



## NOTL man forced from OUTniagara board prior to sex allegations

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

A Niagara organization that supports and lobbies for the LGBTQ+ community has parted ways with one of its directors, days before a video surfaced that makes serious, unproven sexual allegations against the same board member.

OUTniagara says that four days after the Feb. 13 resignation, an online video

*Continued on Page 5*



## Data leak suggests NOTLers made just three donations to 'freedom convoy'

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Leaked data from the crowdfunding site GiveSendGo appears to show that just three people with Niagara-on-the-Lake addresses donated to the "freedom convoy" of trucks that tied up downtown Ottawa with three weeks of protests over COVID-19 safety regulations.

While the data, leaked by a hacker, has not been confirmed by GiveSendGo,

*Continued on Page 3*

# If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break

Irvine Road homes 'drowning in flood water and bureaucratic paper-pushing,' residents say



The van der Zalm's helped the Hall family build a sandbag wall around their home last Thursday to prevent potential flooding. Charlie Hall said the home would have been inundated otherwise. Pictured: Sandy Hall, Jimmy van der Zalm, Judy Benezra, Trevor van der Zalm and Charlie Hall. EVAN SAUNDERS

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Sandbag barriers and high-powered water pumps were strewn across Irvine Road last week as residents worked overtime to save

their homes from severe flood water damage during Thursday's deluge.

And what seemed like the act of Good Samaritans helping their neighbours was actually the desperate struggle of a community to prevent their properties

from being destroyed due to the lack of proper drainage infrastructure in the area.

"How many times do houses have to fill with water before the town actually does something for the taxpayers of the town?" Jimmy van der Zalm said

on Saturday.

After last week's rains, Irvine Road was under water. Murky run-off water several feet deep had pooled on the south side of Lakeshore Road and was steadily flooding all the properties to the north as it drained

toward Lake Ontario, overwhelming the municipal drainage system.

"There's 400 acres of farmland collecting water and it's all being channelled under Lakeshore Road

*Continued on Page 10*

## NOTL Minor Hockey's go-to guy

Tim Taylor  
The Lake Report

When Christine van Rijn-Davis found a listing for goaltender equipment on the Buy Nothing Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page, she leapt into action, responding immediately to the offer of free goalie gear.

The Buy Nothing site is a kind of community exchange, where people

who have something they no longer need, offer it to people who have a use for it.

Van Rijn-Davis knew her husband of 14 years, Glen Davis, could really make use of the highly sought-after hockey gear.

Davis, 51, has been the volunteer equipment manager for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association for four years.

He knows the value of goaltender gear.

"Goaltender equipment is so expensive," says Davis. "It stops many young players from even trying out. There is nothing worse than buying a set, just to find the player loses interest."

A quick shop at local a sporting goods store puts the cost of goalie equip-

*Continued on Page 15*



Glen Davis is the volunteer equipment manager for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association. He finds high-value goaltending equipment for would-be goalies, anywhere he can, including NOTL giving sites. TIM TAYLOR

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# NOTL man **honoured** for fighting human trafficking

Peter Warrack has received recognition from Canada's Governor General for his work in protecting citizens

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

For every instance of evil in the world there are those filled with good who strive against it. Niagara-on-the-Lake's own Peter Warrack is one such person.

Warrack is receiving the Meritorious Service Cross from the Governor General in recognition of his work to combat human trafficking in Canada and abroad.

"It's actually a big responsibility," Warrack said about receiving the prestigious honour.

"Because I see myself as the custodian of this award. My immediate thoughts are to the people that actually made it and continue to make it a reality, to fight human trafficking."

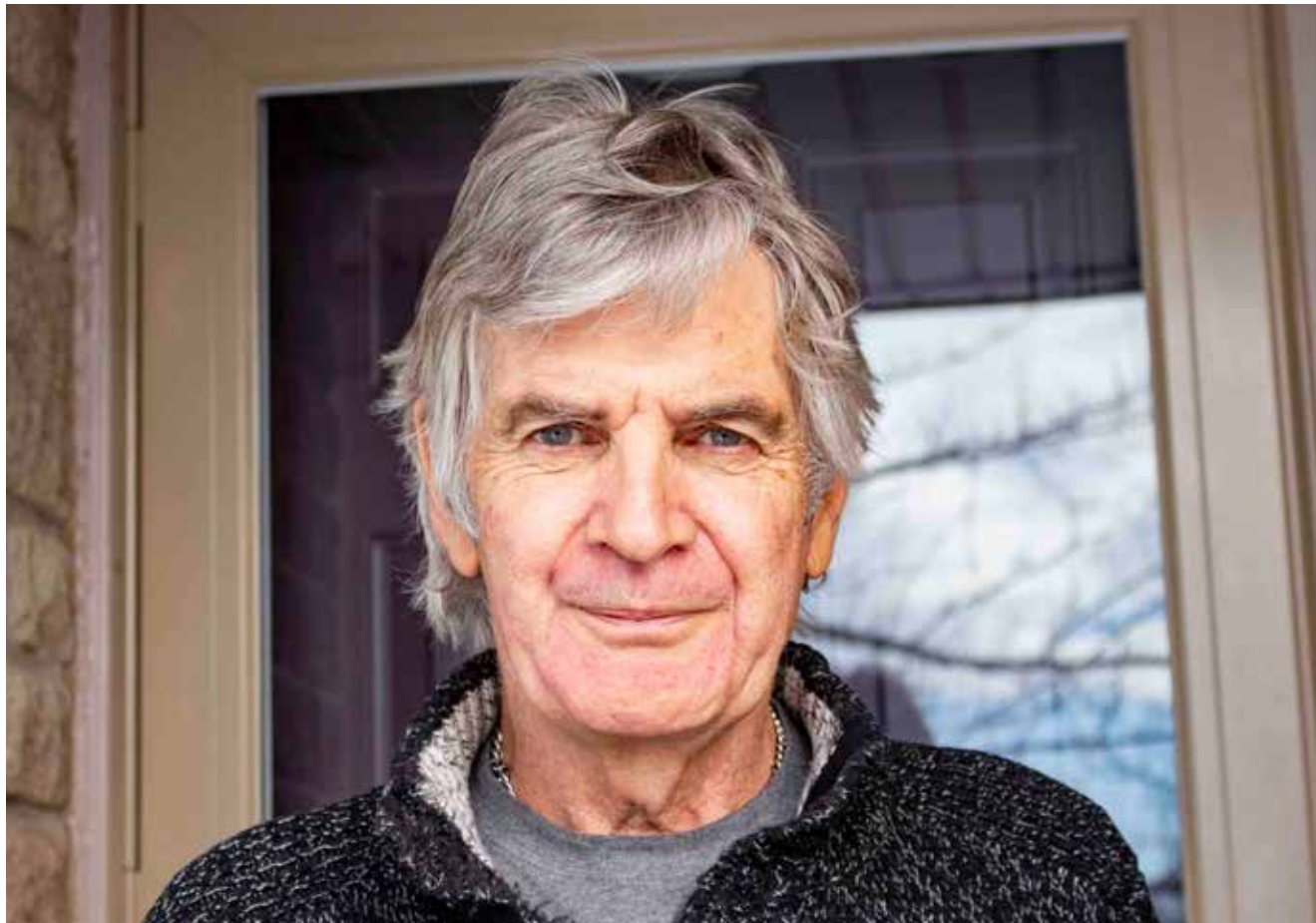
Warrack has been a financial investigator for more than 30 years. In 2016, he turned his decades of investigative skills toward chasing the money behind human trafficking and launched Project Protect.

"I was in an anti-money laundering conference in Toronto. At the end of the day a victim of human trafficking, Timea Nagy, basically confronted the audience of bankers and said, 'Help us to try and put an end to human trafficking. You guys can see the money,'" Warrack said in an interview.

"And it just hit me as a reality, 'Yeah, you're right. We probably could (help stop human trafficking),'"

Warrack said. He said he knew next to nothing about human trafficking at the time and set about working with Nagy and other victims of the crime to learn all he could. His investigative team at the Bank of Montreal researched the issue and Project Protect was launched in January 2016.

It works to follow the money that funds human trafficking in Canada and abroad. Indeed, tracking finances is one of the main ways to hunt down such criminal activities, Warrack said.



Peter Warrack at his home in NOTL. He was getting ready to fly to the United States to continue raising awareness about human trafficking. He says raising awareness is one of the most important aspects to stop trafficking. EVAN SAUNDERS

"You would think that this type of industry is all cash based, and a lot of it is, but the bad guys, the pimps, still need to use the traditional banking system of credit cards, debit cards, accounts to put money in or take money out," he said. "If they want to book a hotel, for instance — unless it's like a minus-five star hotel or something — the hotel's not going to accept cash. There's going to be a credit card involved."

Warrack explained how following money flow is essential to criminal investigations.

"There was a Calgary police officer investigating a trafficking case in Calgary. We, being the banks, have a look at it, looked at the accounts of the pimp and maybe the victim," he said.

"And we realized, 'Hang on, it's not just Calgary. Before that, they were in Victoria or wherever.' And we'd be able to inform the police that this is not just a local investigation in Calgary, this is a cross-Canada investigation we are looking at and here's the evidence."

While Project Protect has been instrumental in

fighting human trafficking in Canada, Warrack isn't just proud of the work to try to end human trafficking.

"The main thing for me, for Project Protect is, as it's evolved I realized this is not about human trafficking. This is about the ability of the private and public sectors to work together. Governments and banks in this instance," he said.

