-Lake becomes an Airbnb destination. My own interest in this results from

our own experience in deciding to retire here and my hope to do something different after almost 40 years of going to the office.

We built our home and operated Linden House B&B successfully for more than 20 years. In that time we made many friends and enjoyed about 75 per cent returning guests with only three whom we would

not have back. I feel this success is because the Town of NOTL licences B&Bs and requires the owner/host to be on-site – and this is what is missing from Airbnb. I hope the town will take action sooner rather than later to prevent the disastrous results we see in many countries.

Elaine Landray
NOTL

Short-term rentals help families **experience** NOTL

Dear editor:
There has been some talk in the news and letters of late about the problems that short-term rentals bring to the town. In fact, it's mostly unlicensed short-term rentals that are the problem and more enforceable bylaws are needed to control this.

Unfortunately short-term rentals receive a negative image from the parties and noise that many unlicensed short-term rentals generate. As the owner and operator of Niagara Holiday Rentals managing a number of short-term rentals in Old Town, all licensed, I encourage all neighbours of properties managed by Niagara Holiday Rentals to contact me 24-7 if there are any problems. (If you live next to one of our properties, you can find my cell number on the door of the house.)

None of our properties have pools or hot tubs, but, yes, some of them do occasionally have loud noise, but there are also homes where people live that occasionally have loud noise.

Short-term rentals give families with children and with pets the opportunity to

visit Niagara-on-the-Lake. The majority of bed and breakfasts and hotels in NOTL, if not all of them, don't allow pets; however, many vacation rental homes do.

There have been some comments that short-term rentals have chased kids out of town. There are many factors that have resulted in fewer kids here, including our aging population.

However, short-term rentals are the only affordable option for families with children to visit Niagara-on-the-Lake. Many B&Bs in town don't allow children and I'm sure that anyone with children would tell you that staying in a hotel with children isn't desirable.

Children need space to play both inside and out and a short-term rental allows that. Plus, with a fully-stocked kitchen in a short-term rental, meals are a lot easier for children who may be picky eaters. And it's a lot more affordable to cook meals in the rental home than to have to eat out for every meal.

My wife and I stayed at hotels in Niagara-on-

the-Lake for a number of years as tourists. Then we wanted to bring our dog, so we rented a pet-friendly short-term rental. We loved coming here so much that we bought our own vacation home. And we loved that so much that we moved here permanently.

A short-term rental not only brings tourism dollars to the town, it also helps people to experience the town, and hopefully, the friendly neighbours. And eventually move to town permanently and become full-fledged tax-paying citizens.

Or perhaps they decide to just buy a vacation home to visit occasionally, but also to make available as a short-term rental to help pay the expenses until they decide to retire here. Not only are they paying taxes on their vacation home, they're also bringing tourist dollars to the town.

There may be 1,000 beds that are used by short-term rentals and B&Bs, but do we know how many beds are owned by people as vacation homes and not made available as a short-term

rental? These second homes are not only empty with no kids in them, they are also empty the majority of the year perhaps with papers piling up and yard work not being done.

A short-term rental is judged by the guests on how clean and tidy it is, both inside and out. Prospective guests are looking at reviews when deciding on a short-term rental to stay at, and vacation home owners and managers know this and ensure their homes are taken care of and maintained throughout the year.

Many vacation rental home owners also live in town and have the same concerns about sustainable tourism that other residents have.

A licensed short-term rental in NOTL provides a place for people to visit town, stay awhile with their friends and family, including kids, and spend money at the area restaurants, shops and grocery stores. This is the type of tourism the town needs.

Jason Clements
NOTL

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During NOTL's anti-racism rally people held signs in support of the black community. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

Finding a path to racial equality

Dear editor:

Your friends and neighbours, followers of the Baha'i faith here in Niagara-on-the-Lake and believers in the oneness of humankind, have like most of you been stirred by the recent wave of peaceful demonstrations, both in the U.S. and here in Canada, calling for social change and particularly for an end to racial prejudice – the effects of which have been pernicious, soul-destroying and cruel over many generations.

It's heart-warming and encouraging, to say the least, to see individuals of all races participate together in these widespread demonstrations.

A letter from the Universal House of Justice (the governing body of the Baha'i Faith in Haifa, Israel) to the Baha'is of the U.S. was shared with us here in Canada.

It reminds us of the "long and thorny road" it has been

on this path toward racial equity in the U.S., but this is, of course, equally true of our country.

It reminds us all that "racism is a profound deviation from the standard of true morality" and that ultimately what will transform society is that love "ignited by the word of God," which every faith proclaims as its central belief.

The letter, while reminding us that the change we need to see will not be easy to achieve, is confident that it will be achieved.

It concludes with the assurance "that which is confirmed is the oneness of the world of humanity." If anyone would like a copy of this encouraging and insightful letter, the local Baha'i community would be more than pleased to send you one.

They can be contacted via www.notlbahais.org or at www.bahai.org.

Hugh Church
NOTL

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

When it comes to protecting trees in Niagara-on-the-Lake, residents are vigilant and concerned, especially when they see trees being taken down.

In the past week, The Lake Report received several queries from residents concerned about trees that were being removed by a professional tree service on private property near the western end of the NOTL Golf Club.

The house there is well-known in town as it was once the home of the

TALK OF THE TOWN

Trees were cut down legally



Trees legally removed from property. SUPPLIED

late Donna Scott.

It turns out that the current owners of the property at 486 Queen St., who purchased the home for

\$3.1 million in June, did everything by the book, according to a Town of NOTL spokesperson.

The town has strict

rules about tree removal, even on private property.

"There were four ash trees that were infected with emerald ash borer and one silver maple which was hollow and deemed hazardous by a certified arborist," said town official Beth Audet.

The removal of all five trees was approved by town heritage planner Denise Horne and an arborist report has been submitted from a certified arborist, Audet said.

* *Talk of the Town* is an occasional feature about issues that NOTLers are talking about.

Police need to prosecute protesters who break law

Dear editor:

To begin with, I would like to make it clear that I am not a supporter of At War for Animals Niagara.

On the contrary, I am in sympathy with the basic ideals of Locals for Carriages. While not an expert in animal welfare, the horses in question seem to me to be well cared for and not abused. (However, I must admit that I do feel a little sorry for these beautiful animals when I see them standing motionless in severe heat conditions or in cold and freezing weather waiting for a fare.

