### **NOTL's** Pandemic Heroes

Read about residents who have made a positive impact during the COVID-19 pandemic. Page 13

Vol. 4, Issue 7

**NOTL copes with COVID-19** 

February 18, 2021

# COVID cases down to eight as region stays in grey-lockdown

Richard Harley The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake has seen a 50 per cent reduction in active COVID-19 cases since last week.

As of Wednesday, there were eight active cases in town, down from 16 a week ago.

At NOTL's long-term care homes, cases are also almost cleared up.

Niagara Long Term Care

on Wellington Street, which saw a major outbreak in January, now has no active resident cases and just one remaining staff case, said executive director Chris Poos.

At Pleasant Manor in

Virgil, there also are no resident cases and two remaining staff infections are "nearing resolution," said chief executive Tim Siemens.

On Sunday, residents of Pleasant Manor's housing facility received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

In total, 185 tenants and 12 staff members got their second jab, Siemens said.

At Niagara LTC, some staff will be given their first vaccine dose of the Pfizer vaccine this week, while others will be getting their second dose on Saturday, Poos said.

Most residents have now received both doses of the vaccine, he said.

### NOTL turns into winter wonderland

### First major snowfall brings out neighbours, Good Samaritans



Domenic Trapasso clears the ice on his homemade rink on Regent Street. RICHARD HARLEY

Richard Harley The Lake Report

Tuesday's massive snowstorm brought with it some kind deeds by neighbours. In Niagara on the Green,

Lynn Ibrahim, who recently moved into the neighbourhood, said she was delighted to look out the window and find a neighbour had already cleared her driveway.

She said when she woke

up and saw the snow, she decided she would be working from home, but shortly afterward noticed the driveway was clear.

"I came to the door in my nightie, and sure and behold some fantastic wonderful person has cleared my driveway. I am so grateful, a million thanks for so much thoughtfulness," she said.

Continued on Page 6



One of several vehicles torched in the fire. RICHARD HARLEY

### Fire aftermath: Burned-out NOTL facility wasn't just a business, it was a 'community'

Richard Harley The Lake Report

When Reclaimed from Roots owner Mike Werner installed a new \$50,000 automated system for cutting wood, he expected it would be a big step for his handmade furniture busi-

He didn't anticipate that before he could even use it, it would go up in smoke along with the rest of everything he's built over the last five years.

On Feb. 9, that's exactly what happened, when a massive fire destroyed his business along with several others and priceless stored items at 1238 Townline Rd. in

Niagara-on-the-Lake. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined but damage was estimated at \$2.5 million by fire chief Nick Ruller.

Several of the businesses have launched GoFundMe campaigns that have raised more than \$25,000 so far.

"That whole building, that was my shop," Werner, 24, said, pointing at a pile of ash and rubble.

He then pointed toward the rest of the facility, owned by his father Darren Werner, where three 500-foot chicken barns converted to businesses were also burned to a crisp.

"That was all shops there. They're about 450 feet each,

Continued on Page 10

### Town lost \$719K in water in 2019: Report

Evan Saunders Special to The Lake Report

The Town of Niagaraon-the-Lake lost about \$719.000 worth of water in 2019, according to a Deloitte audit report.

The audit focused on determining the total loss of water from 2015 through

2019 and found that loss peaked in 2019 with 25 per cent water loss, up from 17 per cent in 2015.

Water loss was classified in two distinct categories: apparent and real loss, councillors heard during a committee of the whole meeting on Feb. 8.

Kevin Lavin, who rep-

resents Deloitte, said the real losses were the major contributor, comprising \$425,000 of the \$719,000

The main cause of real loss was determined to be non-surfacing underground leaks, which resulted in \$393,000 lost in 2019.

Non-surfacing leaks find

their way into underground channels, making them only traceable through a water leakage survey.

Deloitte's option to fix those leaks was estimated to pay for itself in less than a year and was designated as a priority by the audit.

Continued on Page 2



Council hears a report from Deloitte. SOURCED





Please Practice Social Distancing



In-store and curbside pick-up or free delivery

#### Ontario Land Tribunals

Conservation Review Board

655 Bay Street, Suite 1500
Toronto ON M5G 1E5
Telephone: (416) 212-6349
Toll Free: 1-866-448-2248
Fax: (416) 326-6209
Toll Free Fax: 1-877-849-2066

Tribunaux de l'aménagement du territoire Ontario

Commission des biens culturels

655 rue Bay, suite 1500
Toronto ON M5G 1E5
Téléphone: (416) 212-6349
Sans Frais: 1-866-448-2248
Télécopieur: (416) 326-6209
Sans Frais: 1-877-849-2086
Site Web: www.oft.gov.on.c.



#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

**PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER** subsection 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owners: Dan D'Alessandro & Mary D'Alessandro

Objector: John Colin Black

Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate

Property Address: 21 Prideaux Street

Legal Description: PT LT 31 TP PL 86 NIAGARA AS IN RO432606

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

CRB Case No.: CRB1918

CRB Case Name: Black v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER subsection 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owner/Objector: John Colin Black

Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate

Property Address: 27 Prideaux Street

Legal Description: PT LT 30 TP PL 86 NIAGARA AS IN RO434461

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

CRB Case No.: CRB1919

CRB Case Name: Black v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

**PROCEEDING COMMENCED UNDER** subsection 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended

Owners: Thomas Elltoft, Kimberley Elltoft

Subject: Notice of Intention to Designate

Objector: John Colin Black Property Address: 31 Prideaux Street

Legal Description: PT LT 30 TP PL 86 NIAGARA AS IN NTW8087

Municipality: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

CRB Case No.: CRB1920

CRB Case Name: Black v. Niagara-on-the-Lake (Town)

The Conservation Review Board will conduct a hearing respecting this matter.

This hearing will be held:

at: 9:30am

on: March 17, 18 & 19, 2021

at: Microsoft Teams video conference call

The Review Board has set aside three days for this hearing.

Please contact the Review Board at conservation.review.board@ontario.ca by no later than Friday, March 12, 2021 to obtain the video conference details.

If you do not attend at the commencement of the hearing or are not represented at this hearing, the Review Board may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings.

Pour recevoir des services en français, veuillez communiquer avec nous au (416) 212-6349, immediatement.

We are committed to providing accessible services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have any accessibility needs, please contact our Accessibility Coordinator as soon as possible. If you require documents in formats other than conventional print, or if you have specific accommodation needs, please let us know so we can make arrangements in advance. Please also identify any assistance you may require in the event of an emergency evacuation.

DATED at Toronto, Ontario this 10th day of February 2021.

# Simpson's Pharmacy opens wait list for COVID-19 vaccines

Kevin MacLean Managing Editor

With vaccines starting to arrive in Canada, again, and the province gearing up to make it a priority to inoculate people over 80, a NOTL pharmacy has begun compiling a waiting list for those who want the vaccine.

Simpson's Pharmacy is still awaiting full information on the vaccine rollout plan, but last week started collecting names via its website so it will be ready to go once the medications arrive.

"We are taking this step to build a notification list so that we are able to quickly identify those that wish to be vaccinated, as soon as it is their turn, as specified by the priority groups set out by our public health authorities," pharmacist Sean Simpson told The Lake Report.



Residents can register for vaccine wait list through Simpson's Pharmacy. PIXABAY PHOTO

"We are doing everything in our power to ensure that vaccines get into the arms of our local residents as quickly as possible," he said.

Simpson's expects to be

in the vaccination rollout but the government has not yet said exactly when pharmacies will be allocated the drugs.

Find out more at, simpsonspharmacy.ca.

### Water loss an ongoing problem

Continued from Front Page

The report predicted fixing the leaks would come with a one-time implementation cost of \$80,000 to \$160,000, but could provide \$1,359,000 in savings over the next 10 years.

The next highest contributors to water loss in 2019 were aging meters and unauthorized consumption. Aging meters accounted for \$139,000 in losses while unauthorized consumption totalled \$140,000.

Fixing both of these issues came as priority recommendations from Deloitte, with the prevention of unauthorized consumption being the most cost-effective tactic to implement.

Eliminating unauthorized consumption alone could save the town \$772,000 over the next decade, the report said.

If the town fixes all three of its major water loss problems, \$2.9 million could be saved over the next 10 years, based on Deloitte's report.

Concerning aging water meters, environmental services supervisor Brett Ruck told councillors that "a lot of those we are pretty well changing out" during routine operations.

In an interview last Tuesday afternoon, Coun. Norm Arsenault said NOTL's water infrastructure problem is "definitely a priority" for councillors.

"There's no doubt there's lost revenue happening," he said. "I would like to see that down to 10 or 15 per cent."

The councillor added the town has made significant progress in the last year on replacing old lead water mains with new vinyl pieces in order to fight leakage.

Arsenault noted these changes would not have been noticeable in the 2019 audit and said "there's not a whole lot of leakage left" now that the water mains have been changed.

"We have to take it one step at a time, have a look at it, and re-measure after we've done some work. We need to stay on top of it," he said.

The Deloitte report recommends the town perform a leakage survey every five years in order to detect hidden leaks and prevent cumulative loss.

The town has not performed one of those surveys in 20 years, council heard.

Before that, it is believed the town performed them annually, Lavin told the committee.

But in the last two decades "It just didn't happen," Arsenault said, adding "things have a tendency to fall between the cracks and that's one of those issues that really shouldn't (have) because it's too important."

He said the town would continue to update old meters and limit unauthorized water usage throughout 2021, but that major investments would have to wait to be included in the 2022 budget.

Council members were also concerned with the legal implications of unauthorized water usage costing the town up to \$140,000 annually.

"Would that be people stealing water?" Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked Ruck.

"I want to believe that everyone's being honest," he replied.

Arsenault said the issue of unauthorized water usage is a matter of educating the public and private businesses.

"People have to realize this is not their property. This is not free water," he said.





# Let us know your pandemic heroes

It's been a year now since COVID-19 entered our lives and changed ... everything.

In those 12 months, we've endured good, bad and everything in between.

Looking back on life in the pandemic, we'd like to highlight and pay tribute to some of the hundreds of Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, organizations, companies, entrepreneurs and others who have helped make a difference.

From front-line workers to essential service personnel, your neighbours and family



members, to friends and even strangers, ordinary folks and people with expertise – let's honour and recognize them in The Lake Report.

So, tell us: who are the pandemic heroes you know, have encountered or heard

about?

Send us a note nominating them, outlining their contributions, big and small. Include a photo (if you have one), and email and telephone contact information for them (and yourself). Working together, we will endeavour to share the good news about those who have made a difference in our community this past year.