Project Protect's success comes from extensive collaboration among private financial companies, federal and provincial police and investigative units, he said.

Warrack was a senior officer with the United Kingdom's police force in Belfast for many years before moving to Canada to head up the Royal Bank of Canada's intelligence unit. He believes his experience working in the public and private sector enabled him to help build Project Protect.

"I came with some credibility in both the law enforcement side and also the banking side, and people lined up behind me and said, 'How can we help?'"

And thus, for Warrack, Project Protect represents

"a true partnership between the public and private sectors."

"We're all in this together, we just have different roles to play. But collectively we can do it a lot better."

Warrack is also proud of offshoot programs inspired by Project Protect in Canada and around the world.

Thanks to his efforts to raise awareness, human trafficking programs have launched in places such as Germany and the Vatican.

One of those is Project Recover, started by Toronto's Richard Dunwoody. It aims to help victims of human trafficking rebuild their financial lives once they have been rescued.

"He's worked with about 150-odd victims and helped them rebuild their financial integrity. I think it's gone further than that now and he's helped raise money for shelter for victims as well," Warrack said.

This follow through effort is close to Warrack's own values.

"That was the missing piece for me. All these victims are rescued, hopefully, and taken out of the game, as it's called, but they're

left pretty much on the road with no credit worthiness, nothing. They've been stripped of everything," he said.

"The pimps basically get the victims to open an account and then the pimps control the account."

He said Scotiabank and the Bank of Montreal now have programs to help restore victims' financial credit.

Project Protect has also inspired the creation of specialized human trafficking units in police forces across Canada — including one in Niagara Region.

All these offshoot initiatives align with one of Warrack's maxims for the work he does: to raise awareness.

"When I started, a big part of it was raising awareness and that through awareness comes action," he said.

Warrack has delivered lectures around the world about human trafficking, from the United States to Vatican City, to parliaments and conventions. He is now working on a project with NASA.

He also is working on ways to educate people on

the dangers of cryptocurrency and its association with online child abuse material.

Warrack said people should never assume horrible things like human trafficking don't happen in their community, referencing the discovery of an apparent puppy mill in Old Town last summer as a close-to-home example.

"There's kind of a feeling that it never happens here in good old Niagara-on-the-Lake, and, to a certain extent, that's true. But I certainly wouldn't be surprised if an Airbnb was rented for a period of time and used as a base for clients to go and do their dirty business."

"I don't want to have a go at the short-term rental industry and other things like that. I'm not aware of it happening in Niagara-on-the-Lake, but it's just a reality."

Regarding his award, Warrack said there are too many people for him to thank and he would inevitably leave people out. But he said the one entity he is grateful to for making Project Protect so successful is the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, more commonly known as FINTRAC.

"Without FINTRAC this never would have happened and it would not have continued."

With the large volume of important yet intense work Warrack engages in every day, one may wonder how the investigator fills what little free time he has.

"During the summer, cycling and golf. I just started to play golf last year and I'd like to be a lot better at that," he said with a laugh.

But Warrack's main interest speaks to why he is the right man to be heading up investigation units and inspiring a crackdown on human trafficking across the country.

"I love learning. Basic cryptocurrency, technology — you know, there's something to learn every minute of the day, so that consumes me."



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"Freedom convoy" supporters at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Husky truck stop Jan. 27. EVAN SAUNDERS/FILE

## NOTLer's name appears on leaked list of donors, but he says he **never made a donation** to convoy

*Continued from Front Page*

it appears to match the donations from a "Freedom Convoy 2020" campaign launched in February, after the original GoFundMe campaign was closed by Canadian police for being associated with illegal activities.

Several other news outlets have also confirmed the data appears to be accurate.

The Lake Report obtained a Google map of the data, which appears to show three donations to the convoy from Niagara-on-the-Lake addresses. The map has since been taken down.

The exact addresses are not publicly known, however the site includes the name, email and IP address of the donor, the amount contributed and any associated comment.

One donation appears to have come from someone calling themselves Jonathan Postman, who lives in the area of Stewart and Church roads in rural NOTL. The associated address on the map is linked to GMC Aluminium Products.

Along with a \$200 donation, the contribution attributed to Postman says, "Jesus Christ is Lord!! Lord bless these truckers and keep the events peaceful!"

However, when reached by phone Tuesday, a man named Jonathan Postman told The Lake Report he didn't make the donation and that he does not support the convoy.

"I don't think that was me," Postman said. "I'm

against the truckers, so I would never put a donation."

He said he thinks everyone should get their vaccine to help end the COVID pandemic as soon as possible.

"Most of the people have got the vaccine. Why won't they? Are they special?" Postman said.

"I think we should do our part. Everybody should get a vaccine and get it over with to move on with our normal lives. Otherwise if some people don't get the vaccine, this will be dragging on forever."

Postman said he was unaware of anyone else who might have made the donation in his name.

Another donation was recorded as being from someone named Rouline Rzepka, who lives in the area of Concession 7 Road. It included the message, "God Bless our brave truckers!" and a \$50 contribution.

The third donation, from someone identified as Susan Shute in St. Davids near Sawmill Lane, was for \$100 and included the message, "God bless you All????"

The Lake Report reached out via email to the other two donors, but they did not respond before deadline Wednesday.

GiveSendGo is a Christian funding platform that has been used to raise money for controversial figures and groups such as teenaged shooter Kyle Rittenhouse, the Proud Boys and political funding for Jan. 6 insurrection in the U.S. Unlike GoFundMe, the site appears to actively be encourag-

ing people to donate to the campaign.

On its Twitter page, the company posted messages such as: "To the people who are continuously taking a stand for freedom - YOU are making a difference in the world! This movement sets a foundation for people now and for future generations. You are not only inspiring people to stand up for their freedoms but actually taking action."

The company also responded to the data leak, saying it's seeking to track down the hacker.

"Sunday evening, Feb. 13, GiveSendGo was attacked by malicious actors attempting to eliminate the ability of its users to raise funds. There was a broadcasted breach showing one such actor illegally hacking into GiveSendGo and distributing the names and emails of the donors of the Freedom Convoy campaign. However, no credit card information was leaked. No money was stolen," the company wrote.

GiveSendGo shut down its site temporarily when the hack was discovered and said it is trying to identify "these malicious actors and pursuing actions against their cybercrime."

"We are in a battle. We didn't expect it to be easy. This has not caused us to be afraid. Instead, it's made it even more evident that we cannot back down," the company said and thanked its supporters.

It said it is holding the money in an undisclosed

U.S. bank account and is taking steps to prevent the Canadian government from freezing the funds and officials are "actively discussing the legal options for getting the funds where they need to go."

In total, the data revealed more than 40 per cent of the money came from U.S. residents.

Tony Baldinelli, MP for the riding of Niagara Falls, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake, condemned foreign interference in Canadian political affairs.

"Deliberate foreign interference in Canadian affairs should be a concern for all of us. In fact, the Standing Committee of Public Safety and National Security has already begun its investigation into foreign funding, and I look forward to monitoring this study closely," he said in response to questions from The Lake Report.

"Over the past several years we have had several protests and blockades take place, from environmental groups blocking pipeline construction to rail blockades and, in fact, the need for government with the support of all political parties, to pass recent legislation to prevent the harassment of health care professionals. Foreign funding of these types of activities should be looked into."

With the implementation of the Emergencies Act, the Canadian government now can freeze bank accounts of people and businesses associated with the fundraiser.

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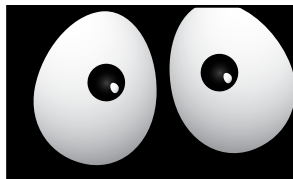
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# Suggested changes could **eliminate** local control



**ARCHITEXT**

Brian Marshall  
Columnist

The final report from the Ontario government's appointed Housing Affordability Task Force has just been published.

The 55 recommendations it contains (largely unchanged from the draft report I spoke about in my last Arch-i-text column), if adopted into provincial legislation would fundamentally change every community in Ontario.

But to fully envision the potential effects of this report, we must first understand its principal underpinning (and that, in my opinion, is not to create affordable housing).

The year is 1967 and Canada is enjoying its Centennial on the crest of a very healthy economy.

For most families, a very significant percentage of their chattels were made in Canada. Your furniture, television, stereo, pots, pans, dishes and even your power tools were likely built in a Canadian factory.

Even 90 per cent of your food and drink was grown, processed, canned, bottled or packaged here at home.

Then came the growth of the "global" economy and most of our secondary industries were gutted, sold off and all the associated spending power of their employees shrank.

As comparatively high-paying manufacturing employment disappeared, jobs in the service industry became one of the only options left.

At the same time, there was another industry emerging as an economic powerhouse: the real estate development sector.

In 1967, this sector was just one of many in the third- or perhaps second-tier of the economy. Today it is arguably in the top of

the Tier 1 level. And, as its contribution to the economy has ballooned, so too has its political influence.

It is my considered evaluation that this provincial report is a testament to just how much political power the development sector exercises.

The confluence of many of the report's recommendations would allow this sector unprecedented freedom from any local or regional oversight while skeletonizing provincial controls.

If adopted, the citizens of Ontario would largely be turning over the look, liveability and evolution of their communities to corporations, many of whose primary objective has been proven to be maximizing profit without regard to the existing warp and weave of the communities in which they build developments.