I only hope that good care is waiting for them on their return home.)

While the veracity and the accuracy of the claims made by Locals for Carriages against At War for Animals Niagara in your Aug. 20 story, "Pro-carriage group threatens to sue town, police," do not appear to have been independently confirmed, it does seem the animal rights activists' argument in this case is quite silly and is simply a protest for the sake of protest – that is, without any intelligent thought.

However, the threatened legal action by the group against the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is also a threat against the resident taxpayers who would ultimately be responsible for any legal costs as well as any award, however remote that may be.

While COVID-19 is likely the foremost activity that is occupying town councillors now, they are also having to deal at the same time with various developers and their costly legal challenges who want to assert their development plans regardless of local

opinion.

In my opinion, the protests are strictly a matter that needs to be dealt with appropriately by the Niagara Regional Police, who I assume have the resources and are in a position to do so.

It is surely up to them to provide the necessary forces and arrest those who are breaking the law through their behaviour and prosecute them to the extent that the law provides. This is their basic responsibility.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Feds should show bold leadership and slash credit card fees to boost economy

Dear editor:

The biggest driver of any economy is consumer spending.

Therefore it's time to slash credit card user fees, inject billions of dollars into our stressed economy and give "Joe Public" a break for a change.

I'm not talking about the paltry 10 basis point reduction announced by Finance Minister Bill Morneau in 2018 to reduce

small business merchant fees. These interchange fees (the amounts credit card companies charge merchants for accepting their cards for transactions) usually average 1.5 per cent, though some range to 2.5 per cent or more.

That is a far cry from the exorbitant, predatory fees charged by retail stores, American Express, Visa, Mastercard. etc. Their fees can exceed 20 per

cent or more.

As we transition our damaged economy, post COVID-19, where companies have closed (with more to come), massive job losses, investment portfolios tanked, RRSP savings diluted or spent. It is incumbent on our leadership in Ottawa to examine numerous vehicles of opportunity to inject additional disposable income, into the hands of the consumer.

I have long contended one of the major forces affecting our economy is the household cost outlay to service criminally high credit card user fees, thus robbing the economy of billions of dollars.

Accordingly, there is no better timing than now to take bold, aggressive leadership action and slash these fees by 50 per cent. In concert, anticipate and plug the loopholes likely to be

employed by other devious means to offset these savings to the consumer.

It's unconscionable and sickening to read about banks, for example, reporting their quarterly financial profits in the billions of dollars. Yes, that's "billions" with a "B" in profit, per quarter. At the same time, they are paying next to zero to customers on their deposits, plus charging every other user fee they can

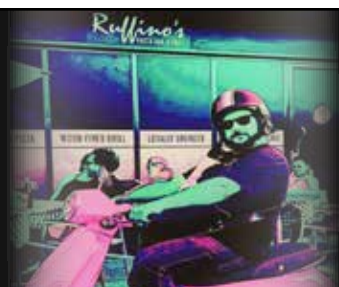
conjure up.

Reduce, and cap, the multimillion-dollar executive salaries, plus excessive bonuses, stock options and dividends.

Let's get the savings into the hands of the consumer for reinvestment in the economy. Company profits are good – obnoxious profits are purely, out and out, greed.

Samuel Young
NOTL

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‘Aggressive’ driving led to fatal hit-run of farm worker

Former hockey star Patrick McCabe jailed two years in 2019 death of woman on Concession 7

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The driver who killed a Niagara farm worker in a hit-and-run last summer was tailgating, “driving aggressively” and passed a vehicle seconds before his pickup truck slammed into the woman who was walking along the dark, rural NOTL road.

Evidence and documents filed in court show Patrick McCabe, now 22, never stopped, leaving the victim, a farmworker named Zenaida from Mexico, on the side of the road suffering fatal injuries.

Zenaida, 33, who worked at Tregunno Fruit Farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is survived by two young children and her parents in Mexico.

Justice Fergus O’Donnell sentenced McCabe to two years in penitentiary on July 23 after he pleaded guilty to failing to remain at the scene.

A charge of dangerous driving causing death was withdrawn. He also is banned from driving for five years and will be on probation for two years once his prison term ends.

McCabe, from Pelham, was driving along Concession 7 Road just before

11 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019. He had just left a party at a friend’s home in Niagara-on-the-Lake when the incident occurred, according to an agreed statement of facts filed with the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines.

McCabe, a former player with the Niagara Falls Jr. Canucks, told police he left the party, at a home near the Virgil firehall, to get food at the Pizza Pizza at the Gateway Plaza on York Road.

Zenaida, 33, who is identified only by her first name at her family’s request, was walking at the side of Concession 7 Road southbound near Line 6 Road around 10:50 p.m. She was returning from a church social event and was to meet up with a friend.

Two drivers said McCabe’s Dodge Ram pickup truck was between their vehicles when it “aggressively” darted out to pass the lead car.

After completing the pass, McCabe suddenly veered left and the witnesses said they could see he had hit someone. The truck never slowed down. The lead car pursued McCabe but was unable to catch up, so the driver returned to the scene. As the truck had sped off,



Left: The truck driven by Patrick McCabe had damage to the passenger side when police checked it. The side mirror had been reattached, duct taped and spray-painted, investigators said. Middle: Patrick McCabe. Right: Zenaida.
POLICE PHOTO/SUPPLIED PHOTOS



the occupants of the other car stopped to try to help Zenaida. She was eventually taken to the intensive care unit of Hamilton Health Sciences but died two days later.

Although investigators could not definitively determine whether Zenaida was on the pavement or on the shoulder of the road, the “physical evidence” points to her being along the edge, the statement of facts said.

In the days immediately after the collision, McCabe made no attempts to contact police, though he later told officers he knew he had hit something. He eventually admitted he knew he had struck a person, but panicked and didn’t know what to do.

After the collision he finally stopped at the rear of the Petro-Canada station on York Road. His passenger-side mirror was broken and “dangling,” so he ripped it off and placed it in his truck. Surveillance video at the gas station captured the scene.

He then drove back to the party, this time taking Airport Road to avoid the crash scene, but said he told no one about the collision. He returned home about 3 a.m., texting his girlfriend that he arrived safely.

On Aug. 20, three days after the collision, police issued a media statement identifying the make and model of the vehicle they were looking for – a dark-coloured Dodge Ram with

damage to the passenger side. That resulted in numerous tips, including one that identified McCabe as owning such a vehicle.

