



Community bands together after death of NOTL father | Page 8

Town of NOTL's population grew 9% since 2016, census reveals

Staff
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's population has increased by 1,677 permanent residents since 2016, according to the results of the 2021 census.

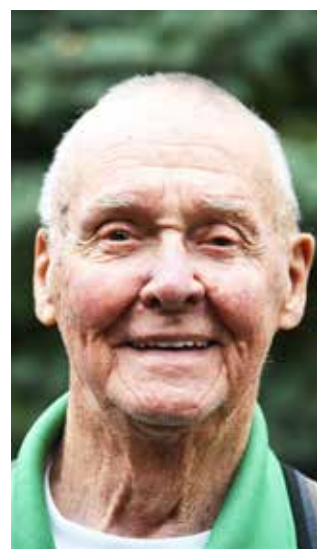
That represents a 9 per cent increase from the 2016 census and makes NOTL the Niagara municipality with the third-most growth in the past five years, behind Port Colborne at 9.4 per cent, but way behind Thorold at 26.1 per cent.

NOTL's growth is 2.3 percentage points higher than the regional average of 6.7 per cent.

Virgil's population had a slight increase to 3,008 from 2,937 residents in 2016, but specific breakdowns of where growth occurred are not fully available yet.

The number of private homes in NOTL increased by 7.7 per cent, to 8,578 from 7,964.

Further statistical breakdowns by age and area of town are yet to be released by the government. The next scheduled release of census data is April 27.



NOTL legend Doug Garrett dies at 94

Story on Page 10

Superior Court orders Virgil learning pod to shut down

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

A Superior Court judge acknowledged the operators of a Niagara-on-

the-Lake learning pod were "sincere and well-meaning" but last week ordered the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance to cease all operations in Virgil – and anywhere else.

"The breach is clear," a written ruling from St. Catharines Justice Meredith Donohue says.

"The respondents' choice to gather up to 40 unmasked children plus a number of

unmasked adults from 25 different families on a daily basis demonstrates an imminent threat to the health, safety or welfare of such children."

Donohue ordered Monica

McCourt and Lori Davidson, co-founders of the Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance, to stop providing child care until the final

Continued on Page 2

Canadian flag will fly at Queen's Royal

Parks manager unsure if town will have staff available to raise and lower flag on special occasions



Soon Queen's Royal Park will have a Canadian flag flying proudly for all to see. It might look like this. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/SCOTT ROBINSON

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Soon there will be no doubt on which side of the Niagara River resides the true north, strong and free.

Councillors unanimously approved the installation of a Canadian flag and flagpole at Queen's Royal Park, hoping to have it waving in the breeze before the Canada Summer Games start in August.

"Our Canadian flag punches well above its weight on a global recognition scale," Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Ross Robinson, who led the charge for the flags installation, told council in a commit-

tee of the whole meeting on Monday.

"We are a relatively low population nation but our red and white flag is simple, elegant and leaves no doubt of the country it represents: our great country, Canada,"

he said.

Robinson, a columnist for The Lake Report, first broached the idea in a Nov. 11 piece he wrote.

"It's an idea that is just

Continued on Page 3

Lake Report honoured with 14 awards for journalism, community work

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

The Lake Report has been nominated for 14 provincial awards in recognition of the newspaper's journalism, advertising and community service.

The finalists for the Ontario Community Newspapers Association 2021 Better Newspaper Competition were announced

Monday and The Lake Report received 11 top three finalist nominations and three honorable mentions – more awards than any other newspaper in the province.

First, second and third place winners will be unveiled in a virtual ceremony on April 29.

The competition attracted entries from community publications of all sizes from across the GTA and as

far afield as Fort Frances, New Liskeard and Cornwall.

Two other NOTL publications are among the finalists. The NOTL Local garnered two nominations and the Advance received one.

"It's a real honour to be recognized and honoured by your peers in the industry," said Richard Harley,

Continued on Page 4



The Lake Report's core team of writers and editors, Evan Saunders, Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean, during a federal candidates debate that was organized by the newspaper in 2021. JESSICA MAXWELL



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Superior Court judge says learning pod's 'breach is clear'

Continued from Front Page

adjudication of the application or a further order from the court.

The preliminary injunction was granted following an application by the Ontario Ministry of Education. It is not known if the two mothers who led the pod plan to appeal the ruling and a spokesperson for the ministry refused to comment further as the matter is still under investigation.

On Wednesday, landlord Lloyd Redekopp confirmed no one had been at the old Virgil school all week.

The judge acknowledged COVID-19 has created unprecedented stress on families and noted McCourt and Davidson are "sincere and well-meaning in their personal desire to foster the health and well-being of their children."

However, she said, they cannot refute the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education's mandate to ensure the health and well-being of the children of Ontario.

The decision notes the learning pod does not "fit any of the exceptions or exemptions under the" Child Care and Early Years Act that would allow the pod to continue operating.

Donohue said the learning pod is not a homeschooling operation and does not qualify as an unlicensed child care or as a private school. She further wrote that McCourt and Davidson have not made an attempt to pursue a proper



Lori Davidson and Monica McCourt were named as defendants in a Ministry of Education case against Niagara Alternative Learning Alliance, an unlicensed school that had been operating from the former Virgil public school building. EVAN SAUNDERS/FILE

private school licence.

They did, however, seek a "temporary licence from the court to operate as a private school outside the parameters of the requirements under the Education Act."

Donohue said she knows of no authority that could make that possible.

The judge noted the pod operators said anyone at the school not wearing a mask has a mask exemption and that "their unmasked children are discriminated against at school so they seek to homeschool them. This is not homeschooling. This is a gathering of families in a commercial space."

The children are attending during normal school hours on normal school days, Donohue said in her ruling

On Jan. 27, a compliance

order was issued to the pod to reduce its operation to no more than five children, the court's decision says.

"At its core, this application is about the welfare of children and as such this relief is not only in the public interest but is necessary for the court to condemn the blatant flouting of valid legislation."

NANSY GHOBRIAL
LAWYER
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

However, a Ministry of Education investigation found the pod continued to operate with its regular

capacity, ministry lawyer Nansy Ghobrial told the online court hearing.

Due to their continued non-compliance, a "protection order pursuant to section 37" was issued, Ghobrial said. "The protection order required them to cease the provision of child care, period."

Further surveillance by the ministry showed the pod still continued operations, Ghobrial said.

"This blatant flouting of the law is what necessitated the commencement of this application on an urgent basis," she told the judge.

"At its core, this application is about the welfare of children and as such this relief is not only in the public interest but is necessary for the court to condemn the blatant flouting of valid legislation."

Court submissions by

McCourt and Davidson had made it clear they intended to continue operations regardless of contravening the law, Ghobrial said.

"This conduct is precisely what the act is intended to prevent, to ensure the safety and welfare of children in Ontario."

The protection order was issued under the Child Care and Early Years Act., which states that any child care centre with more than five children needs a licence to operate.

The legislation "absolutely captures the operations of the respondents," Ghobrial said.

She said the pod was breaching part of the act that says, "No person shall operate a premises where child care is provided except under the authority of a licence to operate a child care centre."

The ministry's investigation determined the pod does not fall under any legitimate exemptions or exceptions to the child care act, she said.

The judge stated in her decision that an investigator from the ministry saw 29 children in the school on Jan. 26 and the next day the operators were served with the compliance order limiting the pod to no more than five children.

During the hearing, Ghobrial noted this case had no direct precedent as it was the first of its kind under section 38 of the act.

That section states, "If a director believes on reasonable grounds that the provision of child care by

a particular person poses an imminent threat to the health, safety or welfare of any children, the director may apply to the Superior Court of Justice for an order to restrain the person from providing child care."

Representing themselves in court, McCourt and Davidson argued the pod is exempt from the ministry's jurisdiction.

During the hearing, Davidson criticized The Lake Report journalist who has written about the learning pod and threatened to file a criminal complaint against him for visiting the school last week.

Davidson said the ministry's claims of having done a thorough investigation were false and that the alliance is not subject to the child care act or authority of the ministry, making the protection order illegitimate.

She further contended they were not breaking any COVID-19 protocols.

In response to a question from Donohue, Davidson confirmed the unmasked children and adults were indeed exempt from wearing masks in the pod.

Davidson told the court the ministry should not base any decisions on newspaper articles, a comment that prompted Donohue to tell her the ministry does its own investigations and no action is taken solely based on a media report.

She emphasized the only information that matters to the court is the law and the evidence presented in the case.

Gym owner hopes end of vaccine mandate is for 'the right reasons'

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

With proof of COVID vaccination becoming optional March 1, one NOTL gym owner says he hopes the province is doing it for the right reasons.

"We just hope they're not doing it for political reasons and getting pushed into a position where they are doing things for political gain," F45 Niagara-on-

the-Lake co-owner Jack Addams Williams said in an interview Wednesday.

"Hopefully things are done for the right reasons, for keeping citizens safe."

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford announced the reopening plan was accelerating and demanding proof of vaccination would be optional for most businesses.