That is not to suggest that this report contains no recommendations of value. On the contrary, it raises a number of points that should be given proper and thorough consideration. Some examples of these might include:

"Permit "as of right" conversion of underutilized or redundant commercial properties to residential or mixed residential and commercial use."

Toronto, for example, is littered with these types of properties which, due to existing zoning, cannot be repurposed to residential.

"Waive development charges on all forms of affordable housing guaranteed to be affordable for 40 years."

"Amend the Planning Act and Perpetuities Act to extend the maximum period for land leases and restrictive covenants on land to 40 or more years."

While both of these recommendations actually advance the platform for affordable housing under not-for-profit land trust ownership, there are no controls or considerations associated with for-profit ownership.

"Enable municipalities, subject to adverse external economic events, to withdraw infrastructure allocations from any permitted projects where construction



The Town of NOTL could be on the hook for any losses due to heritage designations, including developer Benny Marotta's Rand Estate, should suggested changes from the Housing Affordability Task Force make their way into actual law. FILE PHOTO

has not been initiated within three years of build permits being issued."

Here the intent seems to be good, but a three-year window is excessive if the real objective is rapid construction of affordable housing.

While the report contains a number of recommendations of value, it also encompasses some of the most egregious threats to the rights of individual communities and the duly-elected municipal governments that this province has ever seen.

Let's consider the following:

"Limit exclusionary zoning in municipalities through binding provincial action: (a) Allow "as of right" residential housing up to four units and up to four storeys on a single residential lot. (b) Modernize the Building Code and other policies to remove any barriers to affordable construction and to ensure meaningful implementation (e.g. allow single staircase construction for up to four storeys, allow single egress, etc.)."

Wherein "as of right" disallows any local limitations or legal contest ... (even on fire safety concerns).

"Allow "as of right" zoning up to unlimited height and unlimited density in the immediate proximity of individual major transit stations within two years if municipal zoning remains

insufficient to meet provincial density targets."

Thereby forcing the municipality to conform to provincial-level dictates, as influenced by lobbyists, opposed to any pre-existing local context considerations. "Allow "as of right" zoning of six to 11 storeys with no minimum parking requirements on any street utilized by public transit (including streets on bus and streetcar routes)."

So, in our small town, with the recent regional transit deal in-place, the question is just how much of Niagara-on-the-Lake falls within the recommended zone?

"Create a more permissive land use, planning and approvals system: (a) Repeal or override municipal policies, zoning, or plans that prioritize the preservation of physical character of neighbourhood; (b) Exempt from site plan approval and public consultation all projects of 10 units or less that conform to the official plan and require only minor variances; (c) Establish province-wide zoning standards, or prohibitions, for minimum lot sizes, maximum building setbacks, minimum heights, angular planes, shadow rules, front doors, building depth, landscaping, floor space index, and heritage view cones, and planes; restore pre-2006 site plan exclusions (colour, texture and type of materi-

als, window details, etc.) to the Planning Act and reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements; and (d) Remove any floorplate restrictions to allow larger, more efficient high-density towers."

In short, this recommendation encompasses no local control at any existing level and requires permitting of whatever is proposed by the developer provided it is less than 10 units while simultaneously eliminating any site-designated parking requirements.

Working entirely within the parameters of this report's recommendations, I'd like to posit the following entirely hypothetical scenario for your consideration:

Joan Smith puts on the open market her property for sale at \$2 million. The lot is 75 feet x 200 feet and the 2,500-square-foot dwelling, set well back from the property frontage is heritage designated.

Joan receives an offer from XYZ Ontario Inc. for \$750,000 together with an explanation from the buyer's agent that says due to the heritage designation, it is the best offer possible. Joan accepts the offer and subsequently applies to the municipality for payment of the difference between the offer amount and the current market value of the property without the heritage designation.

The municipality is (as

per legislation) forced to compensate Joan the \$1.25 million difference. XYZ Ontario Inc. closes on the property and immediately applies for a permit to build a six-storey building in front of the designated dwelling because it is within a reasonable walking distance from public transit. This permit is granted and the municipality is prohibited from contesting the build.

The builder proceeds to construct the six-storey complex completely in wood framing with only the top two storeys served by two fire stairways. A year later the wood framed building is consumed by fire and six people die traversing the fourth floor between the second fire stairway and the only other stairway that exits to the ground. In court, the builder is found not culpable in the deaths because they conformed to all provincial regulations.

In our hypothetical example, the municipality is out \$1.25 million tax dollars. The streetscape is destroyed by the six-storey building. The wood frame construction (which is structurally questionable and highly susceptible to fire) is destroyed. People die because the provincial regulations only require one stairway to the fourth storey. And no one is found responsible.

Is this the future of Ontario's communities? If these recommendations are adopted, this scenario, and many others supported by this report, could become your new norm.

It's your call and your decision.

You can accept the power lobby of the real estate development industry in your provincially elected government or you can voice your opposition. You can demand a new and far more practical vision for affordable housing or conform to the common "wisdom" of densification without controls.

Personally, I will stand with the "best-for-the-most" and this report is certainly not that.

Read the full report at <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-housing-affordability-task-force-report-en-2022-02-07-v2.pdf>.

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# A sign of the times: Election season is coming

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



The first provincial election sign has appeared along Niagara Stone Road in the form of a mobile billboard featuring Progressive Conservative candidate Bob Gale. EVAN SAUNDERS

Bob Gale, the Progressive Conservative candidate for Niagara Falls riding, has parked a mobile billboard along Niagara Stone Road – literally the first sign that a provincial election is barely three months away.

A spokesperson for Elections Ontario told The Lake Report, “Political campaigning and advertising can occur and appear at any time before the writ period, provided that it is paid for by the constituency association or party.”

The “writ” period is the 28 days leading up to election day, which is made official through the creation of “writs” for every electoral district in the province.

“All political advertising needs to have proper authorization indicating who sponsored or paid for

the advertising,” Elections Ontario said.

By law, an Ontario election needs to be held by June 2.

Gale is running against incumbent MPP Wayne Gates of the New Democrats and Ashley Waters, representing the Liberals.

Gates has held the riding,

which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie, since Liberal Kim Craitor resigned in 2014.

Since then it’s primarily been a two-party race between the Tories and the NDP.

Gates won in 2018 with a whopping 50.79 per cent of the vote, beating second-

place PC candidate Chuck McShane by more than 15 points.

The Liberal party’s Dean Demizio garnered a mere 9.95 per cent of the ballots cast, the Grits’ worst showing in the 100-year history of the riding, according to data from Elections Ontario.

# Police investigating sex allegations made in online video

Continued from Front Page

surfaced in which the now-former board member was confronted and accused of trying to solicit “an individual posing as a minor.”

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Jordon Williams confirmed he has resigned from OUTniagara’s board.

The Lake Report has not seen the video and cannot confirm its contents or the authenticity of any allegations in it.

Niagara Regional Police spokesperson Const. Jesse Vujasic confirmed police are “aware” of the video and that “cyber crime detectives are investigating.”

OUTniagara board members would not share a link to the video nor identify the ousted board member, citing confidentiality.

Reached by The Lake Report, Williams said he is seeking legal counsel and that his “removal from the board of OUTniagara was based on internal differences of opinion regarding the direction of the organization.”

“Due to these internal differences, it was clear that the relationship could not



Jordon Williams. RICHARD HARLEY/FILE

go any further. These are normal occurrences with boards of organizations,” he said in a statement Wednesday.

Williams denied the allegations purportedly made in the video.

“If there is a video posted alleging negative allegations attacking my character, they are incredibly hurtful and false in all respects.”

After he was asked to clarify whether he has seen the video, Williams blocked a reporter from messaging him.

When first contacted Tuesday, he noted, “This will discredit all the work I have done and wanted to do.”

OUTniagara’s online statement says the organization did not know about the existence of the online video prior to Williams leaving the board. It is not known when the video was made.

Current directors would not answer specific questions about why Williams has left, citing legal advice and referring all inquiries to its published statement.

“On Feb. 17, 2022, OUTniagara’s board of directors were made aware of a video posted to YouTube showing a former board member being confronted about allegedly soliciting an individual posing as a

minor,” the board says on its website.

“As an organization, OUTniagara takes this allegation seriously. Our organization is committed to promoting the well-being and inclusion of sexual and gender diversity in communities across the Niagara region. This includes supporting and protecting 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, to ensure safety and health in all their relationships and interactions.”

The group had not shared the statement on its Facebook, Twitter or Instagram media platforms as of Wednesday.

Asked about Williams’ resignation, board co-chair Celeste Turner would only say he is “no longer a part of OUTniagara.”

She said she is “bound by confidentiality” to not disclose why Williams was forced out.

Williams previously ran unsuccessfully for NOTL town council and the provincial Tory nomination in the riding of Niagara Falls.

In recent months, he spearheaded a NOTL initiative to install a rainbow crosswalk on Queen Street.



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

## COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 245**  
**Region active cases: 1,454**  
**Region deaths: 509**  
**Region total cases: 33,654**

*\*Feb. 23 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

"My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent." - Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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## Keeping an eagle's eye out

NOTL photographer Mario Sgro captured this photo of a bald eagle near McNabb and Lakeshore on Family Day weekend.

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



### Editorial

## The future of Parliament Oak

Kevin MacLean  
 Managing Editor

We are not anti-development and neither are many people in our community.

In fact, many see development in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake as inevitable, necessary and, in many ways, desirable.

However, it needs to be the right sort of project, in the right spot, for the right reasons, at the right time.