Please send your nominations by email to editor@niagaranow.com.

### Andrea Kaiser named NOTL riding's federal Liberal candidate

Staff
The Lake Report

Andrea Kaiser will once again represent the Liberal party as the candidate for the Niagara Falls riding in the next general federal election.

Kaiser officially announced her candidacy Wednesday.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal Liberal government has demonstrated decisive leadership in protecting our health, supporting our workers and small businesses, and securing access to vaccines," she said in a media release.

"I am running to be our member of Parliament because I will fight to protect our health, rebuild our local economy and take decisive action on climate change,"



Andrea Kaiser with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the 2019 general election. FILE PHOTO

she said.

The Niagara Falls riding, now represented by Conservative Tony Baldinelli, includes Niagara-onthe-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

In the 2019 federal election, Andrea Kaiser won more votes than any other

Liberal candidate — federal or provincial — in the riding's history.

She said she plans to "leverage this momentum to build the strong grassroots movement needed to win the riding, and serve our community in the House of Commons."

"Given the enormous challenges we face, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the Lake need a representative who does more than just represent their party in Ottawa. We need a strong member of Parliament who champions our community and its values every day. I will be that member of Parliament because this is who I have been my entire adult life," said Kaiser.

A life-long resident of Niagara and working mother of two, she said her campaign will focus on "protecting the health of our community, bringing good jobs to Niagara and preserving our precious natural environment."

Her campaign's website is www.votekaiser.ca.

# 



www.treeamigoslandscaping.com

905-468-9557 | info@treeamigos.ca





NOW OPEN for all your CPAP and sleep apnea supplies.

Free delivery in NOTL and VIRGIL.

Curbside pick-up available at 111A Garrison Village Dr., Suite 202, NOTL. For appointment call 289-868-9212.

## NOTL must still 'remain vigilant,' Disero says

Richard Harley The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Betty Disero says people need to "remain vigilant" after the provincial stay-at-home order was lifted and Niagara Region moved into grey-lockdown pandemic status on Tuesday.

The move means many more retail businesses can open up with a limited capacity of customers allowed in at one time.

Pharmacies, supermarkets convenience stores and others that primarily sell groceries are allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity,



Lord Mayor Betty Disero. SOURCED

while all other retail stores are allowed 25 per cent capacity.

While Disero said the move is "a start towards allowing the economy to cautiously reopen," she said people still shouldn't be gathering.

"What it doesn't do is open the door for people to have large gatherings or increased interactions, which would put us at a greater risk of spread."

"For us to move forward together, all municipalities need to present a united front, supporting and adhering to all recommendations from Niagara Region public health," Disero said.

"My hope is we can move to red-control sooner rather than later, to allow even more businesses to reopen safely and to increase allowances for more forms of social interaction. This will significantly support the mental wellness of our community."

All stores opening must publicly display their capacity limit, screen customers based on public health advice, as well as actively screen all employees before they enter the premises.

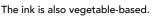
Content provided by:



Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

#### Did you know?

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









**584 ONTARIO STREET** 

ST. CATHARINES, ON

WWW.RENNIEAPARTMENTS.COM



Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley Managing Editor: Kevin MacLean **Publisher:** Niagara Now Design & Layout: Richard Harley **Advertising:** Rob Lamond, Lisa Jeffrey Contributors: Brittany Carter, Jessica Maxwell, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Denise Ascenzo, Linda Fritz, Dr. William Brown, Brian Marshall, NOTL Museum, Susan Des Islets, Leslie Moulson, Norm Arsenault, Patty Garriock, Steve Hardaker, Ross Robinson, Tim Carroll, NOTL Writers' Circle, Lisa Tache, Megan Vanderlee, and many more members of the NOTL community

# COVID Tracker

**NOTL** active cases: 8 Region active cases: 323 Region deaths: 362 Region total cases: 8,399 Region resolved cases: 7,714

\*Feb. 10 data per Niagara Region Public Health



#### Contributed by Patty Garriock

"Your mind is a powerful thing. When you fill it with positive thought, your life will begin to change."

#### **HOW TO GET IN TOUCH**

#### **Email:**

Letters: editor@niagaranow.com Story Ideas: editor@niagaranow.com Advertising: advertising@niagaranow.com

Newsroom: 905-359-2270

Advertising Department: 905-246-4671

Office Address

496 Mississagua St., NOTL, Ontario, Canada. **Mailing Address** 

PO Box 724, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S1J0

#### Have a lead on a story?

Call 905.359.2270 or send an email to editor@niagaranow.com to advertising@niagaranow.com

### **Editorial:** Debate, sure. Threats, never

Kevin MacLean Managing Editor

A year into what might someday be known as the "COVID Era" everyone wishes some of our precious personal freedoms were not still being curtailed.

And if you operate a small business that is struggling to survive, you know that the sooner you can reopen, the better your prospects will be.

The Lake Report is a small business, too, and perhaps somewhat uniquely, we rely on the success of other small businesses - our loyal and dedicated advertisers – to survive.

So, over the past 12 months, we have known your pain, through the stories you have shared with us and our readers, and we have felt that pain, too, as our own business has been walloped by the pandemic.

So, we understand what many businesses are enduring. We have lived it.

What is more difficult to comprehend and accept is the anger and vitriol some in the wider Niagara Region community have directed at the acting medical officer of health, Dr. Mustafa Hirji. He recommended the province keep Niagara in the grey-lockdown category when restrictions were eased this week.

The province agreed – and last week Hirji became the target of some nasty online threats.

He somehow found the grace to rise above the

viciousness, directed at him essentially for doing what he is supposed to do looking after the health interests of the community at large.

Those threats have prompted an investigation by Niagara Regional Police. We hope that decision will get the attention of those frustrated keyboard warriors who like to go off the deep end with little care about the consequences – and, yes, NOTL has its share.

Freedom of expression is enshrined in our Charter of Rights (not free speech, that's an Americanism), but even this right has limits. When words turn to hate or threats or defamation, there can be repercussions. By all means, let's have debates

and adult conversations, agree to disagree. But stop the reprehensible behaviour.

No one wants to be in lockdown and no one wants to see a business suffer after people worked hard, often for years, to make it a

However, as Canadians, let's remember, we really are in this together. And we might be facing a third or even fourth COVID wave in the weeks to come.

Despite many hiccups, we have made it this far by pulling in the same direction, but there remain more hurdles down the road.

There is more strength in unity than there is in division.

Tough as it can be, let's all stick together.

editor@niagaranow.com





People enjoy a skate on the frozen One Mile Creek in Chautauqua. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

### Positive thoughts on winter 2021

Dear editor:

Re: "Let's stay home a bit longer," editorial, The Lake Report, Feb. 11.

I loved the tone and message of this editorial, asking us all to stay the course and work together to beat back the global pandemic.

But, the sentence referenc-

ing "crummy, cold weather driving us crazy" is unfortunate. Put on your best smile and toque, get some fresh air.

C'mon NOTLers, Mother Nature is in charge and we are just along for the ride. Our magnificent poet Robert Service wrote, "The winter! The brightness that

blinds you ... The snows that are older than history."

This has been the best winter in decades. White snowy hills for sledding, frozen ice for skating, blue skies, still moonlit nights perfect for walking, with or without a dog. (Please, wear reflective clothing

for safety.) And hundreds, hundreds of people walking, physically distanced, chatting away, enjoying winter in Canada.

What's not to love? At the risk of being positive, why not be positive?

> Ross Robinson **NOTL**





## NOTL is a great community in which to live

Dear editor:

Being almost snowed in on Tuesday, I was pecking away on my keyboard and kept hearing motor noises.

They were quite close but I didn't see anything on the

Then, one of those "newfangled" small home tractors appeared right on my driveway – and magically it was cleared of snow.

One of the lovely aspects of life in the countryside is that neighbours from far and wide pitch in and help

out as help is needed.

We, my wife and I (she passed away four years ago), settled here in NOTL on Concession 2 almost 15 years ago and in that first winter, too, our driveway was magically cleared of snow. And it has happened every winter since.

There is no finer community spirit. Now, at age 80, I am more appreciative than

Thank you, neighbours. Kaspar Pold **NOTL** 



Kaspar Pold was delighted to find a neighbour had cleared his driveway Tuesday. SUPPLIED

### Serious concerns about vaccine distribution

First let me add my name to the vast backlash and outcry of condemnation against the idiots who threatened our Niagara medical officer of health Dr. Mustafa Hirji.

I, like thousands of others, was disappointed at the extension to our shutdown, however in my opinion, Hirji was acting in the best interests of the overall community. He was no doubt cognizant of the massive inflow of visitors/ tourists from other areas, like Toronto, etc.

Addressing the ongoing delays in Canada's vaccination rollout, which is the laughing stock of the world, it appears more and more unlikely that Niagara Region, and in particular NOTL, will be allocated a single supply of the vaccine, to mass vaccinate our community (NOTL with a population of 18,000) over a three- to four-week period. Accordingly I suspect we

will be receiving sporadic shipments over many months, out to year-end or longer, thereby forcing our senior population to be housebound much longer, for fear of contacting a more serious COVID-19 variant. This further increases the local chances of a third or fourth wave and rolling shutdowns.

The following was my proposed template or blueprint for a NOTL rollout:

\* A single mass vaccination site, serviced by one shipment to vaccinate all residents.

\*Residents scheduled via a telephone call from our regional medical centres, similar to the U.K.'s practice. No phoning around multiple locations, similar to the flu vaccination fiasco, hoping they have a supply. My wife and I visited six locations before locating a pharmacy in downtown St. Catharines for our flu shot.

\* Housebound residents

contacted and administered their shot, in their home, via a mobile unit. Again similar to the U.K.

\*Involve Shoppers Drug Mart or Amazon in the Canadawide distribution. In the U.K. they partnered with Boots Pharmacy.

\* Review the vaccine manufacturer for seniors as all vaccines are not created equal. In a certain age group, I believe 60 and over, the efficacy is much lower and thus less effective. I predict, however, we will not have the luxury to pick and choose.

The U.K. announced this past weekend that all residents over the age of 70 had received their shots. In a previous letter I reported that my family and in- laws in the U.K., all in their 80s, received both shots in early to mid-January. New Zealand has opened up and back to normal, with only three cases reported recently, yet

Canada fails to replicate that success model.

It looks certain at this juncture that we will be repeating the flu shot debacle. Evidence of this scenario is the fact we are not taking any proactive steps and have yet to officially name a vaccination site or our pharmacy participation.

Nor have we, to my knowledge, commenced a hiring effort (retired nurses or volunteers, etc.) to staff the vaccination site in anticipation of the eventual arrival of a shipment.