F45 plans on keeping the vaccine certificate, albeit in a slightly modified form

where members only need to prove once that they are fully inoculated against the coronavirus instead of showing their credentials every time they enter the facility, Williams said.

He said the gym goes above and beyond what it needs to do to ensure people in the building are in a healthy space.

"We're keeping members as safe as they can be. You know, washing hands, maintaining social

distancing," he said.

"Safety of our staff and our members is paramount."

With a maximum capacity of 16 people, the gym is also a safer alternative to big box gyms, Williams said.

"We know exactly who is in our class. You have to book on the app. So it's not just people coming and going. We have booked group fitness classes."



Jack Addams Williams, co-owner of F45 Niagara-on-the-Lake, says his gym will retain a modified version of the vaccine certificate. EVAN SAUNDERS



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'Vaccination important as ever,' Hirji says as province scraps certificate requirement

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Dr. Mustafa Hirji. SUPPLIED

Niagara's top doctor is worried the province's move to stop the use of vaccine certificates will diminish the importance of getting the jab to help fight COVID-19.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health for the Region of Niagara, also recommended fully vaccinated status be amended to require a booster shot.

"When we look at our vaccine uptake you can see there's been a pretty sharp drop off in recent weeks," Hirji said during a COVID-19 briefing on Monday.

"I think that's perhaps

partly a reflection that there's proof of vaccination being eliminated in parts of the country and now that's happening here."

On Feb. 14, the Ontario government announced a sped-up reopening plan, which aims to make proof of vaccination optional by March 1. Masking and social distancing require-

ments are to stay in effect.

Hirji said the changes send out a message that vaccination "is no longer that important."

But "vaccination is more important than ever," he insisted.

"We're not gonna have a lot of other measures in place to really keep us safe and we need people to be vaccinated to make sure they are going to be safe going forward."

Hirji said the government is sending mixed signals about vaccination by making the certificate optional while still recommending everybody get vaccinated.

"My view is that we are in a precarious situation," he said.

"I can understand (removing) capacity limits, those sorts of things are quite onerous and economically harmful. I think proof of vaccination, though, is not harmful. I think masks are not harmful to people. They're a bit of a nuisance (but) we can go around and continue to have those."

Hirji recommended businesses that maintain the proof of vaccination requirement extend the definition of fully vaccinated to include booster shots.

"I would recommend we continue to have (proof of vaccination and masking requirements) and actually strengthen the proof of vaccination to include booster doses," he said.

Flag idea is 'just so obvious,' Robinson says

Continued from Front Page

so obvious. It's one of those forehead-bumping moments where you wonder, "Why didn't this happen a long time ago?" he said in an interview Tuesday.

Robinson said the town and the country could use the unifying symbolism of the Canadian flag during a time when it is being "hijacked and misused" by protesters across the country. He related this to the original creation of the flag during the 1960's.

"On January the 28th, 1965, then-prime minister Lester B. Pearson, as the flag was raised on Parliament Hill for the first time, he declared: 'May the lands under which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice, tolerance, compassion and sensitivity towards all,'" Robinson told council.

"At this difficult time in Canada's history we have a chance, here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, to show unity and not divisiveness."

Robinson said he had done extensive polling of local residents "in the aisles of the Valu-marts and the Avondales and the Stagecoach and sports bars around town."

The cost of the flagpole

and its installation is being paid by Tom and Jim Caldwell of Caldwell Securities Ltd., Robinson said.

"Two longtime proud and patriotic NOTLers," he said.

Coun. Clare Cameron was concerned the flag might be superseded by other interests as time wears on and requested a stipulation be added to the motion that the Canadian flag would be the only one flown on the pole.

That caveat was included but Lord Mayor Betty Disero said it is also something the town may put in a contract with the Caldwells.

Robinson said he had marked a spot in the park where he would like to see the flag installed but said it was best to leave the final decision up to the "experts" on town staff.

The flag request prompted Coun. Norm Arsenault to reflect on his days in the military.

"When I was in the forces back in the early '70s — the flag was in its infancy at that time — and everywhere I went, every country I went to, as we were sailing in that was one of the first comments that we heard, how beautiful our flag was," Arsenault said.

Kevin Turcotte, manager of parks and recreation,

said staff manage 16 flag poles across the municipality and did not want to commit staff time to raising and lowering the flag on special occasions.

"I can tell you it was my understanding that (the Caldwells) wanted the Canadian flag to fly freely without being raised and lowered at any time," Disero said.

But Robinson said the flag has to be lowered during certain special occasions.

"There's occasions when the flag must be lowered, like when a prominent leader of the country or town dies. Not every little flag, mind you, but this one, why not?" Robinson said on Tuesday.

Robinson, who used to run the "Oh Canada, Eh?" dinner show, said flagpoles were installed outside of the building where the show was hosted.

"We used to send a bartender or a busboy out to (raise or lower the flag). It took him about six minutes to do it," Robinson said.

Turcotte also told council that town staff try to "preserve Queen's Royal Park and its natural views."

He said all furnishings in the area such as picnic tables and waste baskets are made from natural

material and painted dark brown to blend in with the environment, and town staff routinely refuse requests to add trees and memorial benches to the park so the sightline onto Lake Ontario is maintained.

Robinson said the idea of Queen's Royal Park being a completely natural asset was not entirely accurate and pointed to the much loved gazebo as an example.

"People think it's been there forever. It was used as part of a movie set or location and just never got taken out and was donated to the town by the movie company," he said.

In 1983, Christopher Walken starred in the film "The Dead Zone," which was partially filmed in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The gazebo was built for the film and then donated after production wrapped.

"Hardly historic," Robinson said.

Cameron said she hoped town staff would take the natural views of the park into consideration when choosing a spot to install the flag.

"There's no doubt the Canadian flag is one of the most recognizable flags in the world. I think we're all proud of it," Arsenault said.

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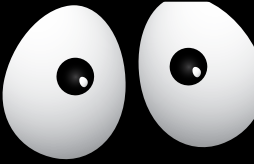
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Niagara on-the-Lake HYDRO

The Lake Report

Vol. 4, Issue 26 | July 1, 2021

'Just believe us, that's been the hardest'

"Even before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission we've been talking about how there were more children, we've always known that. We've been talking about how pervasive racism is, we've always known that. We've been talking about how there was an active plan to erase Indigenous people, and we've always known that. What's been difficult is that for generations we've been saying this and Canadians have been going, 'Well, no. That can't be.' They're minimizing or diminishing it and trying to distance themselves."

"This is shared history. The residential school discoveries aren't about Indigenous people as much as they're about what Canadians did."

Karl Dockstader
Executive director
Niagara Regional Native Centre



Each of the 1,140 stars above represents an Indigenous child lost to Canada's residential school system, in Kamloops, Cowessess and lesser known sites in Regina, Brandon and Lestock. These numbers are sure to grow.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD HARLEY

Editorial

Everyone is responsible, including the media, for ignoring residential school genocide.
See Page 4

Dealing with tragedy

Columnist David Israelson says Canada Day is a time to start dealing with our Indigenous history.
See Page 6

Calls for justice

Niagara's Indigenous community is calling for active reconciliation, and is holding a sacred fire.
See Page 9

Educate yourself

Indigenous lecturer says self-education is an important step toward making amends.
See Page 13

Harvest time

Behind the scenes bringing in the grapes



Partners in wine, high atop the harvester, Cassandra Weighaas-Barber, maintenance manager, and Amélie Boury, vice-president of winemaking and operations, at Chateau des Charmes. DON REYNOLDS

TOP CHEFS' ASPARAGUS TIPS

Story on Page 8, 9

Vaccines contributing to sharp decline in COVID cases, says Niagara's top doctor

Splash pad and parks open up to much relief

Peninsula Flooring Ltd.



The Lake Report has been honoured with 14 awards from the Ontario Community Newspapers Association for a mix of reporting, photography and NOTL community initiatives. They include a special Canada Day front page in 2021, a photo layout of NOTL chefs' asparagus dishes, a mosaic of the clock tower and a harvest story by Jill Troyer and Don Reynolds.

Lake Report honoured with 14 provincial awards

Continued from Front Page

founder and editor-in-chief of The Lake Report.

"With only two full-time journalists, one part-timer and an army of community correspondents and freelance contributors, we are proud of what we have accomplished in the past four years."

Most of The Lake Report's nominations were in "open" categories, meaning the paper was competing against publications of all sizes, many with much larger staffs and more resources, Harley noted.

The newspaper's Pandemic Heroes campaign,

a 15-week project that highlighted the hard work of individuals and groups in the community amid the COVID pandemic, was recognized with three awards, including the association's prestigious Community Service honour.

The June 3, 2021, four-page wrap for Pandemic Heroes, highlighting the full four-month campaign and how the community pulled together during COVID, is a finalist for Best Feature Pages and In-House Promotion. The front page featured a photo mosaic comprised of hundreds of other photos and depicting the Queen

Street clock tower.

The Lake Report also received an honorable mention for Best Creative Ad, for Marion Minhorst's "Rent My Husband" handyman spot.