The next day, McCabe contacted police.

When investigators examined McCabe’s truck “it was obvious McCabe went to great lengths to try and conceal the damage to the Ram’s right passenger-side mirror by using duct tape, replacement mirrors and black spray paint.”

McCabe was working as a landscaper for Modern Turf Care in St. Catharines at the time of the collision.

Character reference letters submitted to the court said he was remorseful and “wanting to better himself.” Four letters were sub-

mitted by counsellors and staff from the Vitanova Foundation, a Woodbridge-based rehab centre that is “focused on addiction recovery.”

McCabe was treated for “substance abuse, trauma and related issues,” and made “significant progress,” the letters said.

In another letter, Frank Pietrangolo, owner of the Niagara Falls Jr. Canucks hockey team, wrote that McCabe was a team captain and leader on and off the ice. He coached McCabe from 2015 to 2019.

Bill Verhoef, owner of Modern Turf Care, said McCabe was a hard-working employee and would have a job waiting for him after he is released from prison.

Council shoots down idea of tax break for heritage district businesses

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Town of NOTL won’t be refunding 2020 taxes to businesses in the heritage district of Old Town.

A motion that would have had town staff explore the possibility of returning 40 per cent of the town’s commercial tax portion, as well as asking the Region of Niagara to consider refunding an additional 40 per cent of its commercial taxes was shot down Monday night, with Couns. Gary Burroughs, Clare Cameron and Wendy Cheropita voting in favour.

The motion was being considered to help busi-

nesses in the heritage area deal with losses during the pandemic, taking into account that tourism has been severely impacted and the businesses pay some of the highest taxes in Ontario, based on the amount of tourism the area typically gets.

Coun. Allan Bisback spoke against the motion, saying it’s not fair to other businesses in town who wouldn’t qualify for the tax rebate.

“I can’t support this in any way shape or form,” said Bisback. “Because I can walk down the street and have a business in Virgil or St. Davids say to me, ‘Why only the heritage district?’”

Coun. Erwin Wiens said he objected to the idea for three reasons — because he believes it would violate the Municipal Act, he doesn’t think it would be fair, and that the town doesn’t have the money to support it.

The funding was proposed to come from the town’s parking revenue, which he pointed out is already down by about \$500,000.

Newly appointed Coun. Sandra O’Connor, attending her first meeting of council, said she sympathizes with businesses that are struggling due to COVID, but that she was “concerned that this only addresses one aspect of what our residents

are going through during this pandemic.”

She also agreed it would not be “a prudent thing to do” to spend money on the return at this time.

A resident letter campaign was started in opposition of the tax refund, with many agreeing it wouldn’t be fair to businesses in other areas of town, who are struggling as a result of the pandemic, too.

NOTL resident Mike Henry noted heritage property owners are real estate investors “and as such are exposed to the ups and downs of these investments. I’m sure if we were to look at the appreciation of the properties over time these

investments have generated specular returns,” he wrote in a letter to councillors and The Lake Report.

Further, he said, “Giving this single group of taxpayers a 40 per cent tax break puts the burden on all other taxpayers who in no way benefit from this action.”

“As I understand it, several other special treatments for this group have already been put in place.”

Bruce Gitelman, a NOTL resident and representative of Residents for Sustainable Tourism, said he would only support the tax rebate if it applied to all residents and businesses in NOTL, not just businesses in the heritage district.

“We fail to see any compelling reason why the proposed beneficiaries of this gift/rebate from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake are essential or non-replaceable businesses required for the safe operation of the town, or for the safety or benefit of tax-paying town residents. Therefore the refund, bonus, gift or rebate of 40 per cent should be shared equally amongst all taxpayers suffering from the impact of COVID.”

Burroughs, who supported the motion, said “somebody better figure out a way to help these businesses before we have an empty main street.”



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Answer: History

Also accepted: Cheese

Answered first by: Margie Enns

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Kieran Jones, Katie Reimer, Pam Dowling

Email answers, with your name, to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, many events are now virtual. Find a list of NOTL events here week to week.</p> <p>Stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and distance whenever possible.</p>			
30	31	1	2
<p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Ride to 55 Bike Rally Fundraiser - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Club 55</p> <p>Quartetto Gelato and Joe Pillitteri: At Home Concert Series - 4 p.m. - Facebook @ MusicNiagaraFestival</p> <p>LiveStream Concert: Brittany Brooks - 7 p.m. - firstontariopac.ca/Online/default.asp</p>	<p>Community Wellness Committee - 6 a.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p> <p>Patio Picnic in the Vineyard - 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p>	<p>Desiree's Ride Bike Nights - 7 p.m. - Club 55</p> <p>Outdoor Sketching - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Long Term Care Transitional Self Health - 1:30 p.m. - Virtual: www.alzheimerniagara.ca/online</p>	<p>Irrigation Committee - Virtual: livestream.com</p> <p>German Conversation a.m. - Virtual: contact@aol.com</p> <p>The Devil's Disciple - Virtual: https://paste</p>
6	7	8	9
<p>Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park</p> <p>Live Music by Groove Revue Ju - 5 p.m. - Club 55</p>	<p>Community Wellness Committee - 6 a.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl</p>	<p>Opening session Charles Dickens reading group: Our Mutual Friend - 6:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Outdoor Sketching - 9 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Outdoor Acrylic Painting - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Long Term Care Transitional Self Health - 1:30 p.m. - Virtual: www.alzheimerniagara.ca/online</p>	<p>German Conversation a.m. - Virtual: contact@aol.com</p>

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Niagara Lake Report

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27 Drop in Yoga - 9 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Ryan Thomas Band - 9 p.m. - Olde Angel Inn Ten Things that will Save Your Life in the Trenches - 4 p.m. - Virtual: nhsml.ca	28 Mel Monaco and Company - 3 p.m. - Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Comedy Night - 8 p.m. - The Exchange Brewery Out in the Open - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Niagara PumpHouse Arts Centre Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	29 Market @ The Village - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - 111 Garrison Village Drive Record Store Day - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. - SRC Vinyl Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park
2 ... - 2 p.m. - Group - 10 Live - 8 p.m. - ...	3 Environmental Advisory Committee - 6 p.m. - Virtual: livestream.com/notl Long Term Care Transitional Self Health - 1:30 p.m. - Virtual: www.alzheimerniagara.ca/online	4 Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	5 Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park Equithalasso Barn Demo - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Benchview Equestrian Centre
9 ... Group - 10 ...	10 Long Term Care Transitional Self Health - 1:30 p.m. - Virtual: www.alzheimerniagara.ca/online	11 Lion Burger Drive Thru Barbecue - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids Lions Club	12 Historic Walking Tours - 11 a.m. - Queen's Royal Park

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Celebrating Flight of the **Monarch**

Parks Canada hosted special educational tour on the Commons at Fort George

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

It was wings up Saturday as Parks Canada helped celebrate National Flight of the Monarch Day, with a guided tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake attracting families, enthusiasts and hopeful butterfly gardeners eager to learn more about the at-risk migratory insect.