I tip my hat to Sean Simpson of Simpson's Pharmacy for his personal, proactive efforts to keep ahead of the curve, as he usually does, in the face of numerous delivery uncertainties.

Kudos all around - a make-it-happen type, my type of guy. Not like Trudeau and Ford, the great procrastinators.

> Samuel Young **NOTL**

### **Public Health** keeps you informed.

For COVID-19 vaccine information visit niagararegion.ca/covid19





Niagara-on-the-Lake 1630 Niagara Stone Rd. 905-468-4999

100% Independent & Locally Owned

Payment Plans Available

Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test 905-468-4999

### St. Davids-Queenston United Church

1453 York Rd. St Davids 905-262-5242 www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca Minister: Rev. Rick Hawley

Sunday Worship **NOW ONLINE** Visit our website Sunday mornings

Advertising inquiries? Email advertising@niagaranow.com

### Distinctive NOTL architecture makes development controls difficult

Architecture in our community is one of the attractions that is the envy of others. The variety is extensive in such a small area as shown in Brian Marshall's weekly column "ArchiText."

The need for "clear, architectural and heritage guidelines," as expressed in the column, is long overdue.

However, the blame for a "threatened heritage

assigned to developers, commercial development and abandonment of historical buildings.

Developers provide required housing and commercial development provides required jobs through developments based on guidelines and restrictions imposed by municipal and regional planners.

It is the responsibility of our city and regional plangional planning committees, and by extension town and regional councils, to develop and enforce these guidelines through legislation. This is exacerbated by the fact municipalities benefit through increased property taxes on building as many houses as possible in a development project.

Before Kanata was incorporated into the City of Ottawa it was able to legis-

landscape" should not be ners, as well town and reof a style of house and lot size, resulting in a uniform community of housing. Any changes had to follow restrictive guidelines.

> The problem in our community is that there is such a vast number of choices of architecture - which would be the best choice to pursue and still maintain our distinctiveness?

Derek Insley NOTL



CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS + RENOVATORS



# 2021 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE INTERIM FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021 Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 5283-20

Payment may be made by mail or by drop off at the Town Municipal Offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON LOS 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only after the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.

### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A MORE CONVENIENT WAY TO PAY YOUR TAXES?

Save time and potential late fees by paying your taxes through our Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) plan or through online or telephone banking. Property owners can also request to receive their property tax bills and notices from the Town by e-mail only through a new eSend service.

For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town's website at www.notl.com or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.

Page 6 February 18, 2021

### NEWS



# Snow crews head out early to clear after Tuesday storm

Continued from Front Page

The story was the same all over town, as neighbours pitched in to help out one another.

Nick McClure and Kate Lamotte, who live above shops on Queen Street, were shovelling out their cars with their neighbours.

McClure confessed he had just joined the shovelling party.

"I've been out here for 40 minutes — if that — I always try to like, you know, I join the tail end of things. I'm getting a little older," he joked.

The town's environmental supervisor Brett Ruck was also out with operations manager Sheldon Randall. The two were checking the roads to make sure they'd all been cleared

Ruck said it was a "very early morning" for town staff.

"It generally takes us about nine hours to do a full event, like a big event, and sometimes a little bit longer," he said.

Staff came in at 9 p.m.



NOTL's environmental supervisor Brett Ruck stands next to a stop sign that was knocked down. He said he suspects the snow played a role. RICHARD HARLEY

Monday and worked until around 1 a.m., and another shift started at 4 a.m., he said.

By 11 a.m., he said a good portion of the town had been done, though it would take most of the day to complete the job.

Sidewalk ploughs went out early in the morning as well, he said.

A lot of people were parked and stuck on the streets, he said.

Randall said if any were missed, a friendly call or reminder is a good idea.

"We always appreciate it if we miss something, especially on sidewalks, a friendly reminder, a call in to the town is always welcome," he said.

"Especially when we get new operators, they don't know where all the sidewalks are. They have maps and that, but they're hard to see and sometimes we miss them."

He said it's important for residents to be patient after a major snowfall and if "they don't need to be on the road, stay home."





Catherine O'Donnell, recently certified as a pastry judge by the World Association of Chefs. SUPPLIED

### Catherine O'Donnell takes on the world

Sean O'Donnell Special to The Lake Report

Catherine O'Donnell, or Mom as I like to call her, has become an ambassador for hard work, great food and all around kindness in the NOTL community. Some know her from her years at Vintage Inns, others from Andres Wines, but most know her from Willow Cakes & Pastries.

For over 16 years she has catered to the weddings, birthdays and showers of many of you. She's also provided a place of comfort, conversation and delight whilst sitting in her shop.

Now, she's doing something for herself.

What many of you don't know is for a number of years Catherine has been coaching and judging some of the country's/world's best pastry chefs at competitions around the world. Through grit, determination, and an unmatched work ethic she has balanced being a business owner, mother, grandmother, professor, mentor, coach, and now "Pastry Judge A," an honour bestowed by the World Association of Chefs.

Pastry Judge A is a title given to only some of the best and most deserving. Their job is to constantly be in tune with what's going on in the culinary world and be able to see where perfection lies in another's product. All ego and bias is set aside while judging these life-changing competitions and NOTL's humble chef has made her mark.

Not only is this a huge accomplishment, but she is one of only a few women to hold this title or one similar. She has always advocated for equal rights in the workplace, equal respect, equal pay and now, being a face for female chefs everywhere, I hope her message gets stronger and louder.

We've spoken many times about this prospect, and who wouldn't want this job?! Travel the world, eat amazing food, see amazing chefs in their prime. It's a world stage of skill, class and poise. All presented on a plate. I don't know anyone more deserving than my mother when it comes to accomplishing this tremendous achievement. She taught me to seize the moment, travel the world and live life without

Her constant sacrifice for my sister and I, and now my niece, has been tremendous. But she appreciated and loved and helped us realize who we want to be. She is my hero and by far the hardest working person I know. I can't wait to hear stories of her incredible adventures abroad and wish her all the congratulations a son can muster.

Congratulations Chef Catherine or as I call her, Chef

Love, Sean

### Life in the Pandemic Finding ways to help others

Even when organized activities are suspended, NOTLers learn to have an impact



Hilda Ellard, left, with Kim Mustill, right, pictured with the patio and arbour they built last summer. SUPPLIED/TONDE WIRTH

Editor's Note: Life since COVID-19 has changed things for all of us. We've experienced hardships, heartaches and challenges, but also new and sometimes unexpected reasons to be thankful. This Lake Report series shares some of the stories of NOTL residents as we all reflect on our experience of life in a pandemic.

Jill Troyer The Lake Report

Volunteer work and contributing to the community through various committees has been a big part of life for NOTL resident Kim Mustill, but all that changed as the pandemic advanced.

"Many volunteer organizations had to put aside events and pause their activities," Mustill says, "but you have to re-invent yourself. There's always a need in the community for volunteer support."

Mustill didn't stop helping people when CO-VID restrictions curtailed organized activities.

She spent time with her friend Hilda Ellard last summer, building two flagstone patios, two arbours and a split rail fence in her backyard. "I had no idea how to build an arbour," she recalls, but she learned. Mustill and Ellard are already planning projects to tackle next summer.

Mustill, an avid equestrian, also helped out at the barn where her horse Cassie boards. The barn owner raises and shows fancy chickens and ducks, so Mustill helped with them last summer.

"I learned a lot about feathered friends, like how to bathe them and dry them afterwards," she said, chuckling at the memory of the sight of them, all bundled up in towels.

In addition to riding her own horse, Mustill also helped a friend train a young horse with an abundance of energy.

And then there's the local cat rescue, where Mustill helps domesticate semi-feral cats, and take felines to the vet when needed.

She is also a member of the executive of the Shaw Guild and, while most activities are paused, the group continues to keep its volunteers engaged, with regular newsletters.

She has a humble view of these efforts, saying, "You just do what you can."

While helping others helped her get through life in the pandemic, Mustill says some family events have been very hard.

Her mother-in-law, who was 99, died in June, in Montreal where she lived. Her husband had seen her in February, but couldn't visit again after that. "It's hard on the heart," Mustill laments.

Her mother-in-law was in a seniors residence after being released from hospital following a fall. "We called every day, but we were not even allowed to send her flowers or puzzles. It was tough."

Mustills' daughter and 13-year-old granddaughter live in Whitby, and Christmas and birthdays have been marked by FaceTime chats, but Mustill says the celebrations will happen in person once it's safe.

"This (latest) lockdown seems to have affected people more," she reflects. "We all have a little bit of the winter blues."

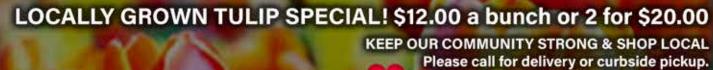
But Mustill is quick to move into positive territory, adding, "Let's just get through February, it's a short month, and spring is coming! Some of my fellow gardeners have started their seeds inside already."

Whatever the challenges have been, Mustill emphasizes how blessed she feels for her friends and neighbours, and says her experiences this past year have only deepened her appreciation of people who matter to her.

She is looking forward to the day she can rekindle those connections in person.

In the meantime, she says, "I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, which is the vaccine. With that, there's hope."

905-468-7815



**Proud supporters of The Lake Report** 



# Businesses happy to reopen, but lockdown was tough

Vicky Qiao Special to The Lake Report

The past few months have been tough on Niagara-onthe-Lake businesses, but with NOTL's move to greylockdown status this week, more businesses can reopen at 25 per cent capacity.

For some small operations, like Sono's Cafe in Virgil, the second lockdown has been extremely difficult.

At first, the Virgil cafe/diner was able to maintain 30 to 40 per cent of regular sales from drive-thru and take-out. But sales fell to 5 per cent during the second lockdown, said owner Mahmoud Sono.

Sono said he gave the cafe a full revamp in the fall to ensure a safe dining environment, including plastic barriers to separate tables.

"As soon as we were preparing to open more ... we shut down again," he said.

Sono and his wife opened the cafe for three hours on Tuesday after the Family Day weekend, but not one customer or order came in.

Lockdown aside, competition from big fast-food chains makes it even harder for small cafes, even one that has been open for more than 25 years, he said.

"We have an award for the best coffee in town," Sono said, but franchise operations make competition fierce.

"They try to kill the small businesses when they do one-month free coffee, \$1 any size of coffee. Tim Hortons and McDonald's compete with each other, and I'm the only one dying from it."

Before COVID, the cafe was able to survive by adding more variety to its menu and maintaining high-quality food, but the pandemic has made it impossible to compete.