Harley credited the newspaper's small but creative advertising staff of Megan Vanderlee, Rob Lamond and Lisa Jeffrey for their hard work and helping local advertisers get their messages

out to the community.

The Lake Report is one of three finalists in the overall General Excellence category (6,500 to 12,499 circulation), along with the Haliburton Highlander and Fort Erie Post.

RICHARD HARLEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THE LAKE REPORT

a top three finalist in the following categories:

***Best Rural Story** (circulation under 9,999), for Jill

Troyer's Oct. 15, 2020, story and Don Reynolds' photos of the annual grape harvest.

***Best Headline Writing**, nominees Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean.

***Best Photo Layout**, for "Top Chefs Asparagus Tips," Richard Harley photos and Jill Troyer story, published May 27, 2021.

***Best News Photo**, Richard Harley, for a photo from Niagara District Airport depicting people using a special helicopter service to shuttle over the U.S. border, published Jan. 21, 2021.

***Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo**, Jessica Maxwell, for a photo of

artist Filomena Pisano and her artwork being sold to support women's programs, published Aug. 5, 2021.

***Photographer of the Year**, Richard Harley, for a portfolio of four photographs in the Community, Feature, News and Sports categories.

***Community Service**, the Pandemic Heroes campaign, February to June 2021.

***Best Front Page** (under 9,999 circulation): A conceptual design for Canada Day, with a flag at half-mast and 1,140 orange stars representing the lives of

Continued on Page 5

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NOTL Pandemic Heroes

The Lake Report wants to help recognize NOTL's Pandemic Heroes — people who have made a difference, big or small, in a positive way. You can help us recognize someone in the community by sending a bit about the person and why they're a Pandemic Hero. Please send your nominations early to editor@niagaranow.com. A special thanks to Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery for providing a bottle of sparkling wine to each of our pandemic heroes. That's the spirit!

Niagara EMS



Niagara EMS crews, the Falls Intervention Team and Mental Health and Addictions Response Team at their headquarters in Glendale, Niagara-on-the-Lake. RICHARD HARLEY

Niagara's paramedics deserve recognition as Pandemic Heroes, says retired paramedic educator Rick Chandler. In nominating the region's paramedics, he noted that every day they respond to calls that involve considerable risk and exposure to COVID-19. On a typical 12-hour shift, a paramedic might enter private homes, businesses, long-term care homes, hospital emergency departments and public venues where people do not always practice social distancing, masking, or any of the things that the government outlines in its COVID policies. Chandler says.

Who are the heroes? Everybody who works as a frontline caregiver to those who are exposed or infected with COVID-19 are heroes, he says. But perhaps the most heroic are the paramedics, doing their job without complaint or recognition, Chandler says. Not one individual, but all of them are heroes.

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TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.



Top left: One of the pages from a 15-week long series that recognized Niagara-on-the-Lake's "Pandemic Heroes" who went above and beyond to help their community during the first waves of COVID-19. Bottom left: Lake Report editors Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean during a federal all-candidates meeting, hosted by the paper at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. Above: Two of the four photos for which Richard Harley is nominated for Photographer of the Year. One is a long-exposure shot of Lake Report writer Tim Taylor riding his bike for charity. Another is of young NOTL resident Mike Werner, looking over the a charred pile of rubble that used to be his business, after it was burned in a multi-million dollar fire.



Awards highlight writing, photography, community service and advertising

Continued from Page 4

Indigenous children lost to the residential school system to that date.

***Best Feature Pages**, Pandemic Heroes four-page wrap with mosaic cover of the clock tower on Queen Street, published June 3, 2021.

***Best In-House Promotion**, Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean, Pandemic Heroes, four-page wrap with mosaic cover of the clock tower on Queen Street, published June 3, 2021.

Honorable Mention awards:

***Best Feature or News Series**, for a collection of four stories on the historic Rand Estate, (nominees Richard Harley, Elizabeth Masson and Evan Saunders).

***Best Creative Ad**, "Rent My Husband."

***Online Breaking News Coverage**, Richard Harley, for early coverage of a multi-million dollar fire on Townline Road, Feb. 9, 2021. Late on a freezing cold night, with all access roads closed, Harley had to trek through farm fields to get close enough to photograph the scene.

Your Lake Report is the most awarded newspaper in Ontario this year.

General Excellence
The Lake Report (6,500 to 12,499 circulation)

Premier Awards category:

Best Rural Story (circulation under 9,999)
Jill Troyer and Don Reynolds (Annual grape harvest)

Best Headline Writing
Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean

Best Photo Layout
Richard Harley photos and Jill Troyer story.

Best News Photo
Richard Harley

Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo
Jessica Maxwell

Photographer of the Year
Richard Harley

Community Service
The Lake Report (Pandemic Heroes series)

Best Front Page (under 9,999 circulation)
The Lake Report (Canada Day special front page)

Best Feature Pages
The Lake Report (Pandemic Heroes four-page wrap) with mosaic cover of the clock tower on Queen Street

Best In-House Promotion
Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean (Pandemic Heroes series)

Honorable Mention awards:

Best Feature or News Series (under 9,999 circulation)
Richard Harley, Elizabeth Masson and Evan Saunders (For a collection of four stories on the historic Rand Estate)

Best Creative Ad
The Lake Report (Rent My Husband)

Online Breaking News Coverage
Richard Harley (Townline Road fire, Feb. 9, 2021)

The Lake Report

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The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

COVID Tracker

NOTL active cases: 66
Region active cases: 1,759
Region deaths: 509
Region total cases: 33,187
Region resolved cases: 30,919

**Feb. 16 data per Niagara Region Public Health.*

Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown below are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution."



Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day." - Henri Nouwen.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Dusk at the gazebo

Contributor Tony Chisholm captured this snowy, nature-filled image of the gazebo at Queen's Royal Park. To the left is a gaggle of geese, to the right a flock of seagulls.

Calling all NOTL photographers: send us some of your interesting, evocative, quirky images of life around town and we'll consider them for this space on our editorial page. Email images (1 MB or more) to editor@niagaranow.com.



Editorial

Honoured to represent NOTL

Kevin MacLean
 Managing Editor

Nearly four years ago, when The Lake Report started, our main goal was to tell the stories of the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake and bring readers all the news that is important and relevant to your lives in our fair town.

That has been accomplished on a proverbial shoestring, with a dedicated group of journalists and advertising staff, plus a "small army" of community contributors who embraced our wee paper from the

get-go.

This week your Lake Report is riding high as our newspaper industry peers singled us out for more than a dozen professional honours, reflecting the hard work and dedication of all those people from our community who contribute to and support the work we do.

Without all of you there would be no Lake Report.

On top of all that are the NOTL businesses, nearly 50 of them most weeks, that entrust to us their marketing dollars so they can reach our readers – and help their businesses grow and flour-

ish. Most definitely without such support The Lake Report would be but a dream.

When we learned this week that The Lake Report received more awards than any other publication in the Better Newspapers Competition, hosted by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, we were, of course, proud.

Awards are a great pat on the back, but they are not why we do what we do.

As the old journalism maxim goes, part of why we're here is to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," but it also is

to bring you professional journalism that tells the pertinent stories of our community, keeps an eye on those in power and sometimes has a bit of fun along that journey.

We are far from perfect and respect the fact you let us know when we are not. But we genuinely thank you for caring enough to read what we publish and we commit to living up to the trust you place in us.

This is a community partnership and we are proud to be part of the fabric of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

editor@niagaranow.com

An Appreciation: Doug Garrett and a life well-lived

Tim Taylor
 The Lake Report

I met Doug Garrett last spring, just at his 94th birthday. I had identified Doug as someone The Lake Report readers might like to know more about.

I went to visit him at his home, an in-law suite on the lower level of his daughter's home in Queenston. I wanted his story.

Like many local would-be golfers, I actually met Doug at our historic golf club a few pre-COVID summers ago. I even played a couple of rounds with him in Tuesday's WOOFs league. He was kind enough not to give me pointers ...

Doug was an absolutely consummate golfer. Some likened his swing to a



left-handed Ben Hogan. In his 90s, diminutive size kept his drives modest. But around the green, his precision was magical. The last time I played with him, Doug, over 90 years, he shot three over par for nine holes!

Every time I played golf with Doug, I had a story for the 19th hole.

A fourth-generation resident, Doug dedicated three lifetime's worth of volunteer effort to his town. Twenty years as a volunteer

firefighter, 65 years as a local Legion member, including decades as its sergeant-at-arms. Fifty Years as a Mason. Lions Club member. Fundraiser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation and the Cancer Society. And on.

In my mind, if you looked at Doug, you saw the beating heart of who we are today as a community.

But that day, last May, in his living room, I felt another side to Doug that I'm sure many others had seen, but I had not.

He had a wonderful sense of humour. And one of the keenest storytelling skills I've ever run across. Every answer was punctuated by humorous, tight, meaningful, on-message tales of his 90-plus years. He was so warm and engaging, I didn't

want to leave his company.