The proposal by Liberty Sites (3) Ltd. does not strike us as the right choice for the former Parliament Oak school site.

Most certainly, that site needs to be – and will be – redeveloped. The long-closed school property is an important one, historically significant, and located amid a long-established

residential community.

NOTL needs more (and affordable) rental housing – like the three buildings developer John Hawley has under construction in The Village neighbourhood.

But Liberty Sites' plan for a large three-storey building with 71 apartments, plus four semi-detached and five single-storey residences, and a sizable underground parking garage, is not right for that area.

It is a physically imposing structure unsuited to the area and is cramming far too many units per acre onto the property. It is proposing far greater density than exists in the surrounding Old Town neighbourhood.

Those four acres could and should be developed with a reasonable mix of

semi-detached and single-family homes, and some green space, that would complement the existing neighbourhood, offer some viable housing options and allow the development company to make a healthy return on its investment.

Of course, had the District School Board of Niagara in 2018 made the sensible choice and negotiated a deal with the Town of NOTL for the site, life would be much different. But that is an issue for another day.

There is no architectural significance to the old school building. And aside from the small monument on the site commemorating families who helped runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad (a monument that NOTL resi-

dent Barbara Ahluwalia is campaigning to have moved to Voices of Freedom Park), there is not a lot that needs to be preserved.

But there are plenty of memories for those who grew up in town and attended Parliament Oak, and, among other things, the site is historically significant for the signing of the Act to Limit Slavery in 1793.

However, there are simple ways to continue to commemorate those memories and at the same time build a modern, new addition that properly fits into the historic community.

Pushing through an imposing, multi-storey apartment building in the midst of this quiet residential neighbourhood is not the answer.

editor@niagaranow.com

## After years of COVID, 1% wage hike for nurses is an insult

Dear editor:

Throughout my life I have always had a tremendous respect for the front-line responders.

I guess that is because my sister was a registered nurse and the police in our town were my buddies growing up. I played ball for their team and often made minor repairs on their personal vehicles.

Nurses seem to be able to put a smile on the face of a child, an elderly person and someone who may have very little time left on this Earth.

Many of them show great empathy for their patients day in and day out.

Can you imagine how you would feel, after months and months and long hours every day with the looming threat of contracting COVID (or perhaps passing it on to a loved one) and then being let down by our government?

Nurses have had insufficient PPE, they were short-staffed and their hours on the job were insane. The hours they put in were dangerous as they tried to

keep their patients alive while losing some of their colleagues to COVID.

Then came the news that for their dedication and service they were to be given a salary increase.

An increase of 1 per cent. Yes, 1 per cent.

How would you feel if that was the reward you received for your dedication and commitment to patients you never knew and may not ever know?

How many professionals can put this sort of service record on their resumes?

I feel a debt of gratitude to all of these front-line workers.

After many years in the nursing profession my own sister now has terminal cancer and has to rely on the help and commitment of others to keep her comfortable in her final days.

Let's not forget our front-line workers. We need them more than they will ever know. Let's show them our gratitude in whatever way possible.

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# OPINION

## Invoking **Emergencies Act** was not justified: Baldinelli



MP Tony Baldinelli. FILE

Dear editor:

Over the past several weeks, we have witnessed protests and blockades take place at multiple international border crossings and in downtown Ottawa.

While citizens have the right to peaceful protest, they do not have the right to cause social and economic disruption by impeding the daily lives and business interests of other Canadians.

On Feb. 14, the federal government invoked the Emergencies Act for the

first time to respond to the entrenched protest in downtown Ottawa. By this time, all other border blockades had been cleared by police and law enforcement authorities, using their existing powers.

The Emergencies Act defines “national emergency” as “an urgent, temporary and critical situation that seriously endangers the health and safety of Canadians or that seriously threatens the ability of the government of Canada to preserve the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Canada.”

By this very definition alone, the invocation of the Emergencies Act was a serious overreaction and over-step by the federal government. Simply put, the Ottawa protest was a political emergency for this

Liberal government – it was not a national emergency facing Canada.

Police and law enforcement in Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia came together and were able to end the blockades taking place at our international border crossings, without incident and without the extreme government powers enabled by the Emergencies Act.

In our riding, a protest was planned at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie. However, it was ably handled due to the incredible work of our local police authorities – the Niagara Regional Police, OPP and Niagara Parks Police.

Imposing the extreme powers of the Emergencies Act sets a dangerous precedent for the future and for our civil rights and liberties.

In fact, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association is already planning to sue the federal government over using the Emergencies Act.

For these reasons and more, I will be voting against the invocation of the Emergencies Act.

We are more than two long and difficult years into this pandemic and Canadians simply want a safe and responsible return to normalcy. When will we get there?

Perhaps when this federal government displays the needed leadership in providing Canadians with hope, critical health care tools and a plan forward to achieve recovery from this pandemic. On behalf of my constituents, I will continue to advocate for this.

**Tony Baldinelli**  
MP, Niagara Falls riding



## Congrats to The Lake Report

Dear editor:

Congratulations to you and The Lake Report staff on so many well-deserved journalism honours in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's Better Newspaper Competition.

From everything I have observed over time, you earned them by adhering to a high level of journalistic integrity even when it

wasn't easy, particularly in such a small town.

My family and I always choose The Lake Report to keep in touch with what is going on in Niagara-on-the-Lake and we regularly and happily patronize your advertisers since they enable our weekly read.

Go, Lake Report!  
**J. Richard Wright**  
NOTL

## We need **less belittling, more respect** and targeted censure

Dear editor:

Recently I have been beating a drum that we are in dangerously divisive times.

Though the pandemic has turned up the volume, it has not so much created the divisions as revealed them. If we are going to find our way through, there are two errors we need to avoid.

The first is to not forget those swastikas and Confederate flags that furled through the streets of Ottawa, as if they have magically disappeared.

When they were associated with a protest that inconvenienced and alarmed us, we became righteously angered. Will we continue to decisively censure micro-aggressions such as seemingly slight slurs against

people of colour or other marginalized groups?

The other error is to assume that everyone on the other side of — pick your conflict — is of one mind, and an inferior mind to our own.

As a colleague remarked to me, we need to guard against what social psychologists call the fundamental attribution error: the tendency to view our own behaviour as driven by the context, but others' as revealing their character.

If I make a mistake, it's because the stress of the pandemic is getting to me. If you do, it's because you're a fool.

For example, let's face it, the unvaccinated and the mask resistant have become the welcome punching bag

for us vaccinated, mask-wearing folks.

Our belief they extended the pandemic's duration is legitimate. That doesn't justify dehumanizing them into an amorphous caricature we then criticize and belittle. It's exactly that way of thinking that fuels all forms of prejudice.

Do you recall the last time someone didn't listen when you tried to say something dear to your heart? Do you remember how you reacted?

In my case, I got louder and angrier until the issue morphed into something I didn't recognize. I believe our refusal to hear out the unvaccinated, to extend grace and respect, has fuelled their protest and helped shove some of them

into dangerous company.

Anti-democratic, authoritarian forces are stirring around the world. The times call for vigilance and decisive censure of specific behaviour and statements, while we also try more than ever to build bridges. And listening, truly listening, is a powerful tool.

As part of my prior research into the effects of trauma, I have read accounts of the Holocaust and of genocides such as occurred in Rwanda and Bosnia.

I know from these that the peace, freedoms and relative civility we have in such abundance in Canada could be gone in a heartbeat. And no, that's not hyperbole.

**Dr. Kathryn Belicki**  
NOTL

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## SHOOTING THE BLUES

# NOTL photographer chases **ideal light**

Brittany Carter  
The Lake Report

There are a few moments twice a day when the world is bathed in a subtle blue hue and that's when Niagara-on-the-Lake photographer Dave Van de Laar does some of his best work.

The blue hour is photography jargon referring to the 20 to 30 minutes before sunrise and after sunset, when the sun sits just below the horizon. It is during this time Van de Laar says he has taken some of his most popular landscape shots around Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I do like the golden hour also but I just love the colour of the blue hour. I like the colour of the sky," he says.

Van de Laar began his photography journey back in the 1980s with a Ricoh XR-P 35mm film camera. But as film was expensive and he was young, he says he didn't have the resources to fully immerse himself in the hobby.

It wasn't until he met another photographer while he was out taking pictures with his "cheap little digital camera" that he started to get serious with his own photography.

"A guy I met at Queenston. He said, 'You should join the St. Catharines Photographic Club.' " So he did. But he also got better equipment. "I'm a very competitive person, so then I got a better camera, better lenses."

Over the span of the last 10 to 11 years, his interest, skills and equipment continued to grow. He owes much of that to the camaraderie that goes with joining the group of like-minded photographers at the St. Catharines club. It holds photo competitions throughout the year, which spurred Van de Laar's competitive side, he says.

Club members are also willing and eager to offer guidance and advice. He says that mentorship went a long way in helping him



NOTL hobby photographer Dave Van de Laar has an eye for landscape and lifestyle photos. Pictured here are three of his photos, one (top left) of the Prince of Wales hotel, another of a local dog, and another of a group of birds. Top right: Dave Van de Laar sets up his camera. BRITTANY CARTER  
**Find a gallery of Van de Laar's photos online at [NiagaraNow.com](http://NiagaraNow.com)**

develop his own craft. For anyone just starting out with photography, he says joining a club is the best way to learn.

"It is pretty tough just to go out there and learn on your own. You've got to have some guidance," he says. "The best way to learn is from somebody better than you."