"We're gonna hang on here... we're happy for the rent subsidy and the wage subsidy ... so that's what keeps us on our feet," Sono said.

For Silversmith Brewery, business collaborations have been a way to get through the pandemic challenges.

"We've been able to work something out with some









**Top left:** Co-owners Nataschia Wielink and Kalin Falconer photographed at their boutique Bloom & Co. **Top right**: Mahmoud Sono and his wife in front of their cafe/diner, which has been empty and quiet for the past months. **Bottom left:** Sarah Lavigne, the founder and owner of Charcuterie Board Workshops, building charcuterie boards in the summer. **Bottom right:** Silversmith employee Sean prepares a Buffalo chicken sandwich. SUPPLIED

of our partners in and around the area," said Kyle Getty, the president of Silversmith, located in a 150-year-old former church on Niagara Stone Road.

Besides doing co-promotions with area wineries, Getty said they've even partnered with a brewery in British Columbia for a collaborative beer, to share their impact and "think outside of the box."

Despite the support and collaboration within the NOTL community, Getty said revenue has been down by 80 to 85 per cent.

"There's a lot of companies that won't come out of

this from what we're hearing in the industry ... so we're fortunate, but if we go into another lockdown, who knows what will happen?"

Under the current greylockdown status, restaurants are still only allowed to open for take-out and the region is expected to remain in lockdown for at least two more weeks.

Most retailers have been allowed to reopen with a limited capacity and Bloom & Co. in St. Davids is one of the lucky ones.

"We kind of scrambled last week to get everything ready... but this week we're all ready to go. This is our first day back, so the store is cleaned and reorganized and shuffled around a bit," said Nataschia Wielink, coowner of the travel-inspired lifestyle boutique.

They originally opened the shop in the anticipation of guests stopping by while visiting wineries in the region, said Wielink. But then the pandemic hit.

"Honestly, we wouldn't have gotten through this pandemic without our local support, which has just been over-the top amazing. I can't even put into words how special that has been that they continue to pop by and they want to see us thrive," she said.

"We look forward to

hosting tourists back when that time comes, but we certainly don't want to rush into that."

Sarah Lavigne's Charcuterie Board Workshop hasn't been so lucky.

"We're completely shut down at the moment," Lavigne said. "That's been tough but we are anxiously awaiting reopening and we're planning diligently to have our staff in place."

Lavigne said Valentine's Day would have been one of the biggest days of the year for her business.

"We're usually sold out months in advance. So we're very sad to lose our Valentine's. We usually run like five workshops in Niagara on that."

Lavigne ran her workshops at Jackson-Triggs Estate Winery throughout the summer and saw thousands of participants, mostly couples or girlfriend groups creating live-edge wood charcuterie boards.

"We certainly have lots of guidelines in place to keep everyone kind of in their bubbles moving along in the space. It's difficult but everyone seems to be very understanding because they're so excited to be out doing something," she said.

"We've just had to pivot lot."

# Are you really open if people don't know?

In today's climate, it's <u>essential</u> to let potential customers know your curbside/delivery options. We can help. Advertise with The Lake Report today and stop losing business.

Email advertising@niagaranow.com or call Rob at 905.246.4671

# Jim Brown, 83, was a true NOTL golf legend

Kevin MacLean Managing Editor

Niagara-on-the-Lake lost a literal golfing legend last week with the death of "Downtown" Jimmie Brown.

The Garrison Village resident, a fixture at the NOTL Golf Club, who was officially recognized in 2010 on the club's Legends Championship trophy, died Friday morning at age 83 after a brief battle with liver

Born on Christmas Day in 1937, the affable Scotsman, who loved art and jazz, also was an active member of Grace United Church. He and his wife Helen immigrated to Canada after visiting Expo 67 and they eventually settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake where they raised their daughters Cathie and Nora.

They laughed about how, years ago, Brown was involved with Block Parents in town and would march in the annual Christmas parade dressed as "Sergeant Blockie," with an enormous box over his head. He couldn't see where he was going so he had to be guided along the route, his daughters said.

He was a great role model,



Jim Brown with his four grandchildren on his 80th birthday. From left, J.D. Pennington, Luke Vedress, Grace Vedress and Isobel Pennington. SUPPLIED

"a feminist before that was a thing," Cathie Pennington said in an interview.

Her sister, Nora Vedress, echoed that sentiment. "Growing up, we were taught that we could do anything, be anything we wanted. There was never any kind of thought that, you know, we couldn't do something just because we were girls.'

Pennington is a school principal in York Region and Vedress is a United Church minister in Saskatchewan.

A trained draughtsman, Brown was a mechanical engineer for Provincial Crane in Niagara Falls. Well-respected in his field, he designed the moving parts for the retractable roof on Diamondbacks Stadium in Arizona.

He was known for his exactitude on the golf course

Doug Garrett, 93, another NOTL golf legend, said he teamed up with Brown to win many competitions.

"He was a single-digit handicap, a very talented golfer," Garrett said. "He was a fierce competitor, but fair. And, boy, did he know the rules."

Brown did two years of national service starting in 1959, serving with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. Garrett said he joined the Legion annually for the NOTL Remembrance Day service.

Garrett and Bill Katrynuk, another club veteran, said whenever someone

had a question about some of the arcane rules of the game, Brown was the one they would turn to. His knowledge was encyclopedic.

He served as club captain for several years and later helped out other league organizers, Katrynuk said.

In the 1984 club championships, he came the closest anyone ever did to dethroning 30-time champion Mark Derbyshire, who won the title every year from 1976 through 2005.

They were tied after 33 holes, but the talented Derbyshire hung on for a dramatic, one-shot win.

However, his daughters said Brown found the positive in the loss, thereafter declaring he was the "1984 Almost Club Champion."

They said he shared with them many life lessons through the game of golf. Maintaining a positive attitude was a big one.

Whenever things weren't going well, his advice, drawn from years on the links, was always, "Play past it."

NOTL Golf Club pro Billy Simkin said Brown was an "important friend and member of the club. His constant involvement in member leagues, events and the support of the junior program was incredible."

Ben Berti played several times with Brown in the annual junior-senior competition, a fun day that teams young golfers with club veterans.

"He was a great partner during those junior-senior years and an even greater guy and mentor," Berti said.

Associate pro Ricky Watson recalled, "I used to love when he would come into the shop on Sunday mornings and we would talk football (soccer) and he would tell stories about being back in Scotland, as well as the old days at the club."

"Jim was a wealth of knowledge about the history of the NOTL Golf Club and I always enjoyed his stories," Watson said.

Simkin said that even when Brown had health problems, he was a staple around the club."

"He would wait for his usual playing partners to come join him for a drink after their game. Jimmy was one of the good guys and he will be missed."

He is survived by his wife Helen, daughters Cathie (Derek) Pennington and Nora (Derek) Vedress, and grandchildren Isobel, J.D., Grace and Luke.

### Niagara Parks series examines key roles of Black Canadians in history

Special to The Lake Report

Canada's education system can do a much better job at teaching students about the role Black soldiers have played in the nation's history, anti-racism advocate Rosemary Sadlier says.

The former president of the Ontario Black History Society, Sadlier kicked off the Niagara Parks Black History virtual speaker series with a presentation called "Blacks in the Military."

Sadlier took people through the role of Black people in Canada's history, from slavery to serving in the military, highlighting the lack of information on the subject in our education system.

"People of African descent have taken a mean-



Rosemary Sadlier. SUPPLIED

ingful role in the defence of this country, from the American Revolution to the War of 1812, the Mackenzie Rebellion, the American Civil War and both world wars, but our collective understanding of their service is often rather limited," she

Sadlier's presentation addressed the deep history of Black people in Canada, including our country's role in slavery, which Sadlier discussed separately in an interview.

"When I realized there had actually been slavery here it changed everything," she said

"It's like a seismic shift, because instead of Canada then just being this place

where everybody was really nice and white and all the white people wanted to help the Black people, it's not true. Black people have been enslaved here, Black people experienced all kinds of racist incidents and segregation and discrimination," said Sadlier.

She made a particularly poignant statement in her presentation, stating that "enslaved people didn't just pick cotton," a common misconception due to generations of miseducation.

She offered the example of Richard Pierpoint, a soldier who fought on the British side during the War of 1812 because it was his only alternative to slavery.

"He defended what is now Canada because the alternative was so horrendous, and while life wasn't perfect here, it certainly wasn't going to improve if American troops took over," said Sadlier.

Pierpoint's skill and ability may have been what granted him an extra allocation of land for his service, according to Sadlier, but his achievements and those of many other Black Canadians unfortunately go unrecognized by many.

Sadlier noted at Queenston Heights you can see the "massive" Brock's Monument overlooking the Niagara River. Meanwhile, a small plaque she managed to get dedicated for the Colored Corps is located nearby, but "if you didn't know where it was, you would never find it."

"Canada was not created by the efforts of one gender, by the efforts of one race. There were people who were very diverse who worked to preserve and protect and maintain this place that we now call Canada," she said, and it is important that we know each and every person's story to reveal the true history of Canada.

In light of the Black Lives Matter movement and the deaths of George Floyd, Elijah McClain, Breonna Taylor, Regis Korchinski-Paquet and countless others especially in a predominantly white community like Niagara-on-the-Lake, it is important that we hold ourselves accountable for conducting proper research on Black history, and not just every February.

The next presentation in the Niagara Parks virtual Black history speaker series is Feb. 24. For more details visit niagaraparks.com/ blackhistory.











Left: Mike Werner and his dog Nala look over the ashes and debris left by a fire that destroyed his business and several other businesses at 1238 Townline Rd. on Feb. 9. Right: Various photo

# Fire aftermath: Burned-out NOTL facility wasn't ju

Continued from Front Page

what used to be a chicken barn, but they were all converted into shops."

While it's clearly devastating to Werner's business, he also sympathizes with what he describes as a "community" of car and racing enthusiasts who had built a home base there, operating several shops and doing custom parts and modifications to mainly racing vehicles.

"It's a particularly big loss for those in Niagara's racing community," he said. "Most of the shops are really part of that racing community. And so it was a really big hit for them."

He said the community was "just a bunch of local guys" from the Niagara region, who often raced at Merrittville Speedway and Humberstone Speedway.

"It was a nice community here where they would have their own separate shops, where they would come together and swap parts," he said. "It was really cool."

"And then they had Doug and Todd Gordon here, who are pretty big pillars in the racing community. They build a lot of the frames for the race cars and they're both really well-known racers as well. Doug Gordon's in the hall of fame."