One example: "I got to play hockey up to Senior B. For a little kid in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it was pretty good. We were playing a game against the St. Catharines Saints and they had this big guy. I got around him two or three times. He hollered at me: 'You're not going to get by next time.' When I woke up, I was on the dressing room table looking at the ceiling. That was the end of my hockey."

We lost Doug last week. I am reminded of a well-known saying: "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

More positively, I'd rather: "If we learn from Doug Garrett, we will raise a better community."

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Angry that trucker convoy adopted flag as their motif

Dear editor:

As I watched the “Freedom Convoy” trucks stop at the Husky Travel Centre here in Niagara-on-the-Lake some days ago, I felt very angry that they would adopt Canadian flags as their motif, as though their actions represented something honourable and patriotic.

There is nothing honourable or patriotic about demanding an end to vaccine mandates so they have the “freedom” to host a virus that could mutate into another variant more deadly than COVID-19 that has killed almost 5 million people worldwide.

True and patriotic Canadians would care about



Protesters wave an upside-down Canadian flag at NOTL Husky truck stop. FILE

their fellow citizens and not participate in actions that harm them.

Thankfully, the majority of our Canadian truckers are vaccinated and have not embraced scientific ignorance, ignored civilized

norms, and propagated idiotic conspiracy theories born out of the ether and little else.

Let us salute the truckers who got vaccinated and tirelessly ply their routes keeping supply chains run-

ning and food, medicine and other products available to us all.

They are the true Canadians and deserve to show the Canadian flag.

J. Richard Wright
NOTL

Existing downtown gateway suits the purpose perfectly

Dear editor:

Kip Voegel's letter, “Nothing wrong with existing town gateway” published in the Feb. 10 edition of The

Lake Report is the most common sense I've seen for quite some time.

You're absolutely right, Kip.

The current well-balanced design suits the purpose perfectly and does not intrude on the surrounding greenspace.

Let's get on with something else that actually needs fixing.

Larry Mantle
NOTL

No one forced rainbow crosswalk on us, council approved it

Dear editor:

I am writing in response to Jean O'Malley's letter (“Rainbow crosswalk may happen but residents deserve input on location”) in the Feb. 10 edition of The Lake Report.

I agree with Ms. O'Malley that the polling on this issue by the town and by The Lake Report doesn't tell us much about the level of public support for the rainbow crosswalk, as the sample of respondents to such surveys is

unlikely to be representative of the population.

No political jurisdiction I know of conducts properly designed scientific surveys.

The way to gauge support for a policy is the democratic process.

The rainbow crosswalk initiative is not being forced on us by “an unelected inclusivity committee.” It has been approved by our elected town council. It is the democratically determined will of the people.

If Ms. O'Malley sincerely

thinks her view is in the majority, she should run for elected office.

As for her mention of LGBTQ as “a so-called persecuted group,” let's review the facts.

LGBTQ orientation is viewed as criminal in 70 countries, including most nations in Africa and Asia (including Russia), several Caribbean nations, several Pacific countries, and one in South America.

Penalties include prolonged imprisonment,

mutilation, and (in nine countries) execution.

The Taliban, for instance, like to throw gay people off the roof of the highest building they can find.

In many countries where LGBTQ is technically legal, vast numbers of such people are beaten and murdered. Canada is no stranger to these hate crimes.

A “so-called” persecuted group indeed.

Leonard George
NOTL

Make a decision on St. Davids roundabout and let's move on

Dear editor:

CDM = constipated decision-making; the inability to make a final decision and move on to implementation.

I am a resident of St. Davids and I have been following the media coverage about the York and Creek roads intersection and the stop sign vs. roundabout debate.

This is a classic example of CDM (constipated decision-making). Let me explain.

Studies have been done,

analyses have been completed, the public has been consulted and options have been identified. A preferred option has been chosen.

But we are not ready to make a final decision. We need to revisit or re-consult or re-evaluate or redo or expand the study area or look at other alternatives. Why can't we make a final decision and move on?

Ontario has one of the best class environmental assessment processes in the country.

The municipal class environmental assessment process has proven itself thousands of times for many diverse projects.

Why do we want to continually revisit the outcome of the St. Davids intersection? We are wasting time and money. Regional and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff are already busy and they should not need to spend time on projects that have already been fully assessed.

I am in no way suggest-

ing the stoplight/roundabout issue is not important. It is important to many residents and visitors, as well as traffic moving through the area.

However, let's rely on the assessment work that has been completed and not continue to reinvent the wheel.

Let's make the final decision and move on to implementation. There are other projects that need attention.

Mike Della Rossa
St. Davids

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Above: Shane Sherlock with wife Stephanie Tribe and daughters Marty, Chloe and Paige. Right: Shane rides his bike down Queen Street. The family could often be seen biking around NOTL, or walking their dog Rufus. Bottom right: Shane, always a kid himself, sits in Santa's train while a young Marty and Ty look on. SUPPLIED PHOTOS/RICHARD HARLEY PHOTO

Community **bands together** after death of NOTL father

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

Shane Sherlock was a fixture in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He could always be seen spending time with his four kids and Stephanie Tribe, his wife of 26 years — and their dogs. He had a wicked sense of humour, liked to spark conversations — especially controversial ones — and was no stranger to having a good time.

Sherlock died on Feb. 5, after suffering a heart attack while working alone at his job as a welder for a company in Stoney Creek. He was 52.

In the days since his death, the Sherlock/Tribe family has had their lives turned upside down.

“I did all his laundry on Friday and then he passed away on Saturday, and I’m like rifling through all his stuff trying to find something that smells bad,” Tribe said in an interview.

She said she has one of Sherlock’s ball caps, ragged and worn in true Shane fashion, which she’s been keeping close.

“It’s stiff with sweat and smells like metal, and that was him. Just sweaty metal. So I sleep with that at night, which is weird but it is what

it is,” she said.

“I wake up in the night and I forget for a split second, and then I have a cry and then I fall asleep again.”

She said her husband’s death has been particularly hard on their children, especially their young son Ty, “because that’s his best guy pal.”

Their kids Marty and Ty are still playing hockey, and Tribe said at the rink is a time she really misses him.

“I’m constantly looking out of the corner of my eye because he should be there. We stand together at the boards and he screams at the refs, shouts at everybody, do all this stuff, like he’s the coach, but he’s just this dude on the sidelines.”

The Niagara-on-the-Lake community has banded together to support the family.

“My phone literally has not stopped since last Saturday,” Tribe says, adding the support has been almost overwhelming.

Ty’s friends and their parents have been especially supportive, she said. Shortly after Sherlock died, a group of 11-year-old boys he had coached in flag football during the pandemic showed up at the house to offer their condolences and their love for him.

“I told the one mom and she let all the moms know, and they all show up at the house and they’re all bringing like some kind of food or whatever — and then it was like they’re all crying and they’re all like, ‘We really loved your dad. And you’re so cool.’ “

Friend Alison Waller started a GoFundMe for the family and as of Wednesday afternoon it had raised \$19,895.

Tribe said she has a hard time even looking at it, “because we’re very prideful.”

“I’m like, ‘I can’t ask people to do that. Like they just can’t’ and you know, because there are others worse off people than me,” Tribe said.

But her friends didn’t take no for an answer.

The money will certainly help, she said, as the family navigates how it will pay mortgages and other costs into the future.

“People I don’t even know have donated \$1,000. It’s mind blowing to me,” she said.

Another friend, Jennifer Buchanan-Olsen, started a Google Drive spreadsheet with foods the family likes, to create a meal plan for the family until the end of March.

“I think it’s a fantastic

idea because I know people that have lost people and it would have been a really great idea to have that. I have a hot meal delivered to my house every night at 6 p.m. from now until the end of March.”

Again, Tribe initially declined the help, but the community refused to listen.

Those meals have also helped a lot, she said. Especially in the first few days, they often just didn’t think about eating.

And since then, she’s been avoiding being in public for a while, because “I can’t go anywhere in town without seeing somebody that contributes to some sort of memory.”

The people, the kids — that’s what it was about for Sherlock. And still is for the family.

“I’ve had tons of people message me privately and they’re like, ‘You know what, I’m never gonna forget those summers where we’d all have our blankets out, and Shane’s in the pool spinning all the kids around and everybody’s getting their turn.’ “

Sherlock was always there for his kids, she said.

“Just present, like 100 per cent there. Not ‘OK, I’ll watch you play at the park.’ It’s, ‘I’m going down



the slide. We’re playing together.’ “

She said she wishes her husband was around to see the number of people reaching out — some of whom they haven’t connected with in years.

“I want to tell him, like, ‘Oh my God. You won’t believe who commented.’ “

She said Sherlock, like many longtime NOTL residents who have witnessed the town change drastically over the last few decades, had been getting frustrated and thinking about

moving.

However, she said if he could see the outpouring of support, he would have changed his mind.

“He would be like, ‘You know what? This is the Niagara that I grew up with. This is the Niagara that I remember.’ Really, it would bring him so much comfort to know how many people have reached out to his family, reached out to his kids and just want to help in some minor way.”

A celebration of his life is planned for May 29.