Now, as an avid photography hobbyist in his 50s, many of his photos have been posted on NOTL community social media pages and in the pages of The Lake Report.

One of his photos of a nearly frozen Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls was picked up by Nikon and featured on the company's website.

It is an incredible image

in which the blue hour played a spectacular role.

"The blue tones are especially nice at the falls," he says.

The blue, quieter time to set out on his photo adventures is ideal, because "there aren't many people out at that time in the morning."

Utilizing those peaceful moments can be especially important for Van de Laar, who works full-time at the City of Niagara Falls and can only pursue the hobby outside of work hours and on the weekends.

In a busy part of town like the corners of King and Picton streets in downtown NOTL, early mornings are the only time he can get a good shot without the hustle and bustle of town traffic obscuring his

view. This is where the Prince of Wales Hotel sits – one of Van de Laar's top three favourite structures in Old Town.

"I (photographed) the Prince of Wales in the winter last year. That is probably my favourite," he says.

He is also partial to the Greaves Jams & Marmalades building on Queen Street and the gazebo at Queen's Royal Beach. For landscapes, he says nothing beats NOTL and the Niagara area.

"I've been here all my life and I was thinking that not many people are taking pictures of Niagara-on-the-Lake, so maybe I'll get into this little niche market here," he says. Winter for the entire

region makes for great photography fodder, too.

"The winter is beautiful. I think the winter is probably the nicest for Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara. When you get the snow on the roads and all that," he says.

However, the gazebo photographs work well no matter the season.

While landscapes are where Van de Laar got his start, he also has an extensive collection of bird photography.

"I just love the way the way they act. Once you take pictures long enough you get to know what they're going to do before they do it ... How they're going to act before they fly, kind of interpret their movements," he says.

Van de Laar is currently using a Nikon D810 camera, with Nikkor 18-35mm and 70-200 mm lenses for landscapes, and Nikkor 200-400mm f/4 and 600mm f/4 lenses for birding.

He says he loves being able to add a little more creativity to his shots by editing many of his images post-production. He refers to those processed photographs as more "fine art."

"For the buildings, I do a lot of Photoshop work. A lot of mine are more fine art photography."

Moving forward, he would love to transition into more dog photography.

Many of his photographs are featured on his personal website, [www.davevandelaar.com](http://www.davevandelaar.com).



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**NANCY BAILEY**

# Town needs to act **before more damage occurs**, residents say

Continued from Front Page

through one pipe,” Irvine Road resident Charlie Hall said.

“As it gets closer to the lake it bottlenecks and it backs up in three different spots,” van der Zalm said.

He and his brother Trevor were quick to act, bringing out sandbags and water pumps to try to save their neighbours’ homes and their own home from water damage.

But the two insist this was no heroic deed.

“We don’t need any recognition at all,” van der Zalm said.

But Hall noted, “If these guys hadn’t showed up, I’d have my insurance adjuster here today because this house would have been underwater.”

For more than three years the town has been working with residents on Irvine Road to install improved drainage in the area. After last week’s close call, Hall is sick of the delays.

“We are now entering our third year of the approval process,” he said.

“What is so incredibly ironic is that it will take three weeks to do the work once it gets through the approval process,” Hall said.

Under the current plan with the town, each resident who lives along the proposed new drain will pay anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars to cover part of the costs while the town pays the remainder.

Hall said the approval process for the drain has taken so long because residents in the area are appealing to try to bring costs down. He



Left: Sandbags and high-powered water pumps were all that stood between the Hall family’s home and a flood of water last Thursday. Right: The farm lands south of Lakeshore Road under several feet of water. SUPPLIED



noted one farmer thinks they will see virtually no benefit from the drain and therefore does not want to pay for it at all.

Hall himself said there are five properties at constant risk of flooding, with other properties still being affected by the build-up of water during a heavy rain.

But Hall and the van der Zalm don’t care how much it will cost them. They just want the work done so they can be relieved of the torment an impending rain storm brings, Hall said.

“I’m trying to contain myself but I’m so pissed,” a visibly frustrated Hall said.

With the constant threat of inundation looming, he said he and wife Sandy are always stressed.

“You can’t live a normal life. If I go away and it comes up, one of those six inches in six hours (rainstorms), it’s gonna do it again.”

Hall said he can’t travel anywhere that is more than a 10-hour trip home due to the anxiety he gets about a

possible flood.

The constant worry is taking a toll on the mental health of several residents along Irvine Road.

Judy Benezra lives at the top of Irvine, right on the lake. Underneath her idyllic small home the ground is getting eaten away by the excess water runoff from the surrounding properties.

“It is stressful because each time it floods it gets nearer and nearer to my foundations, and I only have a little house,” she said.

Benezra’s house has a small inlet and wall of armour stones along the shoreline to protect it from wave erosion. Underneath a deck on the back of the home is a cavern carved out by rainwater runoff.

The porch has been extended several times to cover up gaping holes in the earth as the ground between the deck and house gets eaten away by the water, she said.

And while all the residents The Lake Report

spoke with said they were less concerned with the amount it would cost them than they were with getting the work done as soon as possible, substantial costs have already been incurred.

The van der Zalm said they have had a total loss of their home’s basement on two occasions due to flooding. It has cost them at least \$90,000 in repairs and restoration, they estimated.

This most recent incident is the third since talks with the town began, van der Zalm said.

Their share of the Irvine Road drain according to a town engineering report originally was to be \$81,000.

However, thanks to grants received by the town, most property owners’ bills are much lower. The van der Zalm are looking at paying \$36,275.

According to the report, Hall has to contribute \$18,967 for the work and Benezra \$9,625.

A total of 32 properties are contributing to the proj-

ect and the van der Zalm’s share is by far the highest of them all.

Residents will be able to repay the town on their tax bill over 20 years, Hall said.

On top of the costs accrued by repairs and the cost for the drain, the van der Zalm’s insurer has refused to give them flood protection anymore since it has become such a regular occurrence, van der Zalm said.

In some ways, the residents on Irvine Road feel trapped by the flood risk.

“This property is never going to be worth what it could be as long as we have that constant threat,” Hall said.

“The continuous threat of flooding is terrifying,” he said,

“This is an emergency. This is no longer, ‘Oh, maybe it’s an emergency.’ Something has to be done, like, yesterday,” Benezra said.

In October 2020, the town installed a new catch basin near Benezra’s property.

But she said the mu-

nicipality didn’t install any new pipes and hooked the catch basin up to the existing infrastructure, which was already incapable of handling the run-off during a severe storm.

Footage taken by Hall last week shows both the drains overflowing and the excess water running underneath Benezra’s property, with a new gap already forming between her deck and the ground.

“Why don’t they, next week, get their bloody diggers out, dig a hole and put a pipe in from the new system to the lake. They can fiddle with all the details and the paper-pushing later.”

The final engineering report and detailed installation plans have already been finished. Residents are merely waiting for the appeal process to end, Hall said.

“We are drowning in flood water and bureaucratic paper-pushing,” Benezra said.

“The fix we need is for the Irvine Road Drainage Project to receive approval for implementation as quickly as possible,” Hall said.

The consistency of the flooding means the problem is here to stay, van der Zalm said.

“I’m a practising safety professional and in my world we do three things: we observe, we predict and we prevent,” Hall said.

“This has been observed for years, it has been predicted and is predicted that it will happen yet again, and now we have to prevent,” he said.

“We just can’t get the prevent part working yet” and that’s really up to the town, he said.

  
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## Town waiting on appeals over drain project: Disero

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is anxious to finish the Irvine Road drain project but cannot infringe on residents' rights to an appeal hearing, Lord Mayor Betty Disero says.

Residents in the flood zone are appealing the cost of the drain project.

"Everyone in this process and anyone in this process that's affected by this has the right to appeal and we can't take that away," Disero said in an interview Tuesday.

"Hang on, it's coming. The town is wanting to get it done and we will as soon as we resolve all the appeals," she said.

If the appeals are done soon then the work could most likely get underway this year, Disero said.

She said the town's

environmental supervisor, Brett Ruck, affirmed the potential timeline with her during a meeting last week after she visited the Irvine Road area to see the flooding.

The town's court of revision was in session on Tuesday with what Disero hoped would be the final appeal in the process.

If that is the case, the town will move on the work as quickly as possible, she said.

"I'm not sure if there's another appeal been launched, but hopefully they are on the last one today," she said.

"If they are, they can get

the resolution of that appeal and get moving."

But Disero stressed the town will not infringe upon anyone's right to appeal the process.

"Everyone has the right to appeal and as long as there are appeals that have to be dealt with we can't complete the work," Disero said.

But getting the work done and relieving the stress of the Irvine Road community is a main priority, she said.

"In my mind, the sooner the better. I was down there three years ago when people's basements were filled with water and things were really bad."

## Restaurateurs looking forward to March opening

Evan Saunders  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Jovie Joki, owner of the Irish Harp Pub, says ending the vaccine passport will be beneficial. JER HOUGHTON/FILE

For the past two years restaurants have been hit with the financial double-whammy of losing income due to pandemic restrictions and spending extra cash implementing the same restrictions.

And with the upcoming March 1 removal of the proof of vaccination requirement and with capacity restrictions already lifted, Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurateurs are hopeful some economic hardship may finally be behind them.

"I think it's great. Happy to just get back to normal," Sunset Grill owner Scott Gauld said in an interview Wednesday.