The 75-minute tour brought participants through the Commons at the Fort George national historic site to understand the monarch's journey from egg to butterfly and to learn more about why the butterfly is on the Canadian government's radar as a species at-risk.

Stacey and Emily Seibel, a mother-daughter duo from Niagara Falls, were there to learn more about the "very addicting" hobby of finding and letting go of the butterflies in their home garden. They understand the species is at-risk and have been trying to create an acceptable habitat for their survival in their yard, Stacey Seibel said.

"I've let go probably about 20 monarchs already. They start from a tiny, tiny little egg, and it takes about a



Joel Anthony Forget from Parks Canada helps Pamela Dunn spot a caterpillar on a leaf. BRITTANY CARTER

month," she said.

"I don't really know that much, I learned from my dad and basically all he told me was to make sure they have milkweed," she said. "I'm sure there's lots more to learn."

There are 14 species of milkweed across Canada where monarchs can lay their eggs. Around the fort, there are some large patches that are protected and grow-

ing to help boost the habitat locally.

Saturday's tour was the first of its kind at Fort George, a spokesperson said.

Parks Canada is working in collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, which spearheaded the Monarch Nation program.

Joël Anthony Forget said part of Parks Canada's man-

date is to bring awareness and education about ways to protect nature and the species residing within it.

"Especially iconic ones like the monarch butterfly," said Forget, an acting public outreach education officer for Parks Canada.

Much of the organization's conservation work is done in the background and often goes unnoticed, he said, so events such as

the National Flight of the Monarch Day are "excellent opportunities to reach the Canadian public and to give an immersive experience that hopefully they will remember and bring to their homes and communities."

Peter Martin, product development officer for national historic sites, led the tour to each stop through the Commons, "sprinkling a little history" into the mix

before Forget and outreach student Veronica Mckelvey dove into the monarch material.

"It's just to give people a sense of place. So, to kind of talk about the natural history and cultural history, kind of bring them both together," Martin said.

"Every time we do anything on our property that has something other than the cultural history standpoint of what's here, we just sprinkle a little bit of history, so they know where they are, and what happened," he said.

"It's part of our mandate and natural history is just as important as cultural history. We're blending that together – it's a perfect fit."

Mckelvey explained that while climate change may have an impact on the dwindling numbers of monarch butterflies each year, the lack of habitat may be playing the biggest role. Much of their habitat has also been threatened or destroyed across the United States and Mexico, she said.

Planting various species of milkweed in home gardens is one of the ways people can assist with providing habitat, she said.

Willowbank asks to keep grassy 'meadow'

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Willowbank wants to keep a natural grassy "meadow" that led to a complaint.

Caitlin Wooll, education co-ordinator at Willowbank, made a virtual presentation to council Monday to ask for an exemption from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's grass-cutting bylaw for a "significant grassland habitat" on the property.

The Queenston facility, which bills itself as Canada's premier heritage conservation school, received a notice of violation of the bylaw, for grass or weeds over 20 centimetres.

She said the complaint was made by one person. Wooll pointed out the



Willowbank. FILE PHOTO

meadow has been a part of Willowbank for 10 years and is home to many natural plants, animals and insects.

"It's actually a grassland habitat. It's a meadow," she told council. "And it's set in the picturesque landscape of the Willowbank estate grounds."

"The meadow has existed for a decade and we have never before received a notice of violation," she said.

Wooll said it's similar to other "grassland meadows" in Niagara-on-the-Lake, such as at Butler's Burial Ground.

When the school had a Niagara Parks restora-

tion ecologist examine the meadow, a list was compiled of 30 plants that make the habitat significant.

Findings included milkweed — significant for monarch butterfly breeding, tall grass that certain bird species like, and an area that's flattened because two baby deer nest in the meadow, she said.

"It's so necessary for all those insects and animals and plants. It's very ecologically significant, and it's also a part of the cultural landscape of the Willowbank estate and has been for like a decade," she said.

Coun. Gary Burroughs made a notice of motion regarding the meadow, which will be dealt with at the next meeting of council, on Sept. 28.



Red tail hawk visits

This red tail hawk is one of several predatory birds patrolling the NOTL waterfront and golf course. Photographer Janice White captured the hawk at the course on Saturday.



Pauline Reimer Gibson
Audiologist

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Former councillor **Dennis Dick** dies

The Lake Report

Former Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor Dennis Dick has died.

Dick, described in a statement issued by the Town of NOTL as “a beloved and passionate member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community,” was 67.

He was diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma, a rare form of cancer, a year ago and died on Aug. 21.

Dick was a former town employee, volunteer firefighter in Virgil for 15 years and a town councillor for 23 years.

Among his many other community activities, he sat on the library board, the NOTL Chamber of Commerce board and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board.

“Dennis was a friendly and kind family man, with a beautiful, booming



Dennis Dick. SUPPLIED/TOWN OF NOTL

voice and warm presence,” the town said in its statement. “He was a dedicated volunteer and contributing member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, and he will be deeply missed.”

Flags at the NOTL town hall were lowered in his memory.

Following his terms on council, Dick served on the town’s committee of adjustment, agricultural committee and the

Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade committee. He was also an active volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce for both the Candlelight Stroll and the Ice Wine Festivals.

The town offered its condolences to Dick’s wife Shirley and their children, both employees of the municipality, Jake Dick, a heavy equipment operator, and Denise Horne, a planner and heritage adviser.

Shaw **Cancels** remainder of fall season, hopes to stage ‘Christmas Carol’ for holidays

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

The Shaw Festival has officially pulled the plug on the last remaining shows that were planned for its 2020 season.

The remaining fall performances of “Charley’s Aunt” and “Flush” were cancelled Wednesday, the festival said in a statement.