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Girl guides need **communty's** help gathering menstruation products

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report



Tannin Driedger-Bradshaw, 15, was at the public library on Tuesday where she talked about her unit's project to collect menstrual products for charity. EVAN SAUNDERS

The moon changes the tides, the Earth goes around the sun, and women and girls get their period.

And, for something so constant, it is a wonder that menstrual supplies are not more accessible or, indeed, not freely supplied to all women in Canada.

That is why the Niagara-on-the-Lake girl guide Ranger unit needs help collecting all forms of unopened menstrual products to donate to Period Promise, an organization dedicated to ensuring no one has to go without these essential health items.

Period Promise "helps youth or any people who are struggling find these things," said 15-year-old Tannin Driedger-Bradshaw, one of the Rangers collecting supplies.

"It's really important because it's a necessity, not a luxury."

Driedger-Bradshaw and Period Promise note the pandemic has made it more difficult for women from all walks of life to obtain menstrual products.

Menstrual products "should be something that's given since it's something that half the population goes through. You have to spend a lot of money and sometimes, especially during the pandemic, it's hard to get."

The project will help the guides earn their Ranger Service Project award.

"For our badge we wanted to just do something that

helped youth and people around in our area," she said in an interview at the NOTL Public Library on Tuesday.

"And since it's girls in our unit — the Girl Guides of Canada — we decided we would do something to help people like us."

The group will be collecting products from now until March 4. Items can be dropped off at 23 Annmarie Dr. in Virgil.

"Anything unopened, unused menstrual products like pads, tampons or anything" are welcome, Driedger-Bradshaw said.



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Legion member **Doug Garrett, 94**, was renowned golfer

Kevin MacLean
The Lake Report

He was diminutive in stature, but Doug Garrett was a giant in the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake, touching the lives of countless people over his 94 years.

Garrett, winner of numerous golfing titles, a proud Legionnaire and renowned for selling poppies outdoors no matter the weather, died last week at his daughter's home in Queenston.

At 5 foot 6 and 150 pounds "in my prime," he was known for his kindness and good nature, and an infectious laugh that "could fill a room," his daughter Kelly Atalick said. His granddaughter Dahli was with him when he died of a heart attack on Feb. 10.

Garrett was named to the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame in 2019.

"Doug was not only a remarkable golfer with a short game that any golfer would love to have but a gentleman off and on the course," said retired NOTL pharmacist Ward Simpson.

"He might be better known as Mr. Royal Canadian Legion, not only selling poppies every year, but standing for hours representing the Legion on a cold winter at the judges table for the Santa Claus Parade," he said. "A salute from Doug (is something) I'm sure Santa will never forget."

Ricky Watson, former associate pro at the NOTL Golf Club, where Garrett was an honorary lifetime member, noted he "had the honour of playing many rounds of golf with Dougie when I was a junior and he always seemed to make a



Left: Sergeant-at-arms Doug Garrett pictured during Remembrance Day ceremony at the NOTL Legion in 2019. JANICE WHITE PHOTO Right: Doug Garrett was a 44th Field Regiment Reservist from 1945-50. SUPPLIED



10-foot putt on the last hole to beat me by a shot."

"He never stopped trying to improve and always wanted to have the newest and best clubs. One night a few years ago he called me at 9:30 p.m. in the dead of winter to ask if he should buy some driver that he'd found on Kijiji."

"Doug was a huge part of the golf club, but even moreso Niagara-on-the-Lake," Watson said.

Paul Dickson also recalled many memorable days on the golf course with the smooth-swinging lefty. When Garrett was 87, they teamed up for the NOTL club's annual pairs match play competition.

"We managed to progress to the final and as we strode up 18 with a one-shot lead, Dougie confided in me with a tear in his eye that this was the only tournament he had never won in his career," Dickson said.

"We finished the job and repeated two more times," retiring undefeated when Garrett was 90.

Dickson added that "Doug touched many people with his smile and love of life both in Canada and in Ireland," where he made friends with ease on trips overseas.

A native of NOTL, in 1944, when he was in Grade 11, his father John died and young Garrett dropped out

of school and started working to help support his mom and two brothers.

He was too young to fight in the Second World War, turning 18 just before it ended, but he signed up for the reserves. He served five years, 1945-50 with the 44th Field Regiment in St. Catharines.

He worked various jobs over the next 15 or so years, including more than a decade as a meat cutter for area butchers and delivering milk for Avondale Dairies when his sons David and Paul were young. Garrett and his sweetheart Dorothy were married in 1956, but she died of cancer in the mid-1970s.

He married Christine in 1979 and she nursed him through a bout with colon cancer. In turn, he cared for her at home until Alzheimer's necessitated a move to Upper Canada Lodge.

He visited her almost daily and over the years they often were on hand for the popular Thursday fish fry at the NOTL Legion, where Garrett was sergeant-at-arms.

In 1962, Garrett settled in to a career with the LCBO, starting at the small store in Old Town. He spent 28 years with the LCBO, eventually as manager of various locations in St. Catharines.

Golf was a passion and he excelled at it.

Shooting an 18-hole score that is less than your age is a feat few accomplish. In an interview prior to his 92nd birthday, Garrett couldn't recall how many times he did it, because it happened so often.

Besides his many club championship and seniors titles, perhaps his most spectacular course accomplishment occurred on Sept. 20, 1995.

On that cool, sunny fall Friday in NOTL, almost everything went Garrett's way. He shot a remarkable four-under 32 on the front nine – despite a bogey on the ninth hole.

On the back nine, he kept it rolling, but somehow bogeyed the 15th. "Two bogeys that day," he exclaimed.

Heading to the final hole, a tough 225-yard par 3 that is difficult to reach from the tee, he wanted to finish well. "I didn't hit a good tee shot. It was short of the green."

So he chipped in for a birdie two – and a seniors course record that still stands almost 27 years later.

Garrett shot 66 that day at the age of 68.

Former club champion Joe Doria also lauded Garrett.

"You could always count on him for a smile and a quip and it's hard to find a more genuine or gentle person. He will be missed. His impact on the club and on so many members will be impossible to measure."

Garrett leaves his wife Christine and children David, Paul and Kelly, five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life is planned at the golf club on May 20, which would have been his 95th birthday.


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Region plans to expand use of photo radar

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Do you ever slow your driving speed because you see an officer at the side of the road with a radar gun and then proceed to drive cautiously afterward?

That is what Niagara Region's director of transportation calls the "halo effect" and it is a driving idea behind the region's Vision Zero campaign.

Carolyn Ryall says Vision Zero aims to reduce traffic fatalities to zero through the installation of traffic enforcement measures, such as photo radar cameras and red light cameras.

Speeding "contributes to one-third of fatal crashes and serves as an aggravating factor in most crashes," Ryall told Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors during a committee of the whole meeting on Monday.

To address speeding concerns, the region has established 13 community safety zones on regional roads, Ryall said. The safety zones require lower speed limits in established areas and carry increased fines for infractions.

Two are active now in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one near Crossroads Public School on Niagara Stone Road and one on York Road near St. Davids Public School.

The speed cameras will be tested in the current community safety zones, with four cameras rotated among the region's 13 zones over the course of a year, she said.

"We're targeting reducing excessive speeding in school areas," Ryall said.

The region is also planning to install 10 red



There are two community safety zones in NOTL. One near St. Davids Public School and this one on Niagara Stone Road, near Crossroads Public School. EVAN SAUNDERS

light cameras at signal-controlled intersections across the region. Ryall said there are roughly 400 such intersections in Niagara and specific locations will be chosen later.

Elaborating on the halo effect, she noted, when a red light camera or photo radar is used, "driver awareness is heightened for a large geographic area to where the different tools are being adopted."

The program will cost about \$4 million and will be funded from ticket revenue generated by the cameras. Any excess money will be split 50/50 between the region and local municipalities that host cameras – but the money must be spent on road safety projects.

Ryall said if too few tickets are issued to pay for the program it would be up to the region to cover the

deficit.

Coun. Norm Arsenault asked Ryall whether a driver would be charged for speeding if they went, say, 54 in a 50 km/h zone?

Ryall said the cameras are programmed to only register drivers who are moving excessively fast in safety zones and the region doesn't share exactly what the settings on the cameras are.

Coun. Clare Cameron was concerned the cameras would replace using actual police officers in targeted areas. Ryall assured her the cameras are meant to "supplement" the work of Niagara Regional Police, "not to replace it."

Coun. Erwin Wiens, a retired police officer, questioned the region's endgame.

Since the goal of the program is to reduce fatalities to zero, then eventually the

cameras might generate no revenue and actually cost the region a lot of money, he said.

"The concern I have is that this is a revenue generator and not a safety issue," Wiens said.

"I'm in favour of these cameras as long as the goal is to get to actual zero, which means this is going to be an expense and not a revenue generator."

He asked if there would be signs telling drivers that a red light or speed camera was in the area where they were driving, as that would more likely inspire safe driving than a ticket later.

Ryall said there would be public meetings about the project but stopped short of saying signs would be posted.