Knowing some of the vehicles that were lost to the fire, he thinks the damage is more than the \$2.5 million estimated by Ruller.

"There were some (vehicles) that were pretty pricey in there. There's millions of damage, no doubt."

He said the loss will have a "trickle effect" on the racing community, "because a lot of race teams were here."

"Places like Merrittville and Humberstone, hopefully they'll help out the local racers and get them back on their feet as much as they can," he said.

He said insurance is likely going to be a challenge for many of the racers, as it is "hard to get insurance" on a racing car.

"That's quite a bit of loss there."

Thankfully some areas were spared by the blaze, Werner said.

"Nothing was really touched in the greenhouses. There's a lot of cars and boats in there that were saved. So that's good. It was mostly the shops and my shop that got the most impacted where they burned to the ground," he said.

Among the items saved from the fire were old military vehicles, boats and some items in storage.

The Niagara Military Vehicle Association was the first shop to open up on the property about 16 or 17 years ago, Werner said.

"Most people don't know how big the property was and (how much stuff was)

in the building."

He didn't comment on exactly how many businesses were operating there, but said "it was mostly just people who were working on their cars and hobbyists as well just working on their passion, whether that was racing or (mods)."

As for Werner's business, all that's left now are some large logs he had yet to start working on. But he is maintaining a positive outlook and hopes to reclaim his business from the ashes.

"I know that I can rebuild and come back, so I'm just not gonna think about what happened and just move forward. It'll be a good story once I come back from this, how the whole business was burned to the ground, but I'll rise up and I'll be able to rebuild it. I'm completely confident in that."

He said he's built a "good customer base" and is confident people will con-

tinue to app able to build "But, it'll

Just a little,"
"I've beer
and was just
I could affor

and double
He said th
a CNC mac
to do "the r
in my head

One proje work on wa piece of we

"This yea foot table. I years and th contact The I was gonna there."

He said h

# LIDA KOWAL MBA, CPA, CMA CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT



LIDA KOWAL

Personal Tax • Corporate Tax • Small Business Specialist •
 Accounting & Bookkeeping Services •

We are open Monday-Friday, 9-5
Drop off and pickup same as last year
Thank you for your continued support

905-468-5300

1627 Niagara Stone Rd., Unit B2, Virgil, ON
\*Tax preparer is approved by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)





















### RIDDLEMETHIS

I am a five letter word. Take away the first letter and I am a place's name. Take away the first two letters and I become the opposite of the five letter word. What am I?

Last issue: I'm (usually) white and used for cutting and grinding. When I'm damaged, humans usually remove me or fill me. For most animals I am a useful tool. What am I?

**Answer: Teeth** 

Answered first by: Sheelah Young

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Jason "Riddle Master" Baker, Margie Enns, Lori and Mark Petrick, Susan Hamilton, Margaret Garaughty, Susan Pohorly, Sheryl Christensen, Gary Davis, Sue Davies, Mike Drolet, Sheila Meloche, Carol Durling, Ron Bremner, Mary Drost, Sheila Meloche, Pam Dowling, Paulette Kennedy, Taleah Bucci, Lisa Gerrie, Robert Wilms

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

# ist a business, it was a 'community'

reciate his work when he's d again.

take a little bit of work now. 'he said.

in the business for five years t getting to that point where rd to get the (new) machine my production."

at automated system, called hine, would have allowed him eally crazy stuff that's been for years,"

ct he had been excited to s a huge table out of one solid eping willow.

r I was going to make a 21had saved the slab for three nen I was going to actually Lake Report as well because make a huge marketing plan

e thinks it would have been

the biggest solid wood table in Niagara.

While he estimates his losses alone are around \$1 milion, he's focusing on how to rebuild.

"I like to keep a positive attitude and just strategize," he said.

He has set up a GoFundMe to help with the cost of rebuilding the business. It can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/ help-rebuild-reclaimed-from-roots.

His is one of several online fundraisers started for victims of the fire. Others include: www.gofundme.com/f/support-allen-gilleta-after-a-devastating-fire, www. gofundme.com/f/lets-make-magicfor-dan-paulin-aka-danny-zzzz, www. gofundme.com/f/help-john-after-massive-fire, www.gofundme.com/f/helpross-crowe-race-again, www.gofundme. com/f/brendans-turn and www.gofundme.com/f/help-doug-todd-gordon-afterdevastating-fire.



A photo from a GoFundMe for fire victims shows an aerial view of the destruction. SOURCED

# Performance

SNOWBLOWERS, CHAINSAWS, MOWERS, LEAF BLOWERS

Service & Repairs to all makes and models Pick up/Delivery Service Available

905-468-9735

901 East/West Line, NOTL



### St. Mark's Anglican Church Niagara-on-the-Lake

# SUNDAY SERVICE

41 BYRON ST. | 905-468-3123 | STMARKS@COGECO.NET FIND US ONLINE AT: WWW.STMARKSNOTL.ORG, OR ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

### RENT MY HUSBAND in Niagara-on-the-Lake

See what he can do for you at: www.rentmyhusband-notl.com

Or call me, **Marion** (905) 321-5776





Distributors and Manufacturers of: Cleaning Products · Food Service Disposables · Safety Products · Paper Products

> www.corpfs.com 1-800-661-3259



Pauline Reimer Gibson is an Audiologist with over 20 years of experience who loves helping people of all ages in the community.

**Book a complimentary** hearing test today at 905.468.9176

504 Line 2 Road, Virgil ON



A global leader in hearing healthcare

amplifon



Sunday Service Online www.graceunitedchurch.com Stay safe, stay home.



residents first."

289-697-5757 JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA

Renovations Additions Custom Homes Kitchens Decks & Fences & Much more!



Proud winners of NOTL's Choice Awards 2020





### Keeping spirits high in difficult times

Penny-Lynn Cookson Special to The Lake Report

There's a pond on either side of a dip in the road near Ryerson Park. When the weather is warm it can be smelly but always intriguing with the sounds of frogs croaking, red-winged blackbirds chek cheking and mallards splashing as they dive to feed.

Now, even on the coldest days, there is another familiar sound from the pond. It's the welcome scrape of skate blades on ice as brave families enjoy one of the few outdoor things we can do during these pandemic days: walk or skate at distance with another.

As I recently watched the skaters with pleasure, the scene reminded me of a remarkable winter land-scape, "The Hunters in the Snow," painted by the famous Flemish Renaissance artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder in 1565.

That year was the coldest winter of the 16th century, during a period that became known as "The Little Ice



Pieter Bruegel the Elder The Hunters in the Snow, 1565 Oil on wood panel Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. SUPPLIED

Age." Bruegel has captured the fatigue of three hunters as they plod home through the heavy snow with their dogs.

To the left, adults are busy tending an outdoor fire, suggesting preparation of a welcome communal meal at the inn.

The day is grey, the air crisp. Crows and a magpie are on the alert for food and below the hill a frozen river and two ponds are active with skaters of all ages, some even playing a game with sticks and a rock!

On the bridge, a hunched solitary figure carries a heavy bundle of wood. Work

must continue. Beneath the imagined grandeur of jagged mountain peaks which, in reality, do not exist in the Netherlands, Bruegel conveys that even in harsh difficult times, life, faith and the human spirit rise and endure.

Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian who taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years. She was also head of extension services at the Art Gallery of Ontario. See her upcoming lecture series "Art and Revolution, From Cave Art to the Future Thursdays" on Zoom, March 11 to April 29 at RiverBrink Art Museum, Oueenston.

# Not for the squeamish: Museum looks at army medical practices of 18th century

Barbara Worthy Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's virtual presentation, "The First Cut is the Deepest," takes a look at medical practice in the army during the Regency Period.

This fascinating subject might not be for the faint-hearted or squeamish as military medical practice in the 18th century was not exactly sophisticated. And it included a lot of improvisation – and whiskey.

Tune in to the online lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 11 a.m. and be ready for your toes to curl.

In the presentation, Scott Finlay explores surgical training in the 18th century, the various medical substances used at that time, and will display some of the surgeons' tools of the trade.

Staples of the doctors' toolbox were leeches, bone saws, chisels, pliers, clamps and drills – and not an anaesthetic in sight. That's where the whiskey came in useful.

And much of the im-



A quack surgeon of the 18th century. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

mediate "nursing" of the wounded and dying on the battlefield was left to camp followers – the wives and women who followed their men in battle.

The life of a soldier in military camps in this era would have been dirty, cramped, bleak and a perfect place for disease and illness to spread. Hardly a place for battle wounds to heal.

But everything they learned in those harsh conditions would influence the future of medical care. Finlay has been an interpretation officer and corporate events co-ordinator with Parks Canada since 2010. He is well-known in Niagara for his portrayal of Gen. Isaac Brock in many re-enactments and is a popular emcee for community events.

As a professional corporate entertainer, facilitator and creative director for 25 years, Finlay has performed at more than 1,000 conferences and participated in numerous corporate videos and television presentations.



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!

### Pam Farrell

Pam Farrell of St. Davids has been nominated by Win Laar of NOTL as one of our Pandemic Heroes. Here is what Laar said in her nomination:

As a former teacher, Pam grew increasingly aware of food insecurity in the families of many of her students and the existence of food deserts within cities.

When the former Scouts headquarters building in Niagara Falls came up for sale in 2019 Pam bought it with her own money and was granted charitable status for GROW Community Food Literacy Centre.

The GROW market opened Aug. 1, 2020, to members of the community who can demonstrate that they are below the low-income cut-off, sometimes referred to as the "poverty line."

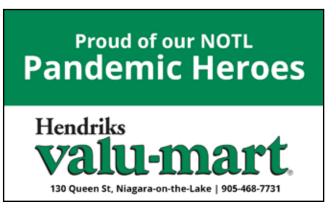
Now, in the most impoverished area in the entire Niagara region, GROW members shop for healthy, nutritional, fresh produce and non-perishables, as well as eggs, dairy, bread, frozen meats and fish, all at discounted prices. GROW has brought dignity and hope to those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and to those who for various reasons are struggling.

Pam believes food is a basic human right. Nether she nor any of the many volunteers working at GROW receive any payment. Plans for when restrictions ease include holding community dinners and cooking classes. Already a sense of community has developed, as people socialize in line while waiting their turn to enter the market, where they are always welcomed with warmth and friendliness.

GROW is at 4377 Fourth Ave. in Niagara Falls. All those who are below the low-income cut-off are welcome to become members.

