



The Lake Report

Vol. 2, Issue 7

February 21, 2019

Niagara-on-the-Lake

TOWN WILL PAY 'A FORTUNE' IN LEGAL FEES

Richard Harley
The Lake Report
Editor

Benny Marotta might "give up" on his plans for the Randwood hotel, he said during an interview Sunday at Two Sisters Vineyards.

"I may give up the hotel and board the houses up and lock up all the gates," he said, though it didn't sound like it is his plan.

"If I do that, (people) are still going to complain," he said, in reference to members of Save Our Rand Estate, who have been vocal in fighting Marotta's plan for both a hotel and subdivision on the lands of the Randwood Estate.

The proposed developments have ignited a series of legal battles between the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Marotta's companies Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc.



A rendering of the hotel proposed for Randwood Estate. SUPPLIED

The town claims the lands to be developed bear significant historical value and alleges Marotta has caused permanent damage to the site's heritage aspects while

preparing to build.

Marotta, who owns Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar Development Corp., denies the allegations. He claims only specific aspects

of the property have real heritage value and that he's done what's legally required to protect them.

Continued on Page 2

NOTL air cadets speak their minds



Thomas Forsyth and Shaelynn Lett won first and third place in the competition, respectively.

DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Members of the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron spoke their minds at the Croatian National Centre Wednesday night, as part of the cadet's annual National Effective Speaking Program. Each year, cadets across Canada participate, with the goal of building self-confidence, organizational and interpersonal skills.

Some of the topics this year included peer pressure among youth, the voting age limit, the history of Avro Arrow aircraft, and what it means to be a Canadian. Cadets could also choose their own topic as long as it

was about cadet life, aviation, science and technology, Canadian history or citizenship.

Niagara-on-the-Lake's squadron Capt. Jody Lemoine said effective speaking used to be a core component of the air cadet training program.

"We still do it. But it's been moved out of the core training and it's been taken over by our civilian side sponsorship committee," he said.

For the first part of the event, speakers had to deliver a five-minute speech on one of the topics provided by the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Continued on Page 13

Drums and Tales celebrates black history

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake library was filled with rhythmic drumming Saturday afternoon.

In celebration of Black History Month, Babarinde (Baba) Williams visited NOTL to host a "Tales by Moonlight" drumming workshop.

Williams is a popular guest at local libraries and schools where he performs and hosts interactive and multimedia drumming sessions.

"I've been booked since January all the way 'til the end of April. Every single day," he said. "And every weekend in Black History Month, I go to a library."

It was Williams who

first reached out to NOTL library and suggested he come to visit.

"I've read so much about the city itself and the fact that it is very close-knit is very unique," he said.

Williams has been playing drums since he was little.

Continued on Page 12



The sound of drums took over the public library on Saturday in honour of Black History Month. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

233 King Street | (905) 468-8600

bosleyniagararealestate.com

notl@bosleyrealestate.com

Leading

REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD™

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE

90
years+

BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

Marotta will seek legal fees from the town

Continued from Front Page

He is still unclear what members of SORE are fighting him on, he said. "The problem that I see with SORE is I really don't know their direction."

"They're trying to protect the Rand Estate. I don't know how they're going to protect it unless there is someone who develops it to make things happen. We're trying to make it happen and they're stopping it. They say no pretty well to everything. It was on the market for a while before I bought it. No one touched it. So it's unfortunate."

He said from what he's heard, NOTL has been getting a "pretty bad name" outside of town.

"Now when someone mentions NOTL, their response is, 'is that the town they're always complaining they want nothing to happen?'"

He fully intends to follow through with the subdivision regardless, he said,



NOTL town hall. RICHARD HARLEY

"because people, the town, needs people, needs young families."

"NOTL should not be only to go and eat. 90 per cent of businesses on the strip are not restaurants, they're shops. And they cannot rely only on tourism."

He admitted the subdivision is a money-making project.

"It's a business," he said.

One thing he said he can "assure the people of NOTL" is that if "left alone" he will build a

5-star hotel, "and the town will be a part of it."

"We're going to be attracting people with money who can spend money in town," Marotta said.

"A lot of people are calling telling me 'don't stop, keep going, you're doing the right thing.' And there's a group of people who are more disappointed by the politics, of not protecting the town. The town needs to be protected by the politicians. They were elected by the people. They didn't

get 50 votes from SORE. They got thousands."

He said he's "trying to send a message" to council. "Being a politician is a privilege. You were elected by the people, maybe you should protect them and stop playing politics. It's crazy what's happening."

Marotta has already filed responses to three of the town's actions which limit development of the lands and said he will seek his legal fees back in all cases.

"The (town is) going to give me a couple-hundred grand by the time we're done ... It's going to cost them a fortune."

He expects a decision for a motion to quash heritage designation of the properties in June, after court looks over the documents in April. The single case will cost the town in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 if Solmar and Two Sisters win, Marotta estimates.

"We have the appeal on the hotel, the injunction, the heritage. And apparent-

ly the town is going to lay charges against Solmar for cutting the trees ... They're going to be exposing the town to a huge liability. Then they have to defend all of those.

He also said he plans to appeal the town's interim control bylaw which prevents the development of his subdivision.

He claims SORE was the main influence behind the town's decision to lay charges on Solmar.

"(The town) didn't want to do it themselves. (SORE) is pushing the town, and by doing that they're exposing the town to a huge liability. It's nonsense. There's no grounds at all."

When asked why he keeps going forward fighting the town, he said "When I came to Niagara, my intent was to build the best winery, or one of the best wineries in the Niagara region.

"My intent is to say and do the right thing to benefit the town and the businesses

and protect my own opinion. So we've got to make sure that we pinch them but we've taught them everything we need.