"I want to make sure the number one process we have moving forward through this is that the signage is there. Huge, giant signs saying, 'Hey, school zone, cameras in effect, giant tickets coming your way,' so that we don't have any speeding," Wiens said.

"If it's a revenue generator, I'm 100 per cent opposed to it."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was all in.

"As we all know, a lot of people have been calling about speeding in the municipality," she said.

"This is just one tool of many to try and make our roads safer," she said. "It's a tool and it will be a useful tool for us."

The presentation from the region had unanimous support from council.

Ryall said installation of the measures is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2022.

RIDDLE ME THIS

I begin with an "e" and only contain one letter.
What am I?

Last issue: I'm a word that when spelled right, is spelled wrong. What am I?

Answer: The word "wrong."

Answered first by: Terry Nord

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Mary Drost, Howard Jones, Rob Hutchison, Bob Stevens, Pam Dowling, Sheila Mead, Kevin Etherington, Sylvia Wiens, Maria Janeiro, Wade Durling, Jane Andersen, Margie Enns, KC King

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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Nick Colamartini, Mountainview representative; Cindi LoForti Lepp, YtheW Capital Campaign Committee Co-Chair, and Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director of the YWCA Niagara Region.

THANK YOU MOUNTAINVIEW BUILDING GROUP

This year, the YWCA Niagara Region completed a \$7.4 million capital campaign to build Oakdale Commons, a long-term supportive housing building for women experiencing chronic homelessness in Niagara. Thank you, Mountainview Building Group, for your generous gift of \$120,000, the final installment needed to complete our campaign.

Oakdale Commons is a testament to what Niagara is capable of when our community comes together for meaningful change. The difference this building has already made in 2021 is a small demonstration of the impact we will have on the community for years to come.

"We are so grateful to Mark Basciano and Mountainview Building Group for this wonderful gift. Mark and his team have shown great leadership through this gift ensuring that vulnerable women and their families have a safe place to heal and move forward with their lives. Our deepest thanks to the Mountainview team and our community for making this building a reality."

- Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director of the YWCA Niagara Region

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO YOU, THE NIAGARA-ON-THE- LAKE COMMUNITY

Time and time again, you are there when the YW and members of the Niagara community need your support. When we sought your help to make housing accessible through Oakdale Commons, your generosity and compassion were unwavering. With our deepest gratitude, the team members at the YW and the people it serves thank you for taking action in our continued battle to end homelessness.

Because of your support, 15 Home For Good units will provide the most vulnerable women in our community with a place to call home, 6 Emergency Family Shelter units will put roofs over children's heads, and 3 Transitional Housing units will be home to families on their way towards independent housing.



CAMPAIGN FOR HOMELESS WOMEN & FAMILIES



Ross's Ramblings: Simply put, NOTL is a 'THE' town



Ross Robinson
Columnist
The Lake Report

Québec. Sounds to me like it's a Society of Alcoholics. While I'm at The Liquor Store, do you need me to pick up anything for you?

To buy some cheap beer, we don't go across the U.S.A./Canada border. We have always just gone across The River. To get to The Bridge, we drive along The Parkway. Not the Niagara River Parkway. Did Churchill really say it was a bewdy Sunday drive?

When desirous of a thirst-quenching Oast House Barnraiser, we go to The Angel or The Harp or The Trap or The Sporty. No need to add Inn or Irish or Sand or Colonel Butler.

Just The Post Office, instead of the Queen Street Post Office. And just The Commons, rather than the Off Leash Dog Park, where doggies get their exercise and sniffs.

And, giving a respectful nod to history, we have The Lord Mayor. Unique in Canada. And no Chairman, just The Chair. And what the heck is, and where is, The Agora?

And for groceries, we

Isn't it sweet and simple to live in a town without too much choice?

It may seem presumptuous, but our municipality's name isn't Niagara-on-Lake Ontario, or Niagara-on-a-Lake. Since it changed from Newark, we have been Niagara-on-THE-Lake.

Similarly, we don't have the Meridian Credit Union Centennial Arenas. We have The Arena, eh?

We don't buy booze at a Liquor Control Board of Ontario retail outlet. Rather, at The Liquor Store. Much less confusing and verbose, even though the Out and In doors are reversed and sometimes cause us to pause.

People in Quebec go to The Société des Alcools du



The view from Queenston, from where one can drive "the" Niagara Parkway, into "the" Old Town, past "the" cenotaph clock tower, past "the" horse and carriages, and all the way up to "the" gateway sign. NOTL MUSEUM PHOTO

had The Valu-mart. In fact, two of them. Give us a few months, The Independent will roll off our tongues. Hendriks? Phil's? No, just The Independent.

When needing to get some gas, we go to The Gas Station. OK, maybe Gales in Virgil or St. Davids. And for the daring, The Husky out by Glendale. No more service stations with a

dinging cord out front. In fact, no more service stations. Not that long ago, there were two or three in Old Town.

The great Canadian business success story, Tim Hortons, is an outlier. There are so many of them, one must specify Timmy's at The Red Light, or Timmy's in Virgil.

The outlier in all of this is the biggest store in Vir-

gil. Anywhere else, when in need of hardware or lumber or a new toilette, one would go to a Home Depot or a Home Hardware. In NOTL, we all go to Penner's. Not The Penner's Home Hardware. Just Penner's.

Rambling on to a close now, I hope we can all agree a foundation of our great democracy is a free and open press, to keep everyone honest. Here in NOTL,

we have three weekly newspapers: The former Advance, The Local and, of course, The Lake Report.

And wistfully, let us remember a decade of fine and fun dining. Not at The Stone Road Grille. What delicious evenings we enjoyed at The Rest.

So let's all look to The Future, after we have defeated The Pandemic. Or is it The COVID?



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Stable owner raising donations to repair **collapsed roof**

Evan Saunders
Local Journalism Initiative
The Lake Report

Dinah McGibbon needs help raising the roof. After the most recent heavy snowfall, the barn roof collapsed at Niagara Riding Stables, which McGibbon owns. “A lot of snow is what happened,” McGibbon said in an interview at her property on Warner Road in St. Davids.

“I think the rain we had in between added some real good extra weight in there. It was not something I imagined.”

A friend started a GoFundMe campaign to help raise \$40,000 to reconstruct the roof and ensure her horses don’t have to spend too much time in the cold.

Not that they mind. “They truly are actually happier and healthier moving around outside,” McGibbon said.

She uses the barn to keep them inside during extreme weather and it is where they usually eat their grain.



Dinah McGibbon’s barn roof collapsed after a series of heavy snow storms. She is trying to raise money to help with the repairs, which she said will be financially crippling. SUPPLIED

Thankfully none of her horses were injured when the roof collapsed. Even though two were inside at the time, the roof did not fall in past the hayloft, meaning anything inside was perfectly safe. “Better to stop there,”

McGibbon said. But it’s not exactly an ideal situation. “I’m more comfortable having them outdoors,” McGibbon said with a laugh as she stood in front of the collapsed barn. She said a lot of con-

cerned neighbours have popped by to see if everything is OK, including former lord mayor Pat Dart. McGibbon took over the stable operation some 20 years ago after her father and mother retired. Her

parents had owned the property since the 1960s. She remembers her father running out of the house when kids parked at the end of their dead-end road. He would fire blank cartridges into the air to scare them off.

“The neighbours told me, years later, that kids used to come down there just to get a rise out of him,” McGibbon said with a smile.

McGibbon said she approaches difficult situations in life with a sense of humour but that she is really suffering from her barn’s collapse.

“Please understand, I am trying to make light of what happened by masking my reaction with humour so that I can cope, but in reality, the damage caused by the collapse has been devastating and the repair costs will be crippling,” she said in an email to The Lake Report.

Her oldest horse, named Piper, is about to turn 30. Which begs one to wonder: what do you get a horse for his 30th birthday?

“Lots of carrots,” McGibbon said.

As of Wednesday, more than \$7,300 had been raised for the barn. Donations can be made at go-fund.me/30dd2bed or directly through McGibbon’s website at niagara-riding.com/donations/.



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'La Serenissima' Venice in art and memory

Penny-Lynn Cookson
Special to The Lake Report

Imagine, you are sitting at a sidewalk café in St. Mark's Square in Venice. The day is grey, mild. The dampness from the Adriatic Sea is raw and penetrating so you draw your jacket a little closer.

You survey the square, which is a rectangle. COVID has kept tourists away for the last two years. Now, they are filtering back for the reinstatement of Carnival and the Biennale. If you have been here before, memories are sure to engulf you.

I first saw Venice on an October day decades ago. The rain was pelting down and we were wet, cold and shin deep in the water flooding the Square.

It was the "acqua alta," when water levels surge to flood the low-lying areas of the city. After an obligatory and unro-

mantic gondola ride with an unsinging, stony-faced gondolier who wished he was elsewhere, we abandoned Venice for Florence where we were swept into a noisy, volatile and tense Communist demonstration. This was an early experience in the profound difference between these two giants of Italian art and culture.