"I mean, we're excited, right?" Sandtrap Pub & Grill co-owner Matt Dietsch said. "A few steps forward means we're getting closer and closer to

where we should be."

"We're just excited to start having our customers back and our regulars back," said Kelly Turner, owner of the Olde Angel Inn.

Turner noted the Angel had not yet determined whether to keep the soon-to-be-optional vaccine certificate past March 1 but Gauld, Dietsch and the

Irish Harp Pub owner Jovie Joki were ready to leave behind the burdensome — and expensive — process.

"That's a huge thing that people don't realize, is the extra costs," Joki said.

She said she has had to have extra staff on hand even when the restaurant is empty in order to check vaccine certificates and do contact tracing.

"Normally, in the off-season, we don't need to have a host or anything like that," she said.

"The biggest thing for us is not having to check every single person's (proof of vaccination). That's time intensive," Dietsch said.

"Even just taking contact tracing out saves labour," Gauld said.

"This time of year, at half-capacity, we shouldn't be paying a hostess," Turner said.

She added she is frustrated the province is rolling back COVID restrictions after her restaurant, and all others, made financial investments to implement them.

"We jumped through hoops to put all these things in place. So, it is kind of upsetting that we have to let that go now," Turner said.

"But at the same time we just want to get back to normal, get back to business."

## RIDDLE ME THIS

I'm a five-letter word that becomes shorter when you add two letters to me. What am I?

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

Answer: An envelope

Answered first by: Larry Mantle

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Margie Enns, Mary Drost, Eva Rasciauskas, Terry Nord, Susan Hamilton, Howard Jones, Julia Sciarra, Rob Hutchison, Wade Durling, Pam Dowling, Sylvia Wiens, Tammy Florio, Daniel Sliastas, Victor Zilinskas, Bob Stevens, Michael Haramina, Sheila Meloche, Julia King, Colleen Johnson, Josh Langendoen

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



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Tax Rates as per Interim By-Law No. 5374-21

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 L0S 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](http://www.notl.com) or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.

## Family Day draws skaters to Virgil



Young Oilers and Leafs fans at the Meridian Arena's Family Day free skate. EVAN SAUNDERS

## NOTL Library **expands** opening hours

Staff  
The Lake Report

With Ontario easing COVID restrictions, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library will resume Saturday hours on March 5, opening from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The library will be open Mondays starting March 21, operating from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A return to in-person events will kick-off the week of March 14 with March Break programming.

Meeting room rentals are still suspended, however, quiet study spaces can be reserved through the library's website or by calling the service desk at 905-468-2023.

Public computers are available during opening hours on a first come, first

served basis.

Services such as hold requests, curbside pickup appointments, scanning, copying, faxing and printing can be accessed through the library website [notpubliclibrary.org](http://notpubliclibrary.org), by email [notlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:notlibrary@gmail.com) or by telephone.

For up-to-date announcements, opening hours and program details, go to [notpubliclibrary.org](http://notpubliclibrary.org).

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## NOTL Rotary collecting donations Saturday for Gigantic Garage Sale

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

The donations are starting to come in for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's "Gigantic Garage Sale."

The second of several collection dates for items is this Saturday at Cornerstone Community Church on Niagara Stone Road.

At the first collection day two weeks ago, the rooms where the sale will be held were already starting to fill up with various donations, like artwork, electronics, furniture, kids toys.

"There were a couple of houses that emptied out in January, people moving back to Toronto, and so we did accommodate that. But most of the stuff, a lot of the artwork, the prints so on and so forth, they've all come in today," said Carol Lipsett, organizer of the garage sale.

Profits from the sale will go to support children's charities both locally and internationally, she said. Any items that aren't sold will be donated to local charities like Newark



Rotarians Tim Lutton and Chris Hatch collect donations at the first collection date Feb. 12. Another collection date is set for Feb. 26. RICHARD HARLEY

### Neighbours.

The club will have an appraiser in to get a sense of the value of some of the donations, Lipsett said, especially the artwork. Some pieces, she suspects, might be quite valuable.

The club is requesting the following items: Home furniture and décor, artwork, china, area carpets, dishes, kitchen utensils, household

appliances and electronics in working order, sporting equipment, linens, kids accessories and toys, and outdoor furniture.

More donations will be collected at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil this Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. Other planned collections are on March 12, March 26, and every Saturday in April.

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The Shaw Festival is now accepting applications from Niagara-on-the-Lake charitable and/or not-for-profit organizations for a share of the funds raised from the Town Previews. Please send us an outline of the project and budget, along with your request for a specific amount of money. Send your application to: Janet Hanna, Administration, Shaw Festival, Box 774 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Application deadline: May 31, 2022.

Subject to availability. No exchanges. Phone or in-person sales only. Tickets purchased prior to this offer are not eligible for discount and may not be exchanged for Town Preview tickets. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Handling fee applies. Limit of 4 tickets per household. Offer ends March 31, 2022.

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# Frozen fascination with remarkable wintertime lake ice formations



Keeping it Green 

Kyra Simone  
Special to The Lake Report

We can all recognize standard icicles: they form when water progressively drips and freezes.

As ice accumulates below, it can eventually connect to the growing icicle and form a solid column, like stalagmites in a cave.

You have to keep an eye on these when they show up on dryer vents and it's good to clear away icicles growing overhead before they fall unexpectedly.

Tip of the Iceberg: That's just the beginning – sometimes, icicles grow completely upside-down! These are much rarer, but if there's a small crack in an ice surface, the water



Ice volcanoes (foreground) and pancake ice (background) at Niagara Shores Park. KYRA SIMONE

below expands and pushes through to form a dramatic ice spike.

Anchor ice seems even more unusual. While ice usually floats, the fast-flowing water in some rivers can keep the surface from freezing, and ice crystallizes instead around submerged objects and builds into huge underwater masses.

Sometimes when the ground first freezes, we're lucky enough to see frost flowers blooming. Also

called frost beard, ice ribbons or ice blossoms, they look like fragile white gauze growing from long-stemmed plants.

These delicate formations occur when sap expands in the cold and pushes out of tiny holes in stems.

On Thin Ice: You can definitely see pancake ice on Lake Ontario at this time of year. When floating slush freezes into flat plates, it forms series of interlocking pieces with

raised edges.

The pancakes may be as small as a dinner plate or up to many metres wide. Whenever a wave flows through, they make a gentle "shushing" sound as they bump against each other.

Like pancake ice, rotten ice is a deceptively unstable surface. It may have originally formed around dirt or air pockets, and this contamination does not let ice crystals bond completely – even several feet of it might

not hold a person's weight.

Candle ice is a form of rotten ice that can be found along the shores as spring arrives. It forms perpendicular to the lake surface, in thin columns that look like masses of crystal candles, when existing ice melts along its hexagonal crystal structure.

Rotten ice is often grey or white in colour because it includes trapped water and air. Safe ice tends to be clear and blue.

In the last few years, there have been several cases where rescue teams have had to retrieve folks that drifted out on Lake Ontario ice floes. It's important to stay off of any ice that may be thin or rotten.

Thar She Blows: Down by the lake, active "ice volcanoes" form when waves pass under an ice shelf and erupt through fissures.

They grow larger each time water spews out and adds to the growing mound, and sometimes scatter the surrounding area with glittering ice droplets and marbles. Snowy owls even perch atop these ice volcanoes to search for food.

Even during this bitter cold season, there's so much lively activity to explore outside. It's the perfect time to bundle up and explore some frozen gems in the last few weeks of winter.

*Kyra Simone is a green-at-heart NOTL resident with master's degrees in biology & science communication. In her spare time, she advocates for sustainable change, picks up litter, makes recycled jewelry, and transforms furniture bound for the landfill.*

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Build it and they will come. Glen Davis' snow clearing and flooding efforts attract skaters on several different surfaces on the pond at the end of Line 2 at Creek Road — shinny in the foreground and family skating behind. SUPPLIED

## Keeping hockey going is the **top priority** for NOTLer

*Continued from Front Page*

ment, for even the youngest would-be tenders, at upward of \$1,000. It can easily go as high as \$3,000.

"The league makes every effort to have equipment around, particularly for young players who are not yet in a position to own their own set."

Most parents have a memory of their youngster begging for an absolutely must-have-right-now thing — a set of drums or, heaven forbid, a horse — just to immediately move on to another must-have when they receive it.

"Goalies are a different breed. It is hard to get started. That's why I (as equipment manager) try to have sets for every age level, so if they want to try it, they can. If they like it, then they can get their own."

Davis eats, sleeps and breathes minor hockey.

In addition to being league equipment manager, two of their three children (14- and 11-year-old boys) play hockey; he's a D1 Level certified coach, a veteran trainer, who helps teams that need his services, and he's an occasional pickup defenceman in the over-50 Hot Tub league.

In his spare time, Davis is a horticultural technician, in the facilities management department at Brock University.

Oh, and a couple of days a week he floods the local creek at the end of Line 2 at Creek Road (just above the dam), so community kids can play shinny or just have a family skate.

Davis grew up in the village of Queenston, attended Laura Secord Memorial School, then Niagara District.

His parents had moved from Toronto to start a

restaurant and tavern on Queen Street in Niagara Falls. "When I was a kid, my brother and I worked in the kitchen."

Davis and van Rijn went to school together but didn't date then. "We got together late in life, at age 36."

Van Rijn-Davis is a born and bred Virgil local and a teacher at Forestview Public School in Niagara Falls. They have three children, two attending Crossroads Public School and one at Laura Secord High School in St. Catharines. They live just around the corner from the Centennial Arena complex.