For more information, go to www.growcflc.com





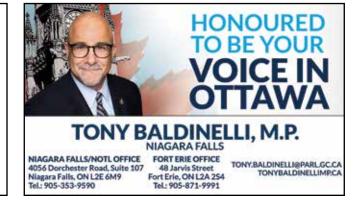




A sincere thank you to all of NOTL's Pandemic Heroes.

The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's favourite newspaper





# Kayaker braves the elements for wintry rides among ice floes

Gail Kendall Special to The Lake Report

An adventurous Niagaraon-the-Lake woman has taken embracing winter to a whole new level.

Carla Rienzo headed out on to the water Sunday as she does most days to enjoy a kayak ride amid the ice floes and geese.

Starting her paddle at Smugglers Cove just off the Niagara Parkway, Rienzo begins her journey by disengaging her kayak from atop her car, connecting it to a small wheeled trailer and then with paddles and ice pick in hand, pulls it all down the steep hill to the river.

Wearing a Gore-Tex dry suit and boots, she wades into the icy waters and begins to chip away at the ice in order to clear a path for her kayak.

She dons a spray apron around her waist which will connect to the opening of her kayak once she is seated. This is an important piece of clothing that will assist in keeping water out of the kayak.

Once seated in the "cockpit," with paddle in hand, she is ready to go.

Rienzo's course and length of time out is determined by the weather and water conditions.





Left: Carla Rienzo kayaks on an icy Niagara River. Right: Rienzo chops a path through the ice to get the kayak in the water. GAIL KENDALL PHOTOS

She explains that on this day she was not able to get much farther than Fort Mississauga due to a massive ice sheet.

"An enormous field of crushed ice that undulated in the very gentle waves as though breathing. It was as very much alive as I was," Rienzo says.

"I followed its edge out into the lake then veered back into the Niagara River and meandered in between the ice floes all the way back to Smugglers Cove. The trip back was a slow one due to the always quick speed of the current out in the middle of the river but the reward was the opportunity to slalom between the ice."

While Sunday was a sunny day with perfect conditions, that may not always be the case. The weather can change in a moment, creating a struggle against strong wind and current to return her safely to her point of departure.

While people watched this lone figure paddle her way from the mouth of the Niagara River into the openness of Lake Ontario, she made the journey look effortless. The backdrop of Fort Niagara, together with the white ice on the blue water, offered the perfect view of a very adventurous woman.

Why does she do it?
"I will take winter
paddling over summer.
Between the exquisite ice
formations (floes, sheets,
caves, volcanoes) and the
proliferation of waterfowl
and wildlife sightings, the
electric-white ice up against

an often black sky, the aloneness and oneness of being where no one else is, the magic for me is irresistible."

Rienzo is a relatively new NOTL resident who is passionate about fitness and adventures in any climate.

It is not unusual for her to run or snowshoe the circumference of the Whirlpool Golf Course in Niagara Falls, or cycle many kilometres before hauling her kayak to the Niagara River to begin a journey through the icy water.

She runs a meet-up group called the Niagara Adventure Travel Group that includes power walks, snowshoeing, hiking, cycling with visits to local eateries and shops. On occasion Rienzo will hold an event that will teach participants how to attach snowshoes, what style of traction devices to purchase and how to wear them.

And it's no coincidence that she drives a Honda Fit with the license plate "PHIT."

# Coyotes being hunted illegally on NOTL farmers' land

Gail Kendall Special to The Lake Report

A number of NOTL residents have growing concerns over the safety and lack of respect for area land owners who have not given permission to hunters to come onto their private land to hunt and kill coyotes.

Using dogs to drive coyotes out of bushes into open fields, they eventually end up close to rural roads, compromising the safety of the animals and any people out walking in those areas.

Lisa Jeffrey, a longtime NOTL resident and creator of the Facebook group Niagara-on-the-Lake Coyotes, says the issue stems from the fact that what once was rural NOTL is not so rural any longer.

Hunting boundaries have



A coyote crosses John Street East. FILE/RICHARD HARLEY

not been updated in ages and need to be addressed for the safety of residents, tourists and grape workers, she says.

Jeffrey says on Feb. 5 a group of hunters arrived at a private farm in three separate vehicles containing hunting dogs and cages.

The dogs were being used to sniff out the coyotes from

the bush and force them toward the open road to be shot.

These hunters were hunting in an area without direct permission from the property owner.

The owner contacted the Niagara Regional Police, who arrived and sternly warned the group and told them that if they returned to the area, they would be charged with trespassing and be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In addition to this incident, Jeffrey has heard from other land owners who said hunters have illegally been trespassing on their farms and properties, putting themselves and their own animals at risk.

Jeffrey said the farmers say they actually love to have the coyotes on their properties to keep the mice and vole population down. Without the aid of the coyotes, their farms and nearby homes can become overpopulated with these rodents.

On Feb. 8, one of the hunters posted on the coyotes Facebook page, sharing explicit and graphic photos of his group's recent hunt and kill.

There were a number of dead coyotes lined up in the photo with the hunters' guns as a backdrop. They even included a photo of one of their bloodied dogs used in the hunt.

Jeffrey said her next course of action is to contact NOTL council to discuss updating the hunting boundaries for the safety of the town, its residents, workers and tourists.

She started the coyotes Facebook group in 2016 because, growing up in the area, she has always had a love for all animals and a respect for wildlife.

She became keenly interested in coyotes when, as a young girl living on a concession road, a coyote pup arrived at her farmhouse one day with a rope tied

around its neck. Assuming it had been separated from its mother, her parents cut off the rope and it continued to frequent their property, choosing to sleep outside their barn each night.

Jeffrey decided at that time to begin studying and learning more about their behaviour and came to a better understanding and respect for the species.

Area residents are encouraged to join her Facebook group to learn more about the role coyotes play in our ecosystem.

The mandate of the group states it is "in support for the protection of the coyotes in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A place for positive discussion and education about coyote behaviour and how we can as humans learn to co-exist peacefully with wildlife."

### Who are your **Pandemic Heroes?**

Help honour them by letting us know your NOTL Heroes and how they've made a positive impact during COVID-19. Send submissions to **editor@niagaranow.com** 









Essential workers



David Anderson (centre) of 4 Roads Management Services Inc. briefs NOTL councillors on the State of the Infrastructure on Feb. 8 SUPPLIED

### Town \$1.8 million behind in roads funding

Evan Saunders Special to The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is about \$1.8 million short of having a sustainable budget for roads, says a company hired by the town to assess its infrastructure management.

And town councillors don't know where that money is going to come from.

"An underfunded plan is a plan to fail" was the mantra repeated by David Anderson, president of 4 Roads Management Services Inc., as he outlined a report on the shortfall during a committee of the whole meeting on Feb. 8.

He warned that while the town's current funding of \$3.1 million per year is sufficient to maintain roads as they are now, it isn't enough to expand, maintain new developments or perform major reconstruction.

"The current funding level appears to sustain the system – however, to restate it, there's very few reconstruction projects. It's mostly preservation and resurfacing," Anderson told councillors.

He said inevitable additional construction projects mean that "\$3.1 million isn't going to be enough to maintain the condition of the system" in the long-term.

The report recommended funding of more than \$4.9 million per year, an increase of roughly \$1.8 million, without adjusting for inflation or urban expansion.

In an interview Tuesday, Coun. Allan Bisback, chair of the town's finance committee, said right now there is no clear solution.

"Is there a plan in place right now to close that gap? No, there's not," he said.

He stressed the need for council to reassess its revenue opportunities.

"The only way we can close that gap is we need more revenue," he said.

"We need to engage with sidents somehow to say. 'Folks, there's gotta be a way to pay for this."

The report stressed the importance of organizing major projects among all assets, such as timing the replacement of water mains with the reconstruction of roads.

"We need to be prioritizing major projects" Bisback said, "There's a real need to understand the dependency (of certain projects) so that

we're not ripping up roads two or three times."

In an interview, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the additional funding is "\$1.8 million we don't have."

She thinks the town needs to look at how to boost the roads budget to somewhere between the current \$3.1 million and the recommended \$4.9 million. That larger number, she said, is the "platinum standard."

However, she said there needs to be more talk about a "sustainable budget."

"We need to have discussion with our residents and our business owners of 'how do we deal with the creation of a sustainable budget?' So that way we can provide the services they want. We can keep the town looking ahead of the game in terms of amenities and how we live and how people see us when they visit. So, we need to have that discussion."

She said the issue of shortfalls has been "kicked down the road by many councils."

"I'm not blaming the last one. I'm not blaming the one before that. I'm talking about over the last 20 years," she said. "And I just don't want to keep kicking it down the road."

That sentiment was echoed by Bisback.

"In my statement about the budget I said, 'This is a one-year budget. This is not a sustainable budget. It is a maintenance budget.' We need to look at what are some potential revenue opportunities going forward," he said.

The report noted that there is a paradigm shift taking place within Ontario asset management, with a move away from a capitalfocused approach toward a conditional approach.

The report informed councillors that the budget can and should vary from year to year based on what projects will optimize performance and investment.

By doing this, asset management becomes a matter of accurate timing and investment, more than setting a budget with an "arbitrary value," according to the report.

Town staff are set to report back on possible options to increase road asset funding.

Under a provincial regulation implemented in December 2017, municipalities are required to have an asset management plan in place for core assets by July 1, 2021.