Years later, I was back in Venice as an art history graduate student, sitting in the square with a female fellow student, drinking espresso, listening to Viennese waltzes and observing mingling tourists, pigeons and the light playing on the golden mosaics of the Basilica of San Marco.

It was July, hot, humid and enervating. Two young American men asked if they could join our table. We agreed. They peppered us with questions. Names? Where from? Why in Venice?

We lied, gave different names, cities, other reasons. It became a game, amusing at first, then not. Why did we do this? Something we had never done in the past? To say it is in the tangy salt air of Venice is not far off.

Concealment is part of its history, its spectacular success as a trading maritime empire, its avarice and wealth, its war victories, shrewd diplomacy, controlled and stable civic order, carnival masking and licentious behaviour. Beneath the glittering palace façades lay fetid prisons, swift justice and brutal deaths.

Venice is living theatre and one swiftly becomes an actor on its stage. Visitors and collectors have always been eager to buy in to its experience.

One artist, above all others, to meet the acquisition need of collectors, particularly British, was Giovanni Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto, (1697-1768), uncelebrated in his own time but since revered.

Canaletto was giving us the Venice we want to see. He was a master of manipulation, slightly moving buildings and their dimensions, altering



Top: Canaletto, Piazza San Marco with the Basilica, c.1730-34, Oil on canvas, Fogg Museum (Harvard Art Museums), Cambridge, MA.



Bottom: Canaletto, The Bacino di San Marco on Ascension Day, c. 1733-34, Oil on canvas, Royal Collection Trust, London, UK. SUPPLIED IMAGES

architecture and costumes in portrayals of tranquil cityscapes as well as the swirling golden glory of the city's lavish rituals and pageants.

His paintings are snapshots, still moments that lodge in the memory. Satisfying to a degree, but what remains are questions for the curious, of what lies down the unseen dark, narrow, twisting alleys and cul de sacs where one can become easily

lost, beyond and behind those perfect façades of "La Serenissima."

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto and was head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Her lecture series on "La Serenissima – Venice in Art and History" can be seen on Zoom from the RiverBrink Art Museum, Thursdays at 11 a.m. from Feb. 17 to March 24.

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 - Sawbones (7)
 - Middle Eastern bread (5)
 - Game show player (9)
 - How bidding goes in bridge (9)
 - Topic (5)
 - Unintended discharge of a fluid (7)
 - Green-eyed (7)
 - Live together (7)
 - Offensive (7)
 - Money bag (5)
 - Where dolly mixture can be bought (5,4)
 - E.g. the DUKW (9)
 - Harvests (5)
 - Convent (7)
 - Packed (7)
- Down**
- Average (7)
 - Bone manipulator (9)
 - Long flat piece of timber (5)
 - Contemptible person (7)
 - Genuine (7)
 - Kinsfolk (9)
 - Best of a group (5)
 - Chats (7)
 - Lake Windermere town (9)
 - Picked up accidentally (9)
 - Skipper (7)
 - Bear witness (7)
 - Maritime (7)
 - Laid open to view (7)
 - Mature (5)
 - Trunk of the human body (5)

Crossword Puzzle

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Last issue's answers

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Long COVID and the long road ahead as we live with the virus

Dr. William Brown
Special to The Lake Report

Last August as the number of COVID cases wound down in the U.S. and Canada, many felt the worst was over.

After all, the numbers were falling and many were now vaccinated, especially in Canada. It was summer and regardless of their vaccination status, many were fed up with distancing and masking, especially in the U.S. and it was time to get out and have fun.

But all wasn't as it seemed. Israel reported that two shots might not be enough because of surging breakthrough infections beginning about the three-to-four-month mark following the last shot, Omicron was on no one's radar until the late fall and there were lingering concerns about long-lasting symptoms following COVID infections.

Well, we know how Omicron turned out: steeper case number spikes than any previous wave and overwhelmed health care workers faced with cases among the unvaccinated. By



Pixabay photo.

now, at least the numbers appear to have peaked and are receding.

What's not receding are the number of cases of long COVID. Some U.S. estimates suggest as many as 10 to 30 per cent of those who had COVID developed long-lasting symptoms, serious enough to limit their daily activities. Many of them had few if any symptoms at the time of the

initial infection.

And adding to the total are people who have had COVID more than once based on PCR or antigen testing. Many of them were fully vaccinated and a few had received a booster shot.

Long COVID defies precise definition because of the diversity and complexity of its symptoms, which range from fatigue, weakness, various sensory

symptoms, to difficulties concentrating and focusing, headaches and persistent loss of taste or smell.

In their diversity, the symptoms are similar to several other disorders such as myalgic encephalomyelitis (chronic fatigue syndrome), chronic Barr-Epstein virus infection and persistent symptoms following Lyme disease and even neurasthenia as it was described in the 19th century.

So far, investigations have not revealed any consistent biomarkers in the form of lab tests. When I first reviewed this subject in June last year, long COVID was a mystery and remains so despite the many cases who have been assessed.

Oxford University and the Imperial College in London collaboratively posted online comparative MRI and functional MRI (fMRI) studies of volunteers who a few years earlier were studied as part of the U.K. Biobank program. Some of them later developed COVID and others did not and acted as controls.

The authors posited that

the SARS-CoV-2 virus gains access to the brain through the olfactory and gustatory systems, which are intimately connected to structures in the temporal lobe and elsewhere in the brain that play major roles in memory, mood and emotion, as well as smell and taste.

Their findings were striking. Abnormalities were found in many of latter regions of the brain, mostly on the left side, and more widespread in the small subgroup of patients, usually older, who were hospitalized.

For me the most important observation was the clear finding of abnormalities in the brains of COVID patients, most of whom were not hospitalized (only 15 of a total of 379 subjects). It was a marvellous study because it strongly suggests the virus reaches the brain through the olfactory system, as suspected.

Unfortunately, the study made no mention of which subjects developed symptoms and if so, what symptoms? But given the localization of

the findings, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to suggest that some of the long COVID cognitive symptoms might be related, in part at least, to what was observed in this study, and not the imaginations of the patients.

The hypothesis that lesions in the brain might be far more common than we thought and possibly related to long COVID symptoms is worth further study but needs a bevy of psychological and other tests to complement the imaging studies and that would only be the beginning.

Still, the original study was an excellent start, but given the prevalence and duration of long COVID symptoms, the challenges of COVID will be with us for a long time as an editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine suggested last August.

That's something we're just beginning to realize.

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

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Laura Secord School, 1921

Here is a 1921 photograph of the Laura Secord school in Queenston. The Niagara Township had 11 school sections and Queenston's school was known as SS#4 since 1842. This red brick building replaced the antiquated stone school, located on the same site, in 1914. Although used for schooling, the building was also a community hub for many. For instance, in 1956 it hosted the community's first "well-baby clinic" to support new mothers. The Queenston Women's Institute advocated for its naming to recognize the local heroine and raised about \$3,000 for the building. Due to population growth, the building increased in size in 1920-21 and again in 1953.

Using lines, paths or plants to create flow



GROWING TOGETHER 

Joanne Young
Garden Columnist

Last week, I wrote about the importance of a sense of flow in your landscape.

That refers to the way people move through the space physically, but it also means how the eye is led around the garden.

I said you should choose your style before deciding on curved lines or a more linear, geometric style. The style you choose doesn't just relate to the bed shapes, but also applies to the patio, deck or walkways. The lines of the beds should flow right into the lines of your hard surfaces.

One way to create a sense of flow in your landscape is with the actual lines of the gardens, sitting areas and other elements. Remember it is always better to go with fewer, but bigger and bolder lines, instead of many smaller and busier curves.

The same thing holds true for geometric lines. Straight lines jutting in and out create a busy, even chaotic look and your eyes just do not know where to go.

If using geometric lines, whether vertical or horizontal, be sure they all running parallel with one another. I usually keep the corners at a 90-degree angle, but you can do a 60/30 angle as well – just be consistent throughout the design.

Try to create a single curved or geometric line that you can pick up on at any point and follow that line around the entire yard. It should take you right back to where you started. This line should also incorporate the different elements in your design like the patio, pool, shed, playground etc. Flaring the line of a bed or sidewalk into a

fence line or the line of the driveway can visually make your lines continue, giving a sense of flow.

You can combine a geometric-shaped walkway or patio with curved beds or a circular sitting area with geometric shaped beds. You can even mix curved lined beds with straight lines. The key is keeping very strong, simple lines. Instead of wavy lines, make a true circle (or half or two-thirds of a circle) and bring straight lines off the circle.

Pathways are another option. A path can physically lead you around the garden and be used to connect separated elements, such as a patio and shed, or lead you from the driveway around to the side garage door. It can then lead you into the backyard.

A path may also lead you to a quiet sitting area in the back corner. It maintains your interest and might offer the odd hidden surprise. A path can give your visitor permission and direction to explore your garden. There is nothing more inviting

than following along a path that goes around a curve and seems to disappear. It makes you want to see where it will lead you.

Your eye will automatically pick up on the line of a path and follow wherever it leads. And yes, your pathways can be made from different materials.