“Never in our wildest imagination did we ever expect it would come to this: the cancellation of our 2020 season,” said a note on the festival’s website.

However, the Shaw is holding on to the hope that performances of “A Christmas Carol” can go on this holiday season.

Those shows have not yet been cancelled in anticipation that the Shaw can host reduced-capacity audiences at the Royal George



Kimberley Rampersad as Lila Dixon and Kyle Golemba as Ted Hanover in Holiday Inn. DAVID COOPER

Theatre leading up to Christmas.

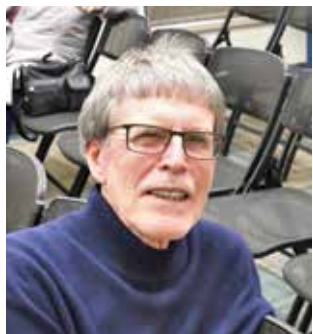
“We know it looks insurmountable to return to the stage in 2020, but we at the Shaw are holding onto hope for a holiday season,” said Kimberley Rampersad, the festival’s associate artistic director.

“Our hope is a candle – it may flicker, but it will not

go out. We will be hopeful for the future of our art and we look forward to the day we get to welcome our beloved patrons back to the theatre.”

Performances of “A Christmas Carol” will only happen if it is deemed safe for the audiences, artists and company members, the Shaw said.

Dr. Brown: The **past and future** of the COVID-19 pandemic



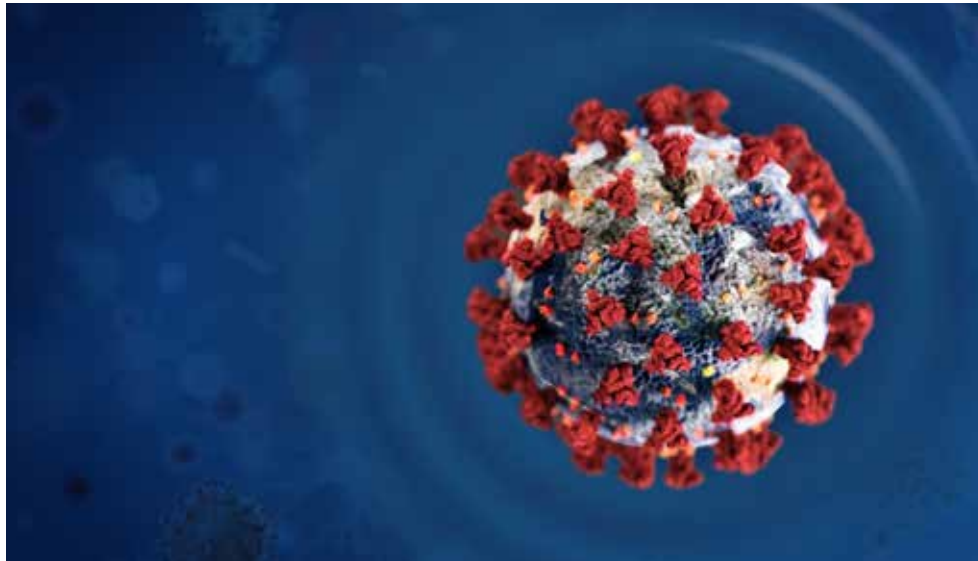
Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the Infohealth series held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

This pandemic has been a steep learning curve from the get-go for all charged with managing, controlling and treating it.

That applies to infectious disease experts, epidemiologists and modellers, those serving on the front lines of health care and politicians at all levels and of all stripes and all countries.

It’s been tough. I’m especially sympathetic toward those in government, most of whose backgrounds didn’t prepare them for this, now forced to lean on ex-



FREEPIK PHOTO

perts, many of whom were making it up as they learned about a virus, that except in name and a proclivity for attacking the respiratory system, shared little with SARS or MERS, their antecedent coronavirus cousins.

This virus turned out to be far more transmissible than SARS. Without timely and speedy imposition of lockdowns, social distancing and face masks, the disease spread unchecked, especially within large groups, jammed close together in crowded private and public venues, close-

quartered housing, nursing homes and refugee camps – and did so quickly.

Even a week lost imposing strict controls made all the difference between control and chaos, the likes of which we’ve witnessed in Brazil, India, South Africa, and sometimes wealthy countries with otherwise excellent, well-resourced health care systems. At its worst, this disease infected and killed more than the great flu pandemic of 1918, according to the New York Times. No one anticipated that one.

The face of the disease also changed as frontline workers became more familiar with it. In the early days most of the attention was focused on the respiratory tract (loss of smell and taste, dry cough, shortness of breath and pneumonia).

Other clinical features were less-often reported – features which although less common, included widespread blood clotting affecting both large and small blood vessels, which when it affected the circulation in the lungs, increased the risk of severe

hypoxemia, strokes, heart attacks and vasomotor changes in the skin.

Beyond these, there was cumulative evidence that virtually every system and organ in the body was vulnerable in some fashion, including the bowel, kidneys, eyes and brain – the last a source of persistent cognitive and affective symptoms long after the acute infection.

Care for patients has been a learning exercise on the fly – with trials of this drug or that – most reasonable bets, but without solid evidence to support their use.

But then, what were physicians to do sometimes for critically ill patients when a trial of a given drug made “sense” even if there weren’t gold-plated clinical trials to support their use? How do you get that evidence in the middle of a pandemic? Systems were overwhelmed and, more importantly, so were the frontline workers.

We’ve learned a great deal about this virus’s genome and tracked how it changed as the disease swept around the globe, but so far, there is nothing to suggest changes

in the behaviour of the virus or the development of vaccines and drugs to treat the virus.

Epidemiologists continue to create computer models to forecast how this pandemic might play out in the future. The consensus view is that COVID is likely to become a permanent resident of human hosts for years, if not decades, much like the influenza virus.

And like the flu, annual or semi-annual vaccinations may be needed to keep up with changes in the infectivity of the virus and as the immunity to the virus wears off.

Such a view would be consistent with what we know about other coronaviruses. That means there might be recurring surges, especially in winter months when most spend much of their time inside.

However, we’ve learned that distancing and masks are very effective in preventing the spread of this virus and, incidentally, some other viruses such as the common cold, which thanks to distancing and masks, has all but disappeared this summer.



Winners to be announced Sept. 3!

Thanks for 3,000 votes!