Neighbours enjoy a game of driveway pickleball. SUBMITTED/ROSS ROBINSON



An icy Lake Ontario seen from NOTL. GAIL KENDALL



Lake Report contributor Gail Kendall spotted this window reflection on a stone building in Queenston while on a walk with her dog Willow. GAIL KENDALL



REALTY INC., BROKERAGE





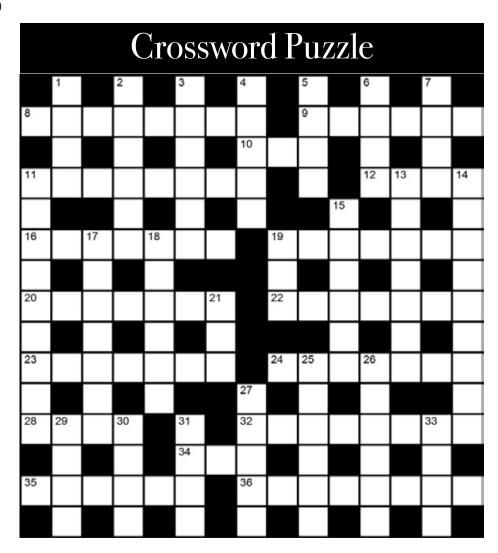
#### **Across**

- 8. Bucharest resident, for example (8)
- 9. To an excessive degree (6)
- 10. Company known as "Big Blue" (1,1,1)
- 11. Hearty Sunday lunch (3,5)
- 12. Fan blade (4)
- 16. Mobs (7)
- 19. Close-cropped hair style (4,3)
- 20. Solvent (7)
- 22. Before sunrise (7)
- 23. Piled carelessly (2,1,4)
- 24. As good as it gets (7)
- 28. Scotch partner (4)
- 32. Flattened (8)
- 34. Hard, durable wood (3)
- 35. Seller (6)
- 36. Science of heredity (8)

#### Down

- 1. Game played on horseback (4)
- 2. Capital of Croatia (6)
- 3. He asked "What is truth?" (6)
- 4. One (5)
- 5. Knock (4)
- 6. Very detailed picture receiver (1-1,2)
- 7. Scheme (4)
- 11. Pictures of people (9)
- 13. Applaud (7)
- 14. Twisted into a confusing mass (9)
- 15. Command (6)
- 17. Pepper (7)
- 18. Morning assemblies (6)
- 19. Drinking vessel (3)
- 21. Salesperson (3)
- 25. Nosedive (6)
- 26. Cracked (6)
- 27. Wonky (5)
- 29. Singles (4) 30. Assistant (4)
- 31. Tender (4)
- 33. Apiece (4)

# Have some fun



### Last issue's answers

¹o	² V	Α	³ L		⁴P	0	°s	Т	۴н	U	<sup>7</sup> M	0	<sup>8</sup> U	S
	_		J		Е		Α		0		Α		N	
°E	L	Е	С	Т	R	-1	С	Α	L		°c	Α	- 1	N
	L		-		-		Ι		Υ		Α		Т	
"н	Α	L	F	D	0	Z	Е	12N		13 L	0	<sup>14</sup> S	Е	<sup>15</sup> R
	G		Е		۵		ğΤ	0	G	Α		Α		Ε
<sup>17</sup> P	Ε	18 E	R	¹9S		<sup>20</sup>		U		21	N	U	R	Е
0		G		<sup>22</sup> M	Α	R	-1	N	Ε	R		С		L
<sup>23</sup> L	Α	R	V	Α		0		s		³s	25 T	Е	<sup>26</sup> P	s
Υ		Е		<sup>27</sup> S	Υ	N	°C		<sup>29</sup> B		R		Е	
»Р	31 A	Т	32 22	Н		33 <b>S</b>	0	٧	Ε	R	Е	-	G	N
	N		L		35A		Ν		F		L		Α	
35	N	С	Α		gΒ	0	Т	Т	0	М	L	Е	s	s
	Е		Ν		L		R		R		1		U	
37 E	Х	Α	G	G	Е	R	Α	Т	Ε		38S	0	s	0

		8	2		9			
		4		3	8			2
2		7	6			9		
							5	
1			9		5			8
	9							
		2			1	7		3
4			3	2		8		
			8		6	1		





#### DIRECT: 905.468.4214 125 QUEEN ST, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE









NIAGARA LUXURY LIFESTYLE

REYNOLDS REGIER H



DIAMOND

1799 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,300,000 A short drive from downtown where quality workmanship, style, comfort, and the pride of ownership, creates a warm impres



121 REGENT STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE - \$1,990,000



**FEATURE** 6762 CHRISTINE COURT, NIAGARA FALLS - \$1,825,000







This exquisite home is situated in one of Niagara's most prestigious areas Calaguiro Estates. This bright 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home presents, 3,430 square feet of unparalleled aesthetic and grace. finished on both levels meticulous attention to detail throughout creates the harmony of vision that is the essence of this Niagara jewel. This rare opportunity awaits.



DSREGIER.C





Michelle Reynolds Broker



Maxwell Kim, 8, and Royse Kim, 4, pack blocks of snow for an igloo at Voices of Freedom Park on Regent Street. RICHARD HARLEY

# Dr. Brown: Near and far, rays of light in COVID fight

Dr. Martha Brown Truncale, whose father William Brown usually writes our weekly medicine and science column, is a dentist in Kodiak, Alaska. Her mother lives in a NOTL nursing home, where she contracted COVID-19.

Dr. Martha Brown Truncale Special to The Lake Report

Six months ago, the prospect of an effective vaccine for COVID-19 was truly uncertain. Many bet against it. After all, we can't beat the common cold and that's a coronavirus.

Today there are a variety of vaccines and once-scarce PPE is more available. Experienced physicians and nurses have a grasp of the clinical picture and best practice treatment protocols to employ.

Each of these hurdles was hard won. I guess we just assumed that getting the vaccine into people's arms was the easy part. In keeping with COVID-19, inoculating our citizens will be hard and timing, as it turns out, is everything.

I learned a lot this month about timing. As a dentist, my job is located at the end of the human airway. Riskier yet, I make an impressive



Dr. Martha Brown Truncale, whose father William Brown usually writes our weekly medicine and science column, is a dentist in Kodiak, Alaska. SUPPLIED

aerosol doing my work.

For this, I earned my vaccine in the second tier of prioritized citizens in the state of Alaska. By Jan. 25, I had received the second dose. My work days still involve suffocating lavers of PPE, but my mind is much more at ease.

For a state with considerable geographic hurdles to vaccine delivery, I am pleased to meet a broader group of people every day who report being vaccinated. The queue continues to move efficiently in this small state.

My mother who lives in a nursing home in Niagaraon-the-Lake wasn't so

lucky. A single day before she was to receive her vaccine, she was diagnosed with COVID-19. The bug beat her to the finish line.

There are undoubtedly similar stories around the world in the race to deploy vaccine. For a facility that managed to keep COVID out all year, it was a heartbreaking development for staff, residents and families. I am happy that the worst has passed but in the wake there remains an understandably fatigued staff and sorrow for many families.

Now, I will relate a happier third experience with timing where the outcome will tell us something about

the future. Recently, a longterm care home in Juneau, Alaska, reported the same heart-wrenching story of the sudden appearance of COVID among staff and residents.

Over a period of two weeks, it was reported that more than 12 people tested positive for COVID-19. Among residents, who are particularly vulnerable to illness, nearly everyone was symptom-free.

Why? Close to 80 per cent of the residents and staff had received at least one of the shots in the twojab series. Just in time.

While it might be tempting to shrug and observe that this outcome is expected, I found the report joyful. After so much bad news, I felt relief for those residents, their families and the staff. I felt joy for all of us.

The news article reported that morale among the residents was pretty good as they passed through their quarantine uneventfully and that another clinic will bring the facility's vaccination rate up to 87 per cent for residents and 81 per cent for the staff.

As if our COVID vocabulary needed expansion, a new term also jumped out

of the article, "vaccinated positives." Yes, a vaccinated person can be COVID positive.

Where most of us hoped that flinching twice for the vaccine would be a "get out of jail free card," the reality is that the shots are a "stay out of the ICU card."

Hopefully, it will mean mild illness or a symptomfree course but we can still get infected and presumably infect others. The article observes that, "keeping people from getting sick and keeping people virus-free are not the same thing."

Now, on this score, an early study out of Israel also caught my eye this week. As the news tells us, Israel has done an efficient job of giving the jab to its citizens.

The study measured the viral loads of 2.897 unvaccinated people matched (age and sex) with the same number of people who had received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

The takeaway was that the viral load was reduced four-fold for infections occurring 12 to 28 days after the first dose of vaccine. (Similar to the Juneau nursing home experience) A lower viral load does suggest lower infectiousness and that could really put a dent in a raging pan-

Symptoms in "vaccinated positives" will depend on the recipients developing a strong immune response to the vaccine and whether they had sufficient time to do so before an exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Now, we need to consider whether the vaccine delivered has efficacy to the variant contracted.

These threads of good news timing, return us to "our best defence, is a good offence" and that means getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, observing physical distance and washing our hands.

Although we can feel some confidence that we may not fall ill ourselves, we can still be a "vaccinated positive" and the jury is out on whether we will have viral loads low enough not to infect those around us.

But from these rays of light, we can observe that COVID outbreaks could taper to smaller and less severe events very soon by chipping away at the vaccine mountain in front of us and keeping our pandemic behaviours in force.



General contracting Niagara-on-the-Lake 905-468-1444 Ioneyconstruction.com

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION RENOVATION AND NEW BUILDS **CUSTOM MILLWORK** 









### Winnifred Wesley

A Niagara Public School Class photo from around the turn of the 20th century shows Winnifred Wesley, who was a descendent of an escaped slave. Winnifred and the other women in her family worked from a young age as servants, nurses or laundresses for local white families. Many local Black women during this era not only maintained the home and worked on the family farms, but they also had to find employment to help alleviate the economic hardships their families faced. Over time, the Wesley women acquired several properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake and were able to sell them when needed to ease their economic stress. From servants to landowners, these women help to better understand the lives of Black women around the turn of that century and how their hard work affected generations after them.

### ARCHITEXT

# Home grown ...

Brian Marshall Columnist

Out of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France came an architectural style that attempted to combine functionalism liberally sprinkled with ornamental elements borrowed from the Greek, Roman and Renaissance traditions to establish a "modern" 20th-century architecture.

In England, after an initial pushback of adopting anything foreign, architects modified the expression with elements from the English baroque. On this side of the pond, the Americans embraced what came to be known as Beaux-Arts with abandon and designed richly-decorated private

**Pauline Reimer Gibson** 

**Audiologist** 



Edwardian missing its original columns but leaded glass still in place. SUPPLIED

residences and public buildings in the style.

Here at home, Beaux-Arts expressions were largely limited to buildings meant to impress: banks, schools, government seats and the like. It wasn't that the public didn't like the style, but I suspect it was a little too grand for the prevailing conservative social mores when it came to designing their houses.

So, in the tradition established since the settlement of Upper Canada, architects drew inspiration from both European (particularly English) and American Beaux-Arts expressions, filtered through the screen of domestic socio-economic-political opinion, in an attempt to develop a variant that appealed to the homebuilding public.

Historically, this process had resulted in modified, but immediately recognizable, expressions of a particular style; consider our interpretation of the Queen Anne, for example. On this occasion, however, something very distinct was achieved: a regional style that has come to be known as Edwardian Classicism.

The earliest Edwardians were rooted upon the Beaux-Arts "classical" building form; a symmetrical, square house with hipped roof and centred dormer, tall, balanced chimneys and a projecting frontispiece. To this was added an expansive porch with classically inspired elements and generous windows often sporting leaded glass panes. On large houses, it was not

uncommon to see a Palladian (or Palladian variant) window in the frontispiece above the main entry.

As homes designed in the Edwardian Classicism style grew in popularity, expressions geared to those of more modest income were developed.