The repetitive use of certain plants or structures throughout the garden also can create a sense of flow and help your eye move around the yard. Look at the shape of the plant, whether it is pyramidal, spikey or perfectly rounded. When you repeat groupings of the same shape of plants through the gardens, your eye will automatically scan the area and pick up on that repetitive pattern. Again, when choosing a plant shape, think about your desired style.

As well, repeating the colour of the flowers or leaves can help guide the eye about the garden.

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

Looking to the Stars



Thinking big could prove fortuitous starting next week

This week we see the sun move from Aquarius into Pisces.

Thursday, Feb. 17: There are powerful surprises thanks to Uranus and Jupiter getting friendly today. This may include travel plans, education or long-term goals. And friends. He was Canada's sixth prime minister and his face is seen on the \$5 bill. He was Wilfrid Laurier, who died on Feb. 17, 1918. Conveniently, when Waterloo-Lutheran University was searching for a new and non-denominational name, it chose Wilfrid Laurier.

Friday, Feb. 18: This morning, the sun is in Aquarius. This afternoon, it is in Pisces. After a challenging Aquarius season when we've been mostly in our minds, the Pisces month is an invitation to get in touch with our emotions and relax into being. This is the last leg of the solar cycle that began on March 21, 2021. A new astrological year is just around the corner. Until then, take advantage of the Pisces month to let go of what no longer serves you – keep only what you can't leave behind. Happy birthday to Pluto, the planet discovered on Feb. 18, 1930, by Clyde Tombaugh.

Saturday, Feb. 19: The moon in Libra makes nice with Mercury in Aquarius and creates stress with Jupiter and Uranus. Whatever unpleasant surprise or gift, clear thinking will help a lot. Happy birthday to Nicolaus Copernicus, the astronomer who was first to postulate that the Earth travels around the sun and not the other way. He was born on Feb. 19, 1473.

Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.

Sunday, Feb. 20: With the moon in Libra square today to Mars in Capricorn, this is the most stubborn kind of day in a while. No, not everyone is trying to bite your head off. It was Feb. 20, 1962, that John Glenn became the first human to orbit the Earth in outer space, aboard a spaceship named Friendship 7.

Monday, Feb. 21: Foggy brain? Maybe. Also possible are confusion of fact and imagination and subtle reveals that are not clear. In any case, move with caution. Formerly Ellen, now Elliot Page, celebrates birthday 35 today. Best known for her lead in the film "Juno," she was gay in 2014 and has been transgender since 2020.

Tuesday, Feb. 22: After yesterday's mental confusions, today brings a time when getting agreement is, or at least seems, nearly impossible. And it was Feb. 22, 1825, that Russia and Britain decided on the border between Alaska and what would become British Columbia.

Wednesday, Feb. 23: The word of the day is "bigger" – bigger projects, ambitions, visions and accomplishments are in the air and everywhere. You can move mountains in your way so long as you are above board and are working with others who are also honest. Feb. 23, 1954, marked the beginning of mass polio inoculations in Pennsylvania and the eventual eradication of the disease.

Next week we see a significant lineup of planets that lasts for days.

Bill Auchterlonie's weekly podcast Looking up to the Stars is at www.lutts.ca.



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Shane Sherlock



SHERLOCK-Shane - It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Shane Robert Holtam Sherlock, after a heart attack on Saturday, Feb. 5 2022 at the age of 52. Shane was extremely intelligent, thoughtful, generous, and wild. Such a philosopher, such a rebel. He touched the lives of so many from all walks of life. He lived for any sport, music, nature, but most of

all his family. He was the hardest working and best damn father there is. Shane leaves behind his wife and best friend Stephanie of 26 years. Beloved father of Chloe, Paige, Marty, and Ty. Loving son of Glenda Edgar (Marc Bertrand). Caring brother of Lacia (Christian Olofsson) and her children Pontus and Sebastian. Fondly remembered by his dogs Rufus and Kiki and the many members of the Tribe and Bjorgan families. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Shane's legacy will take place on Sunday May 29, 2022 with details to come closer to the date. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those who wish to make a memorial donation can do so to his favourite charity, Red Roof Retreat. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



ODE to SHANE

He could have been an astronaut
He could have been a lost boy
He could have been a magic-man
He could have been a street kid
He could have run the race and won
He could have been a rock star
He could have been a million things

And was.

(Mary Tedesco-Tribe 2022)

The Lake Report would like to help share your memories and stories of loved ones with the NOTL community.

Send your obituaries to megan@niagaranow.com

Juergen Knof



KNOF-Juergen - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Juergen Hartmut Knof. June 14, 1936 - February 9, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 59 years Heiderun Knof, his children Jens (Eva) Knof, Karin (Stefan) Rykowski, Elke Krach (Mischa Schoger), Sandra Knof, Heike Knof (Matt Douglas) and his grandchildren Peter, Kalen, Jessica, Patrick, Isabelle,

Sophie and Oliver. Juergen will also be missed by his brother Hans, and extended family in Germany.

Juergen was born and raised in Germany and moved to Canada as a young man with a small family. He made himself a happy life through hard work while appreciating time with family and friends. He loved to travel and explore the world, was an avid tennis player and played at many clubs in Niagara over the years, a one-time president at Club Heidelberg, and a lifetime member with the Rotary Club.

Family was his priority and his happiness, and he will be dearly missed.

Arrangements entrusted to **GEORGE DARTE FUNERAL HOME, 585 CARLTON STREET, ST. CATHARINES.** Cremation has taken place. A private celebration of life will take place at a later date. If desired, donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by Juergen's family.

Online Guestbook: www.georgedartefuneralhome.com



Doug Garrett



GARRETT, Douglas John - May 20, 1927 – Feb. 10, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Doug Garrett. May 20, 1927 - Feb. 10, 2022.

Born in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and passed away peacefully in his home with his loving grandchild Dahli by his side. He was dedicated husband to Christine who was the love of his life,

visiting her often at Upper Canada Lodge where she resides. He will always be honoured and cherished by his children David Garrett (Christine), Paul Garrett (Colleen), and Kelly Atalick (Nick); for all of his years of love and dedication to them, his grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Doug was an avid golfer and club champion at Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club for many years. He was a lover of all sports, told the best stories, his laughter could fill a room, and will be missed by many. He was a member of Niagara Lodge, past Mason, and a member of the Niagara Legion Branch 124, received Sports Wall of Fame Award 2019.

A Celebration of his Life will occur on May 20, 2022. Details to follow, cremation has occurred. Arrangement entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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



Mary Hazell



Mary Elizabeth Hazell (nee Gibbs) passed away peacefully in St. Catharines, Ontario, on February 11th, 2022, at the age of 89. Loving wife of John, always known as Jack, and cherished mother to Evan (Jackie), Dee (Peter), Anne (Harry), Rebecca (Sandy), and Margaret (Tim). Proud grandmother of Jessica, Kyra, Mary, Christopher, Jack, and Evan. Mary was predeceased by parents James and Catherine Gibbs, and sister Dorothy Iddings. Mary was born on January 29th, 1933, in Los Angeles, California and grew up in the nearby city of Gabriel. During her youth, Mary travelled often to the family cottage at Honey Harbor, Ontario, as well as Toronto, to visit her aunt, uncle, and cousins. Throughout her life, she always spoke of those family visits with great fondness. Mary enrolled in Nursing at Queen's University in Kingston, and met the love of her life, Jack. Upon graduation, they moved to Leeds, England, and married. Jack completed his PhD in chemistry while Mary worked as a nurse, and they began their family. In the years ahead, Jack's career took them to Montreal and Toronto. Mary kept very busy with the arrival of their five children. Throughout those years, the family enjoyed wonderful summer holidays at the Glenbrook Farm on Lake Memphremagog, Quebec, and visiting the family farm in Picton, Ontario.

As the children left home, Mary and Jack developed a love for sailing, exploring the beauty of Lake Ontario. They also travelled extensively throughout North America, as Jack's business responsibilities grew. Mary indulged her lifelong love of the English language, through her many happy years working at the Anglican Book Centre in Toronto and publishing short works of fiction. In 2001, Mary and Jack retired to beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mary became an accomplished and widely recognized quilter, as well as being very active at St. Mark's Anglican Church. They also travelled the world, taking two or three extensive trips a year. When those worldly adventures came to an end just a short time ago, their bucket list was empty. Mary was a wonderful, loving person who gave her all to her family. She was always there for us, encouraging us through the tough times and celebrating the good ones. Her family misses her profoundly. May her soul be at eternal peace and rise in glory. The family wishes to thank the extraordinary team at The Royal Henley in St. Catharines, who provided such a supportive and positive environment for her final days, with a special thanks to both Dr. Jayawardene (Dr. J) and their Personal Support Worker, Anna. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted with George Dart Funeral Home, 585 Carlton St., St. Catharines. A celebration of Mary's life will be held at a later date. If desired, donations in memory of Mary would be much appreciated to Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Online Guestbook: www.georgedartefuneralhome.com



Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community. Julia Dick is the Front Office Coordinator and a longtime resident of Virgil. Call Julia today to book a complimentary hearing test.

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