Have some fun

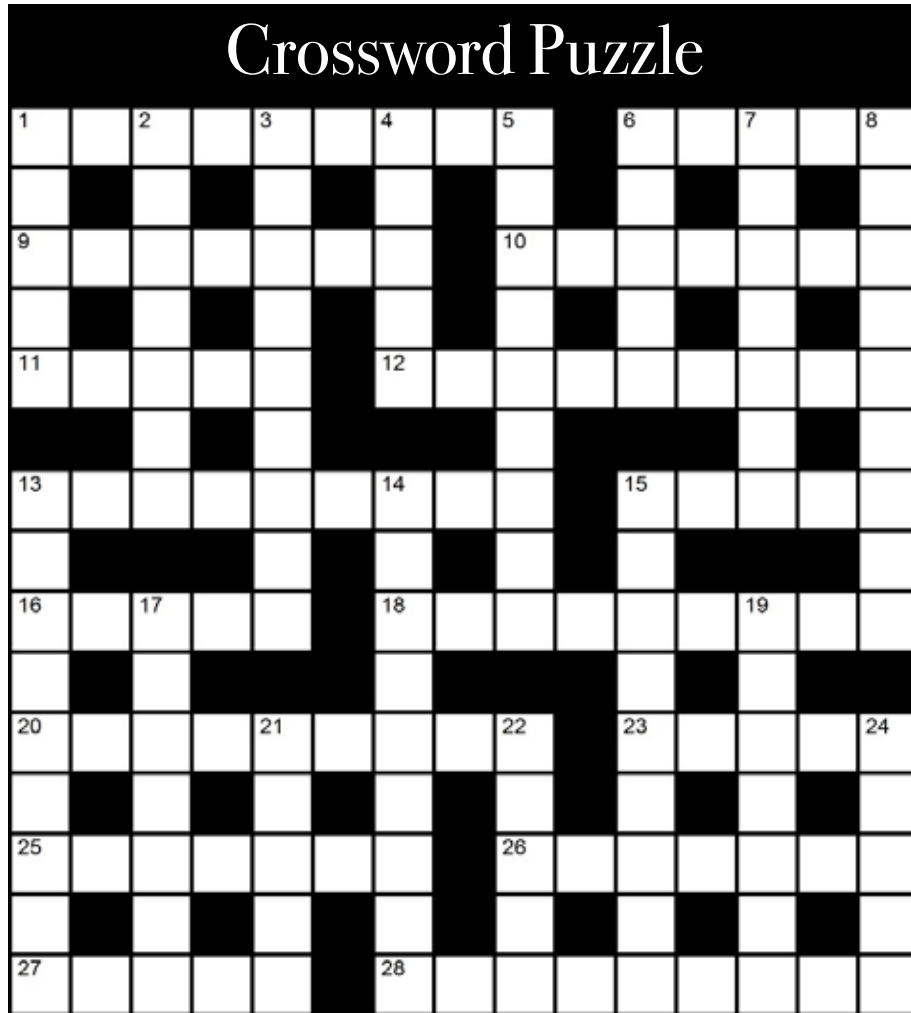
The Lake Report is looking for puzzle makers who would like to help develop this page. We are seeking both standard and cryptic crossword writers. editor@niagaranow.com

Across

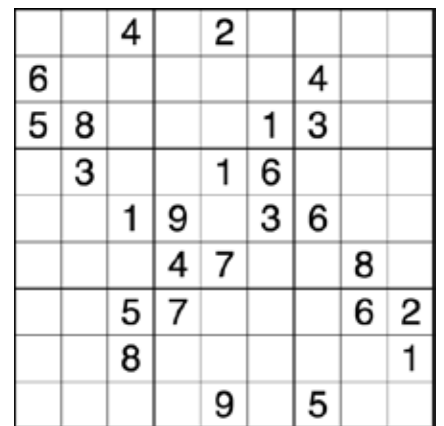
- 1. E.g. a ketch (3-6)
- 6. Copper and zinc alloy (5)
- 9. Item (7)
- 10. Not friendly (7)
- 11. Nail-like fastener (5)
- 12. Carry (9)
- 13. Bony structures (9)
- 15. Burning gas (5)
- 16. Forbiddingly (5)
- 18. Environmental fouling agent (9)
- 20. Deadlock (9)
- 23. Lukewarm (5)
- 25. Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
- 26. Mythical creature (7)
- 27. Expel (5)
- 28. Northern Canadian island (9)


Down

- 1. Melts (5)
- 2. Exterior (7)
- 3. Satan (9)
- 4. Larceny (5)
- 5. Practice session (9)
- 6. Defeats (5)
- 7. Grand Canyon state (7)
- 8. Confection (9)
- 13. In good order (9)
- 14. Home for abandoned children (9)
- 15. Ornamental water jets (9)
- 17. Conceive (7)
- 19. Sanction (7)
- 21. Make law (5)
- 22. Peer (5)
- 24. Move rhythmically (5)



Last issue's answers







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Neighbour **unhappy** with winery driveway

Richard Harley
The Lake Report



Marion Hassebroek joins council for livestream. SOURCED

Marion Hassebroek says the driveway to Queenston Mile Winery “isn’t compatible” with the residential neighbourhood on Queenston Road.

During Monday’s council meeting she outlined some of the problems neighbours have with the winery entrance, and encouraged councillors to have Queenston Mile build a new driveway on Concession 6.

She said “several incidents have happened in just the last few weeks” that she and fellow neighbours aren’t happy about.

On Aug. 1, between 4 and 4:30 p.m., she said a group of “10 to 15 young people” came out of the driveway on foot and started drinking.

“As soon as they reached the road, one of them cracked open one of his newly purchased bottles of wine and proceeded to pour a glass for several members of the group,” she said.

“They looked right at us, they gave a loud cheer and continued down the road,

drinking as they went.”

On Aug. 8, she said her husband witnessed five cars miss the driveway in an hour-and-a-half, turning around in a neighbouring driveway

Hassebroek said she’s also seen “rowdy, noisy cyclists leaving the winery.”

Furthermore she complained about the dust coming from the driveway, saying, “There was so much dust the cars literally disappeared from view on that short stretch of driveway.”

“And where does that dust go? Into the neighbours’ yards.”

She said she disagrees with Queenston Mile’s

planner, who said an additional driveway entrance on Concession 6 isn’t needed.

“How did she and staff come to this conclusion? To my knowledge no traffic study was ever done. If there are no sightline issues, how do five cars miss the driveway in an hour-and-a-half?”