Like many would-be local NHL stars, Davis started hockey at the age of five and topped out of the competitive leagues in his late teens.

"I've played hockey here all my life," says Davis.

"Now, I'm pretty much doing what my dad did when I played hockey — coaching, volunteering and so on. My brother was the equipment manager before me."

"I actually have a history in the NHL. Well, my grandfather did. He was a trainer for the Marlboros and the Leafs and had three rings — a Memorial Cup ring, a Stanley Cup ring. And an Allen Cup ring.

"It's in my blood, I guess!"

Davis says the game has changed dramatically since his father helped him lace up his first pair of skates.

"In those days you just put the kid on the ice and played a game. If one kid was good, no one else got to touch the puck."

"Now it is more about development," he says. "At the youngest ages, there are no games, no scores, half-ice, more touches and more fun!"

In some ways, Davis ap-

pears wistful remembering the way it was.

"When I grew up everything was hockey, ball hockey, pond hockey. Wherever you could go to do it. Now kids have so many distractions, with videos, tablets and so on. There is so much to do.

"The draw for hockey in small town communities is not as big as it used to be."

Davis is proud of the fact his equipment storage area doesn't smell like a locker room. It is clearly well-organized, everything in its place. He surveys his realm from a small desk in the middle of a large room filled with caged storage for every manner of team equipment.

He's spent a lot of time sorting things out, making sure the equipment for the association's 15 teams is in good supply.

He remembers in his first days on the job, there was a pile of mismatched hockey socks, no longer useful for any of the players.

"I found someone that I could donate the socks to, who made them into hats. They did it as a fundraiser for their organization."

Davis has no real budget. But each year he proposes the house league and travel teams' equipment needs — jerseys, pads and equipment — to the association board for approval.

He makes a point of celebrating the participation and support of many local businesses. "They come back every year — it really couldn't happen without them."

Why does Davis give so much of himself to hockey?

"Hockey is a life lesson for kids. It teaches you discipline. Teaches you to get along with other people. And it's fun."



## Ontario is getting stronger

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# Have some fun



- Across**
- Hang loosely (6)
  - Church songbook (7)
  - Under an assumed name (9)
  - Strictly accurate (5)
  - Ogle (4)
  - Not merely local (8)
  - Efflux (7)
  - Stevedore (6)
  - Period of history (3)
  - Bother (6)
  - Not this one and not that one (7)
  - Supporter of a monarch (8)
  - Fijian capital (4)
  - Between (5)
  - Take turns (9)
  - Phantom (7)
  - Pedlar (6)
- Down**
- Aged (7)
  - Jokes (4)
  - Send forth (4)
  - Fuel (10)
  - Constituent of vinegar (6,4)
  - Learner (7)
  - Child's toy (6)
  - Crest (7)
  - Torch (10)
  - Lottery (10)
  - Unrealistic person (7)
  - From now on (3,4)
  - Transport charge (7)
  - Keyboard instruments (6)
  - Where many land speed records have been attempted (4)
  - Fill out (4)

## Crossword Puzzle

	1	2	3	4		5		6	7		8
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10								11			
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			14		15						
16								17			
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	20	21						22			23
24											
25									26		
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29						30					
31								32			

### Last issue's answers

1	T	R	O	O	P	E	R	5	S	U	R	G	E	O	N
2	Y	S	L	E	I	E	L	A							
3	P	I	T	T	A	10	P	A	N	E	L	L	I	S	T
4	I	E	N	T	C	A	T	T							
5	C	L	O	C	K	W	I	S	E	12	T	H	E	M	E
6	A	P	L	R	I										
7	L	E	A	K	A	G	E	15	E	N	V	I	O	U	S
8	T	M													
9	C	O	H	A	B	I	T	16	O	B	S	C	E	N	E
10	A														
11	P	U	R	S	E	23	S	W	E	E	24	T	S	H	O
12	T	I	S	T	A										
13	A	M	P	H	I	B	I	A	N	26	R	E	A	P	S
14	I	E	D	F											
15	N	U	N	N	E	R	Y	28	C	R	O	W	D	E	D

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



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# Follow the money as nuclear fusion aims to become viable

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Now that the James Webb telescope has been successfully launched and deployed, it's time to turn our attention back to Earth, climate change and finding a safe abundant source of energy.

Long before current urgent calls to cap greenhouse gas levels related to human activity, nuclear scientists were aware that nuclear fusion, modelled on how our sun creates energy, might offer a limitless source of climate-friendly energy.

The sun creates energy by fusing pairs of hydrogen nuclei in its core to form helium nuclei, losing a tiny bit of mass in the process, and generating an enormous amount of energy. For which explanation we need look no further than Einstein's most iconic and brief equation,  $E=mc^2$ .

For the purpose at hand, the equation states that the energy generated by the loss of a tiny bit of hydrogen mass to create helium equals the mass lost multiplied by the speed of



Scientists are trying to replicate conditions in our sun.

light squared. The huge multiplication factor on the right side of the equation explains why nuclear fusion creates so much energy for so little mass lost.

Fusing like-charged hydrogen nuclei in the sun requires the enormous force generated by the mass of the sun and the extremely high temperatures in the sun's core to force hydrogen nuclei to fuse to form helium.

Replicating those condi-

tions on Earth has turned out to be a huge challenge. Creating equivalent pressures to the core of the sun is impossible but creating temperatures higher than the sun's core is possible, and that's precisely what was recently achieved.

Scientists and engineers at the National Ignition Facility of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California announced they had come close.

By employing 192 highly

focused, high-energy lasers, they managed to heat a few milligrams of hydrogen to a temperature three times that at the core of the sun, and for a fraction of a second, achieved fusion.

That was a Wright brothers' or a first-step-on-the-moon moment and in this case, was a giant step forward in fusion research by showing that achieving the conditions necessary for fusion was possible, if only for a fraction of a second.

Moving forward, the challenge is to develop economically feasible fusion generators capable of sustained fusion which create far more energy than needed for ignition and sustaining the process.

For several decades scientists and engineers working in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and more recently China have tried with increasing success to find effective ways to trigger fusion.

By conservative estimates, it may take two or more decades before commercially viable fusion devices become available. However,

the game has changed.

From large, sometimes unwieldy government-sponsored programs, venture capitalists have entered the field in the last decade in Europe, the United States, and the United Kingdom, bringing with them fresh energy, new ideas, resources, and timelines to fusion programs. This was a sure sign investors feel that the field has matured enough to make commercially viable fusion a strong probability within the near future – not the several decades prophesized by more conservative scientists and government sources.

Bill Gates is the chair of the board of one such private venture company and Google has thrown its weight into nuclear fusion as well. That tells us something about how the well-heeled and tech-savvy see nuclear fusion. In this respect, nuclear fusion is similar to the changing landscape in space.

In the western world private capital and highly focused and time-lined projects in space have almost replaced NASA and other

government-funded space agencies as the driving force for launching satellites, creating new economical and in some instances, giant reusable rockets and planning future missions to the moon and Mars.

With a similar shift toward private capital, pragmatism, and urgency, the first generation of commercially viable fusion generators might appear toward the end of this decade or soon thereafter, given the growth in the nascent industry, according to optimists.

But whoever and whatever agency comes first in the race to develop commercially viable nuclear fusion, the triumph will surely be one of the most transformative in this century and a saviour for the climate.

Let's hope for our sake and all the other amazing creatures with whom we share this planet that the venture capitalists and optimists are right.

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

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## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM



## Sally Carter and the Moseby affair of 1837

Many local history enthusiasts are familiar with the Moseby affair of 1837. However, few may know the story of Sally Carter. She helped to organize 200 to 300 supporters from Niagara's Black community to hold a vigil outside the Niagara Jail, featured above, to guard against any attempt by the authorities to return escaped slave Solomon Moseby to the U.S. Sally, along with several Black women, launched a series of tactics to aid his freedom by blocking the road to the courthouse, singing hymns as a diversion, and standing between the protesters and the prison guards to prevent fights. These tactics were instrumental in securing Moseby's freedom when he was brought out from the jail to a carriage. Sally was an escaped slave who knew all too well what could happen to Moseby if he was returned. Although she was happy to be living in Canada, she was cautious of the threat of being returned to the U.S. Sally and the Black women involved in the Moseby affair boldly put their lives on the line for justice and freedom in 1837. Today, the Black Lives Matter movement is carrying on the torch by continuing the fight for injustices that still exist today for many in the Black community. For more on local Black history, visit the Voices of Freedom Tour website or the NOTL Museum.

## Museum lecture explores world of apothecaries

Barbara Worthy  
Special to The Lake Report

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's virtual lecture series continues March 2 with a dive into the history of the medicinal world, through the lens of apothecaries and pharmacies, presented by the museum's digitization coordinator Katelynn Best.

The professions of apothecary and pharmacology have always suggested intrigue and mystery, from the days of potents, herbs and snake oil, to the pharmaceutical sciences of today's pandemic world.

Apothecaries as a profession have existed since the times of ancient Babylon.

They all shared the same knowledge – how to make potents and remedies that would affect various human conditions, from bodily functions to mental well-being.

While working on the digitization of the museum's vast collection, Best became intrigued by the labels and images of medicines and potents that would have been found on the shelves of the Niagara Apothecary.