On narrow town or city lots, a front-facing gable form (common to the earlier Queen Anne-style homes built on similar lots) was dressed with a classical porch, shingles around prominent paired or ribboned windows in the gable, leaded glass (often hexagonal) panes and, particularly in the 1920s, a feature stained-glass insert.

On larger lots, designers working in the style readily incorporated the American Foursquare building form upon which they deployed similar embellishment.

Between 1900 and 1930, home-grown Edwardian Classicism reigned supreme as stylistically "the" house to build across Ontario.

### Obituary

### James Brown



BROWN, James- With heavy hearts, the family of James Brown announce his peaceful passing on the early morning of February 12, 2021 at his home, with family by his side. Jim was born on December 25th, 1937 to Tom and Iris Brown in Motherwell, Scotland. He spent his childhood there getting his education as a draughtsman, as well as discovering a love of golf

that would last a life time.

In 1959, he was conscripted into National Service with The King's Own Scottish Borderers and served in Rank as Lance Corporal for two years, about which he was deeply proud.

He met his beloved wife of 60 years, Helen Rose Hepburn, at the dancing in Motherwell and on June 2, 1962 they were married. After starting their life together in Scotland, they attended Expo 1967 in Montreal. They decided to immigrate to Canada and settled in St. Catharines, Ontario. It was there that they welcomed their first daughter Catherine Veronica in 1968. Seven years later, they welcomed their second daughter Nora Elizabeth in 1975 and the family settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake. When Helen saw the orchard view, she said she was never leaving. When Jimmie saw the golf course, he quite agreed.

Jim began his life long career as a respected mechanical engineer at Provincial Crane in Niagara Falls. Of note was his contribution to the retractable roof for the Diamondbacks Stadium in Arizona.

The NOTL Golf Course was a special place to him. He served as respected Games Captain for 5 years, was the 1984 "Almost" Club Champion, and was honoured with The Legends Trophy. Jim enjoyed art and jazz, regularly visiting galleries and clubs with his family in Toronto. And recently, he enjoyed supporting the Jazz Festivals held in Niagara. Jim had a strong faith and was a dedicated and active member of Grace United Church.

His charismatic nature, clever wit, loving, kind, and generous nature drew people to him. He was a mentor, guide, and a good friend to all.

Jim was deeply proud of and had a great love for his four grandchildren. He relished going on adventures with them and applauding their accomplishments.

The family wishes to offer a special thank you to Mike Freel who was a dear and treasured friend in recent years. Jim is lovingly remembered by his wife Helen; his daughters Cathie (Derek) Pennington and Nora (Derek) Vedress; and his grandchildren Isobel, J.D., Grace, and Luke.

Jim was predeceased by his parents Tom and Iris Brown; his in-laws James and Catherine Hepburn.

Cremation has taken place. Under current pandemic conditions, funeral arrangements are private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Jim can be made to Grace United Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

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

Book a complimentary hearing test today at 905.468.9176

amplifon

A global leader in

hearing healthcare.











Top left: A gaggle of geese huddle together at the docks in Old Town. Top right: A snowed-in vehicle on Queen Street. Bottom left: Kate Lamotte and Nick McClure outside their Queen Street apartment. Mid-right: An icy Niagara River. Bottom right: Town snow removal crews work to clear the roads in town. RICHARD HARLEY PHOTOS

### History in the Vineyard take-out dinner was a huge success

Tony Chisholm Special to The Lake Report

Our second History in the Vineyard (at home) take-out event on Feb. 11 was very successful.

The committee that worked on it was chaired by Mona Babin, treasurer of the Niagara Historical Society. We all worked closely with Paul Harber of Ravine and both of them deserve huge credit for the take-out's success.

In all, 220 meals were prepared and distributed, and 15 cases of Ravine wine were sold.

Amy Klassen of the NOTL Museum said, "So



David Watt, Ryan Crawford and Paul Harber contributed to the take-out event. FILE PHOTO/RICHARD HARLEY

many people were excited to pick up their orders and were smiling and grateful for the opportunity. We were obviously filling a need with this fundraiser."

"And I saw a lot of new faces, which is also a great sign that we are reaching past just our membership and hopefully introducing new people to the work of the museum and the Friends of Fort George."

Everyone was pleased with how smoothly the

dinner moved despite the high volume of meals. The organization of the meal choices, pick up times and delivery and wine distribution went without a hitch. This time we added a delivery option that allowed many more people to participate without having to drive to St. Davids.

It was not only highly successful but a lot of fun for the key people who planned it and helped distribute the food.

Special thanks to Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard for his eager participation and the chefs of the Garrison House and Ruffino's Pasta Bar and Grill for

providing such delicious, gourmet meals.

Here are just a few comments received from people that evening:

"Just arrived back with our dinner and had to let vou know we are sooooo impressed with all the organization, from instructions and food containers to historical information for Black history. You and your team have done an amazing job irrespective of how good the ingestible part is!!! AND we are looking forward to our dinner as well. Many thanks and congrats on your successful fundraiser."

"Loved our wonderful dinner. Everything was SO-O-O-O delicious. Thanks to you and to the NOTL Museum/Friends of Fort George staff and to Paul Harber for having put on a sensational event/taste bud treat!!!"

"I wanted to thank you and compliment the historical society on History in the Vineyard. I know from experience how difficult it is to find COVID-friendly fundraising initiatives these days and how much organizing is involved. Well done!"

Tony Chisholm is president of the Friends of Fort



### **RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS**

www.RavensheadHomes.com James Green -289-969-5991 **KITCHENS - BATHROOMS - BASEMENTS** 









### **AUTHENTIC BRITISH PUB FARE & DRAFT ALES TO GO**

We offer an extensive menu filled with British authentic, home-style cooked food, available through take-out!

AVAILABLE DAILY FROM 12-9PM | CALL 905.468.3411 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY

### WE ARE HERE FOR ALL OF YOUR LOCKDOWN NEEDS



#### TAKE-OUT MENU

APPETIZERS	LO
Garlic Bread with Cheese 🥟 \$8	ALI
Fresh Cut Fries \$7	SU
Add a side of Guinness gravy, curry	CA
sauce or grated cheese for \$1.50 or make it a poutine for \$3	> Fis
➤ Homemade English Sausage Rolls\$12	Sh
Potato Skins\$14	Po
Chicken Wings \$15	🦫 Ro
French Onion Soup\$8	Ch
BBQ Bacon Wrapped Scallops\$16	🦫 Ste
	Re
Crab Cakes	Me
Deep Fried Pickles\$9	Tu
	Ch
HOUSE-MADE BURGERS	Bu
ALL SERVED WITH FRESH CUT FRIES OR	Sh
SUB GARDEN SALAD FOR \$3.50 OR	EX
CAESAR OR GREEK SALAD FOR \$4.00	
Angus Burger\$14 (lettuce, tomato & pickle)	PI
The Red Eye \$16	⇒ Aw
(fried egg, bacon, cheddar & hot	Fis
sauce)	Ba
➤ Olde Smokey	Ba
(bacon, KC BBQ Sauce, crispy onion,	Sh
cheddar & chipotle mayo)	🦫 Ste
Bacon Cheese Burger \$16	Liv
(cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato & pickle)	EX
Beyond Meat Burger @	S/
Bacon Portobello Mushroom \$16	Ca
(bacon, mushrooms & Swiss cheese)	Gr
EXTRAS: Sautéed onions or	Ga
mushrooms on a burger +\$2	Ch
	Ra.
D DCC C D DC	Isla
DESSERTS	.5/(

#### OCAL FAVOURITES

L SERVED WITH FRESH CUT FRIES OR IB GARDEN SALAD FOR \$3.50 OR NESAR OR GREEK SALAD FOR \$4.00

Fish Butty · · · · · \$	15
Shrimp In a Basket\$	15
Portobello Mushroom Melt @ 🔊 \$	16
Roast Beef Dip Sandwich\$	17
Chicken Fingers \$	15
Steak and Guinness Poutine \$	17
Reuben Sandwich\$	17
Meat Loaf Sandwich \$	16
Turkey Club Sandwich @\$	16
Chicken Caesar Wrap\$	16
Buffalo Chicken Wrap\$	16
Shepherd's Pie Poutine \$	16
EXTRAS: Gluten-free bread +\$2	

#### JB FARE

\$18
\$18
\$16
\$16
\$17
\$17

#### ALADS

Caesar Salad 🖭	2
Greek Salad @ 🔊 \$1	2
Garden Salad @ 🗪 \$1	1
Choice of dressing: Italian, Balsamic,	
Ranch, Blue Cheese, or Thousand	
Island	

ADD: Fresh Chicken \$5, Bread Roll \$2.50, Extra Dressing \$0.75, GF Bun

All nrices nlus HST



Cheesecake of the day.....\$8

Bread Pudding.....\$8





### **NOW OFFERING FREE DELIVERY** WITHIN NOTL!



#### **SPECIALS**

#### FAM JAM MEAL SPECIAL | SERVES 4 PEOPLE



**Combine any 4 Pub Mains with sides** Includes large family Garden, Greek or Caesar Salad (\$10 per additional person)

Add an Angel Growler and a bottle of House Red or White for just \$30

#### **WEEKLY SPECIALS**

All prices plus HST.

<b>Daily Lunch Special</b> (served 12pm - 4pm) · · · · ·
MONDAY: Buck-a-Cluck
TUESDAY: Pick-Up Deal   15% off pick-up orders (cannot be combined with any other offers)
<b>WEDNESDAY: BOGO BURGERS!</b> Buy 1, Get 1 Half Price Buy any house made burger and get the second half price
THURSDAY: Liver & Onions
FRIDAY: Fish Fri-Yay
SATURDAY: Baked Chicken Curry
SUNDAY: Roast Beef Dinner\$20 Slow roasted beef served with peas, carrots, parsnips, Yorkshire pudding, and mashed or roasted potatoes

VISIT OLDEANGELINN.COM FOR FULL MENUS

#### WHAT MAKES A GREAT PIE EVEN BETTER? A GREAT PINT!

ALL OF ANGEL'S DRAFT BEERS NOW AVAILABLE FOR TAKE-OUT. FROM \$22 FOR 640Z GROWLER.

### **NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A PINT?**

**BOTTLES OF HOUSE WINE AVAILABLE** FOR TAKE-OUT FROM \$25.



### **BRING IN THIS COUPON FOR** 15% OFF TAKE-OUT ORDERS

(Excluding alcohol and specials)

'PROBABLY' THE BEST TAKE-OUT IN THE WORLD

224 Regent Street Phone: 905.468.3411 oldeangelinn.com