She said the problem goes back to “the beginning” when council exempted Queenston Mile from the minimum frontage requirement of 147 feet.

“But Queenston Mile was given relief and the little strip which houses the driveway is less than 58 feet wide.”

She reminded councillors why they granted relief in the first place.

“It was because you were told by the Queenston Mile team that they would develop a main driveway off Concession 6 and the Queenston Road driveway would be a service and emergency entrance. And council granted relief based on this.”

She said on top of that,

on April 11, 2019, she attended an liquor licence appeal tribunal hearing between Queenston Mile, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and herself on behalf of “objecting parties, which are other neighbours.”

At that meeting, she said Alison Zalepa, the winery’s general manager, “made a sworn statement” that a new driveway would be built from Concession 6.

She said a current holding provision on the winery should not be lifted without the addition of a Concession 6 driveway and that the Queenston Road entrance should be used for emergency and service purposes only.

Town council directed Queenston Mile to work with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to work on a plan for putting a driveway in on Concession 6, after which the winery is to only use the Queenston Road driveway for emergency or commercial vehicles.

They are also required to use dust suppressant on the Queenston Road entrance.

St. Davids artist opens newest **exhibition** at Pumphouse

Julia Sacco
Special to The Lake Report



Marilyn Cochrane. SUPPLIED

St. Davids artist Marilyn Cochrane opens her latest solo show, “The Material and The Mystical,” at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre on Sept. 1.

The month-long show will feature a new set of paintings as well as a series of sculptures titled Echo Cairns.

Exploring mediums with the use of 300 million-year-old crystals from her expansive collection, Cochrane continues to create with minerals in a new way.

“I had a series called Echoes,” said Cochrane, and her newest show is a continuation of that theme.

“For many years I’ve been pursuing this series where I’m using minerals and crystals and doing a painting above them and framing both of them. I wanted to do something different this time and I wanted to get into sculptures.”

Cochrane hopes that through the use of crystals and their spirit within her sculptures, as well as exploration with realism and the abstract in her paintings, that viewers will understand the mystical world around us.

“I’m hoping that this glittering little world will draw the onlooker in and perhaps give a sense of awe or a sense of peace and meditation just looking at these amazing stones that

come from the Earth and the painting that reflects the little pieces of Earth that are in the sculpture,” Cochrane said.

In her new paintings, the complex flowers represent “the material” world as Cochrane depicts them with many transparent layers of changing colour and dramatic lighting to create an image of high realism.

“These blooms emerge from and blend into abstract, orb-like planetary shapes that allude to the unseen energies that surround us. Two worlds blended together as one, dancing together across the canvas,” she said.

Cochrane began her career as an artist at McGill University with a bachelor of arts with a fine art history major and completed a self-study course in colour at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. That was followed by a summer course in Paris at the American College of Art.

While working in the design business, she continued her studies at the Ontario College of Art & Design, graduating with a fine arts degree with honours.

“I’ve always loved art and have been drawing and painting since I was very little. Way, way back I’d taken classes after school when I was in my early teens and I always just adored art,” said Cochrane.

Throughout her career, Cochrane has received a variety of awards, including the A.J. Casson award for Outstanding Achievement in Watercolour in Canada.

An opening reception will be held on Sept. 5 and 6 from 1 to 4 p.m., with Cochrane in attendance both days. Everyone is welcome.

For more information on this exhibition, visit <https://niagarapumphouse.ca/>. To learn more about Cochrane and her works, visit her website at <http://www.marilyncochrane.com>.

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Obituaries

Dennis Dick



Dick, Dennis - It is with deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Dennis Dick on August 21, 2020, exactly one year to the day that he was diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma. Dennis was the beloved husband of Shirley (Warkentin) Dick, and father of Jake and Angelica (Hill) Dick, and Denise and Colin Horne, and grandfather of his precious little "Emmy May" Emberley Horne. Dennis is also survived by his mother, Christina (Berg) Dick, brothers and sister Bob (Annie), Anne (Brian) Litke, and Bill Dick, and sisters- and brother in law, Marlene (Doug) Caldwell, Janet Warkentin, and Henry (Rhonda) Warkentin, and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his father Jacob Dick and parents in law, Abe and Betty Warkentin. Dennis grew up on the family farm on Line 3 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He was a graduate of NDSS and University of Guelph. As a young man, Dennis worked for many local businesses and farming operations including Bert Hopes, Hardy Homes, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Roads Department, as a Massey Ferguson sales representative for Creek Road Motors, and farm manager for Chateau Des Charmes winery, before opening his own excavation company, D & B Construction. He was a partner in the family farm, Chestnut Tree Farms, for many years. In the past few

years he shifted his focus to septic inspections, and also worked seasonally for Millers, doing snow removal on the QEW, where he worked long night shifts and was always happy to train new drivers.

Dennis had a passion for giving back to his community. He was a volunteer fireman for the Virgil Fire Department for 15 years, before tossing his hat into the political ring, and running for Town Council in 1991. He served as Alderman/Councillor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for a total of 23 years. As part of these duties, he was pleased to serve on various Boards and Committees including the Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. He served several terms on the the Town's Committee of Adjustment and was still actively involved on the Agricultural Committee and the Harmony Residents Group and Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade Committee. Dennis was an active volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce for the Candlelight Stroll and Ice Wine Festivals. Dennis was always a passionate advocate for the "beautiful Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake". Dennis also served on the Board of the Vineland UM Home for many years, and was currently on the Board of Radiant Care (Pleasant Manor and Tabor Manor). He had also served on the Board of OASIS (Ontario Association of Septic Services) for many years. Dennis was an active member of Bethany Mennonite church, currently serving on the Board there, as well as on the Property Committee. Dennis had a rich bass voice, and enjoyed singing in the church choir for many years, and most recently with the Niagara Community Male Chorus. A recent highlight for Dennis was participating in a mission trip with Wells of Hope to Guatemala with a team from Bethany Mennonite Church.

Dennis loved fishing and hunting, preparing family meals, spending time with his family at the cottage or at home, and was always up for a game of euchre on a Friday night.

Dennis loved being with his friends and family, the more the merrier! He could light up a room with his smile and great sense of humour. Dennis was an active man all his life, always on the go, and although the cancer slowed him down physically, he never allowed it to defeat his spirit. Over the past year, he was very much encouraged by the expressions of support and prayer from so many in this wonderful community; a community for which he cared very deeply. He will be remembered for his steadfast faith, his courage, and his ability to push on through even the most difficult challenges with a positive attitude and unfailing sense of humor.