Now a designated heritage site, the Niagara Apoth-



Katelynn Best at work scanning photos. SUPPLIED

ecary on Queen Street in NOTL operated from 1820 to 1964 before opening as a museum in 1971. The shelves would have been lined with everything from medicines and cosmetic needs, to cigars, alcohol and even opiates.

The digitization and preservation of these images is part of the museum's strategy to digitize and upload at least 30 per cent of the museum's vast and unique collection.

"Digitization is an absolute necessity," said managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman. "But it's also costly and time-consuming. Thanks to Trillium, we're able to make this huge in-

vestment for the museum and the entire community."

Museums around the world are investing in their online programming and the NOTL Museum's collection of more than 50,000 artifacts is one of the most unique in Canada, attracting online visitors from all parts of the globe.

"Digitization is key to helping us grow our online presence," said Kaufman. "We receive at least 200 access requests per year and it's growing all the time."

Best, who received her BA in classical and near eastern archeology from Wilfrid Laurier University and a certificate in museum and gallery studies from Geor-

gian College, was hired under the Trillium grant.

She is now tasked with making a dent in this vast digital operation, making full use of four specialized scanners also purchased with money from the grant.

"The scanners handle everything from journals, ledgers and letters, to legal documents, maps and images, dating back 200 years and more," said Best.

She also is responsible for transcribing all those notes and annotations, plus others found on a myriad of collectibles.

"I can spend hours just deciphering certain words and letters, hoping to connect people and places."

Join her on March 2 at 11 a.m. Register at [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca).

Other upcoming virtual lectures include:

March 16: "Shaw at 60!" Join Leonard Connolly in conversation with Barbara Worthy as they reflect on 60 years of the Shaw Festival.

March 30: In the final lecture of the winter series, David Hemmings explores "Heritage Homes of Niagara."

## Looking to the Stars



## Dreams can heal old wounds and relationships can improve

This week we see a lineup of five objects in Capricorn that lasts for days. And a new moon, this time in Pisces.

**Thursday, Feb. 24:** A dream last night can help heal an old wound and the proof comes in an improved relationship later today. Tommy Douglas, founder of the New Democratic Party of Canada and the man who brought universal health care to Canada, died on Feb. 24, 1986.

**Friday, Feb. 25:** The mood begins positive and thinking large but changes to serious and practical midday. The same year Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali, he won his first heavyweight title fight on this day in 1964.

**Saturday, Feb. 26 and Sunday, Feb. 27:** Today and tomorrow the moon joins Venus, Mars and Pluto to form an intense, enthusiastic, stellar conjunction in Capricorn. The Venus-Mars-moon-Pluto encounter is so intense that transformation is inevitable. By March 6 we will no longer be the same person we were. If you have planets or angles between 23 and 28 degrees of Capricorn, Cancer, Aries or Libra, you will experience this energy at an even more intense level. Fats Domino was born Feb. 26, 1928. Johnny Cash was born Feb. 26, 1932. Jacques Plante, the great Montreal Canadiens goalie, died on Feb. 27, 1986.

**Monday, Feb. 28:** Today is kind of a test. Mercury (the

mind) and the moon (the heart) are together but then Saturn steps in and all things come to a stop. Or do they? It's up to each of us. The foremost architect of his generation, Toronto's Frank Gehry, was born 93 years ago on Feb. 28, 1929.

**Tuesday, March 1:** With Venus and Mars so close these days, today they both are in perfect harmony with the North Node of the moon. It's a day to be serious but also determined and charming about advancing our karma to the best place possible. Justin Bieber celebrates his 28th birthday today. He's only been recording officially for 11 years but has sold over 150 million records.

**Wednesday, March 2:** Today is the day of the new moon in Pisces, the start of a new lunar month. It's a day to make a list of things to work on during the next 28 days, especially things Piscean. Like honing our intuition. Or becoming a better dancer. Letting go of a bad habit. Forming a good habit. It was as easy as one, two, three although he was 53, you see. He was Theodore Geisel, aka. Dr. Seuss, born March 2, 1904. He did not publish his first book until age 53, after being rejected 27 times. He was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for his contribution to children's literature.

**Bill Auchterlonie's weekly podcast is Looking to the Stars at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).**

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# A step-by-step garden guide



Joanne Young  
Garden Columnist

Spring will soon be here ... I promise! And as soon as you can get the shovel in the ground, you can start preparing new gardens. Here are some simple steps to follow.

**STEP 1 – Have a plan:** It is always best to start with a plan so that you know where you are headed. Without a plan, everything becomes guess work which can cost you more money and time. Whether you have a plan created for you by a designer or you are designing your own garden, make sure that it is drawn out to scale so that it is easier to implement it later. If using graph paper, an easy scale to use is for each square to equal one foot. Take time during this planning stage to play around with the lines of the gardens. Make sure the garden you are planning flows nicely into the surrounding elements.

**STEP 2 – Mark out the bed area:** Following your plan, use various measurements to start marking out the lines of your gardens. Measure out certain points from the design and place a stake in the ground at those points. For curved gardens, use a garden hose to wrap around those stakes. The hose will give you a smooth curved line that you can play with until you have the right outline. Once you have the line laid out to your



Lifting the sod is an important step. SUPPLIED

liking, you can mark it with spray paint or even use flour from the kitchen.

**STEP 3 – Lift the sod:** In many cases you need to lift the sod before preparing the soil. First, take a width of sod away at the outer edge of the bed. This will help you to define the area to be dug. Using a lawn edger or square-mouth spade, cut the sod into long strips and slide the spade underneath the sod to lift it. Usually, you will only have to remove about one inch of the soil below the sod. For larger projects, it would be best to rent a sod cutter.

**STEP 4 – Prepare the soil:** Once the sod is lifted, it is best to turn over the existing soil with a round-mouth shovel or a tiller. Add triple mix or composted manure on top of the bed. The soil amendments will get mixed in the bed as you plant.

**STEP 5 – Place plants and other features:** Now you are ready to start putting in your plants. Place and plant the larger trees or shrubs first. This makes it easier to dig larger holes without having the smaller plants sitting nearby in the way. I find it easiest to start planting from the back of the bed and work forward. Next, plant the smaller items such as the perennials and groundcovers.

When planting, dig a hole at least 1.5 to two times wider than the root ball and just a couple inches deeper. Put amended soil in the bottom of the hole to the point

where the top of the root ball is flush to the finished soil level in the bed. Take the plant out of its container and loosen up the root ball with your fingers or pruners. Place the root ball into the hole and fill in around the root with amended soil, packing fresh soil around the root ball. Do not place additional soil over the top of the root ball.

**STEP 6 – Edge the garden:** To get a nice sharp-looking edge on the garden and to stop the lawn from growing back into the bed quickly, use an edger. Make a straight vertical cut at the grass edge and slowly mound soil toward the gardens. A well-edged bed will set any garden apart. If you would like to put in a more permanent edge you may want to consider black plastic edging, aluminum edging, retaining wall or bricks.

**STEP 7 – Mulch:** Mulching the gardens once the planting is done is the best way to keep weeds from coming up. It also helps to keep the sun from hitting the soil directly and drying it out. A two-inch layer of mulch is recommended. I prefer to use the finer shredded mulches as opposed to larger pieces of bark – usually available in cedar, pine or hemlock. Make sure you use less mulch around the base of any of your plants.

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

## Obituaries

### Martin Hallet



Died February 19th 2022, age 70 years. Beloved husband and dear friend of Dr. Judy Hunter. Loving father of Michael. Devoted stepfather of Jason and Kate and step-grandfather of Ryan, Shawn and Dylan. Loving stepson of Viv. Dear brother of Anne, Kenny, Terry and Cheryl.

Martin emigrated to Canada from Corsham, Wiltshire, England in 1975 and in his time in Canada made many friends, in particular with his golfing buddies, running mates and tennis competitors. Martin and Judy moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2015 and he thoroughly enjoyed his new-found home and the many friends he made in Niagara and St. Catharines.

Martin loved his family, was passionate about tennis and never forgot a good joke. His positive, happy, fun-loving

spirit will remain with us all.

At Martin's request, cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will be held in the summer. If desired as expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to the The Yonge Street Mission at [www.ysm.ca](http://www.ysm.ca).



### Flora Wissenz



WISSENZ Flora McLennan (nee Cooke)- Passed away peacefully on Feb. 16, eight days before her 98th Birthday. Beloved wife to the late Henry (2008), adored by her children Ellen, Hank (Brenda), Robert (Karen), and Janet (Eric). Loving grandmother to Aaron, Jennifer (Hale), and Adam. Great grandmother to Wade and Ember. At the age of 93, Flora found the family of her birth mother and was welcomed with open hearts. Flora met her brother Alexander, niece Wilma from Scotland, spoke with her brother William John, and was preceded in death by siblings Mary Flora, John Alec, and Jessie. Flora will be held dear in the hearts of her brothers-in-law (Richard & Fred) and sisters-in-law (Shirley & Mary), as well as many nieces and nephews. Flora was cherished by her friends that were

as close as family. Scottish by birth and Canadian by choice, Flora served as a corporal in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force during WWII. She was always ready for a conversation with anyone she met, especially around a kitchen table or a campfire. For such a wee lassie, Flora had a huge impact on all who knew her. As per Flora's wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of life is planned for the summer. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation in memory of Flora to the March of Dimes Canada <https://marchofdimes.akaraisin.com/ui/MODCDonationEN/donations/start>. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Morgan Funeral Home.

Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at [www.morganfuneral.com](http://www.morganfuneral.com).




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