Visitations will be held at Bethany Mennonite Church, located at 572 East and West Line, on the corner of East and West Line and Four Mile Creek Road on Thursday August 27, from 2-4 pm, and 6-8 pm, and on Friday, August 28, from 6-8 pm. You are also invited to share your memories and condolences on Tallman Funeral Homes website. If desired, memorial donations to Bethany Mennonite Church, Radiant Care Pleasant Manor or Mennonite Central Committee would be appreciated. Due to the current situation with Covid 19, the Interment and Celebration of Life services will be private services. Arrangements are being made to provide online access to view the Celebration of Life Service on Monday, August 31. For updates on the time and arrangement of this service please refer to the Tallman Funeral Homes website tallmanfuneralhomes.ca or Bethany Mennonite Church website www.bethanymennonite.ca



David Cooper



COOPER, David - With great sadness the family of David Cooper shares that David died on Monday, August 17 at his home at the age of 71. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 47 years, Brenda, and his daughters Amy, Deborah, Julia and son-in-law Patrick, and grandchildren Seth, Yurik, Mya, William, and Veda, as well as his siblings Alan (Rita) and Mary (Rod).

David was active in many clubs in Niagara-on-the-Lake and loved to travel. He was a quiet man who knew the strength of a well-placed wry comment.

A service will not be held at this time. David always enjoyed a glass of scotch. It would make him happy to know that you had raised a glass in his memory. Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Top: The Matrimonial Cup winners, May Chang and Kevin MacLean, with club pro Billy Simkin. PATTY GARRIOCK
Bottom: The prize for best-dressed couple at the Matrimonial Cup was an easy choice. It went to a couple dressed as bride and groom – Dean and Susan McCann. Find more photos at niagaranow.com

Golf: Couples still talking after matrimonial tournament

The Lake Report

Perhaps the toughest annual test of golf was contested at the NOTL Golf Club last week, as almost 30 couples teed off in the Matrimonial Cup tournament.

The one-day, 18-hole event is viewed with fear and trepidation by many participants because the rules are unlike almost any other tournament.

Couples play together in an alternate-shot format, with the women teeing off on the odd-numbered holes and men on the even.

Simple enough, but as anyone who plays the game will tell you, women usually hit the ball straight up the middle, avoiding trees, deep rough, bunkers and Lake Ontario.

Men tend to hit the ball ... into all those places. So the tourney format often forces the women to play from areas they have never previously explored on the narrow, tree-lined course.

But all turned out well, few grumbles were heard and everyone was still talking at the post-tournament barbecue.

May Chang and Kevin MacLean (full disclosure: he is managing editor of

The Lake Report) were crowned winners, shooting 82 and a net score of 73 (after handicap deductions).

Right on their heels were past Matrimonial champions Mike and Yolanda Henry, with 83 and net of 75. In third place were low-handicappers Louise Robitaille and Stephen Warboys, shooting 78 and net 76.

David and Donna Lailey and Ginny and Paul Green shared the "most honest" prize.

Dean and Susan McCann, in Gatsby-like wedding attire, were the obvious choice for best-dressed couple. The colourful Maria and Brodie Townley were runners-up.

MEN'S LEAGUE: Brodie Townley and Mike Henry rode their momentum into Thursday's men's league competitions, tying with Dragan Racic for top honours with 22 points in the modified Stableford scoring format.

Joe Interisano and Dean Sanders were second with 20 points each.

Townley also took the low gross prize with his stellar 1-under 35.

Net skins worth \$90 each went to Mike Eagen (#1) and Bill Jenkins (#7).

EXPLORING PHOTOS
WITH NOTL MUSEUM



Royal visit arches

These former NOTL residents are posing underneath the wonderful horticultural arches that were made for the royal visit in 1901. The future King George V (aged 36) and Queen Mary (aged 34) of England (then the duke and duchess of Cornwall and York) were staying at the Queen's Royal Hotel, which was on Front Street. The royal carriage was driven through a succession of three arches, one erected by the town, one by Dr. H. L. Anderson at his own expense and on behalf of the children of town, and one by Henry Winnett, proprietor of the Queen's Royal Hotel. The duke and duchess must have been impressed by these beautiful sculptures as they rode from the hotel to the train to depart Niagara. This photo is looking down Front Street from King Street. Queen's Royal Park is located behind the fence on the right.

ARCHITEXT

Another Secord survivor

Brian Marshall
Columnist



David Secord's House. SUPPLIED/BRIAN MARSHALL

As I mentioned in last week's column, Peter Secord, apparently despairing of ever receiving a grant, left Niagara in 1793.

However, his absence did not halt the glacially slow wheels of government from proceeding onward and his grant was finally awarded in 1796. Not wishing to return from his new home in Norfolk County, Peter sold the land to his nephew David.

In 1799, David assumed the task of developing the property and built his home there. He chose, as many did, to construct the house of local stone laid in the random method (although somewhat more finely face-

finished than that of his uncle's home).

As was common in the early 19th century, the exterior stonework was then harled with lime render which, when still slightly workable, was incised with straight lines to give the appearance of the much more expensive ashlar stone.

Sited on a hill with its facade overlooking Four Mile Creek, it was a fairly modest one-and-a-half storey in the Georgian tradition with two bays on either side of the centred front door.

Local tradition holds that Laura Secord rested under its roof during her famous run to warn the British of the imminent American incursion and that both British generals, Drummond and de Rotenburg, used the house at various times as a headquarters. That the home survived the War of 1812 seems pretty certain, since David Secord's war claims submission includes only compensation for damage and not complete replacement, as was the case for

the vast majority of his neighbours.

Remarkably, over the span of 209 years between 1799 and 2008, only three families held the property title: the Secords, the Hanniwells and the Paxtons.

That said, the house has seen changes. A kitchen was added to one end of the house and then later removed. Cross-gable dormers were added to the original roof line. A weighty Colonial Revival style porch built off the facade. The original interior end-gable chimney on one end of the house was removed. And so on.

Today, the property is owned by a developer and the old soldier sits lost, forlorn and derelict awaiting its fate. Shall it be rescued by a plan with the vision to preserve, restore and rehabilitate this survivor as a time-honored family home or left to fall into eventual ruin, or ...

I suspect you know my preference.

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