"The town won't go broke," he said.

The combination of a high-end hotel and subdivision will attract "new blood" to the town, which will benefit growth and business, he said.

"We're doing all of this to make the Marotta family proud, but also to build and own a signature hotel to attract people from all over the world to spend their vacation, their holiday in NOTL. The overall investment is not based on money making, it's about leaving a legacy. If it was for money, the \$50 million dollars we're going to be (spending on) the Rand Estate project, we could invest it into the development business and multiply it many times over with no headaches."

He added he still has "an option" for a buyer on the table.

Town approves budget, property tax hike

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake approved its annual budget Feb. 11, and implemented a 4.5 per cent property tax increase.

The 2019 budget is \$9,365,750.

The budget report, prepared by the town staff, also provided a 10-year capital forecast of \$72,536,350.

During a committee of the whole meeting on Feb. 4, the council reviewed the operating and capital draft budgets. The initial property tax increase was proposed to be 7.21 per cent or 5.10 per cent after growth.

Council was aiming to have a 4.5 per cent increase after growth. After a number of updates and changes the target was met.

Some of the motions made to the budget included removing Byron Street parking meters, providing



The cenotaph in Old Town. EUNICE TANG

the increase for the NOTL Museum from the parking reserve, deferring Line 199 Recreation Master Plan to a future year, and reducing the rent for 176 Wellington street by \$6,550.

With these changes, the approved operating budget will see a 4.48 per cent or \$11,518,550 after growth increase in the operating property tax.

Since the 2019 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund allocation hasn't been announced yet, it might make changes to the 2019 operating budget.

In 2019, the town plans to spend \$53,500 on transit, \$1,365,000 on water, \$1,470,000 on wastewater, \$4,170,500 on roads, \$1,015,500 on parks, recreation and facilities, \$333,500 on fire and emergency services and \$108,750 on corporate services.

One of the projects in the corporate services department is a purchase of aerial photos from the Niagara Region. According to the budget report, the reason for this project is because aerial ortho imagery is an "important and useful layer of any Geographic Information System (GIS)" and it will allow the "town GIS staff to perform various analyses." The cost for this project is \$5,000.

There is no money intended to spend on building services and by-law enforcement in the next two years.

The town will also allocate \$80,837 on bridges

and culverts, \$27,000 dollars on street lighting and \$1,342,760 on roads, sidewalks and lights.

From the budget funds spent on roads, the most expensive project is Queenston Road – Townline to Airport – construction. This project has \$1,670,000 allocated to it. The works will include providing 1.5 metre bike lanes on both sides of the road. The project also includes the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$332,135.

One of the roads projects is the concrete bridge replacement on Line 1 Road (0.19 kilometres west of Concession 2). The budget report said the bridge was identified as in poor condition by 2017 Structure Inspection report and needs an immediate replacement. The cost of this project will be \$545,000.

The NOTL Library will also see some improvements

with money spent on furniture replacement, public laptops, and the facilities and materials development. It is projected to have \$73,000 spent on it.

According to the budget report, NOTL Community Centre needs more tables and chairs for the café area. It also has to update the furniture, games, toys and computers in Penner Room, said the report. So \$10,000 of the budget funds will go to Community Centre amenities.

Cannery Park will have the most amount of 2019 budget money out of the parks, recreation and facilities projects, with \$175,000 allocated to it. Some other improvements across this department include community centre amenities, renovated courthouse washrooms, River Beach Park restorations and defibrillator replacement across the town.

Among projects in the water section, the Queenston project has the highest amount of budget money for 2019. The budget predicts to spend \$520,000.

While the least amount of funds among this section will be spent on Paxton Lane at York and South End with \$20,000 allocated to the project.

The budget report also says \$1,085,000 of wastewater money will be spent on Chautauqua area (Dixie – Circle to Lakeshore).

For the fire and emergency services, \$65,000 will go to replacing protective equipment and \$25,000 to buying firefighting equipment. The Glendale fire station will also be repaired with \$50,000 allocated to it.

The report says the repair work will extend the life of the apparatus floor and reduce potential future costs.

The repair works also include replacing loose and damaged floor tiles in the front vestibule and replacing failing glass panels in overhead doors.

  **Keeping it local.**
358 Mary St. NOTL - 905-468-8727 - sandtrappub.com
"IT'S BACK" \$5 February
BEER, WINE, APPS, 4 SLICE PIZZA
ALL DAY EVERY DAY 

NOTL Newcomers Club a welcoming place for women

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Women in Niagara-on-the-Lake undergoing significant life changes need a place to connect – that’s just what the NOTL Newcomers are offering.

Since 1991, the group has been providing a place for women to come together socially, sharing common interests and familiarizing themselves with the town.

Susan Ksiazkiewicz, president, said the club is about more than just meeting up with people and going to events – it aims to build lasting friendships and bonds.

Opening its doors to women going through transitional periods in their lives, the club offers a chance to start fresh. Whether being new to town, going through a separation or reaching retirement – it’s available to add a sense of community to women’s lives.

The National Newcomers Association operates Canada-wide – the NOTL chapter is the only one that keeps membership to just women.

The group is a not-for-profit organization with a board of directors and annual meetings. Special interest programs are hosted throughout the group, covering activities such as knitting, book clubs, lunch meet-ups, etc. They are operated independently, organized by a convener who keeps track of membership and feedback.

Peggy Hooke, past president, said while the special interest groups are run independently, they need to remain structured.

“If you run an interest group there has to be a convener. We don’t want it random and loose, there has to be someone keeping a list, making sure (attendees) are members, and reporting back to the board. Someone taking pictures for the newsletters.”

Clubs need to stay within predetermined guidelines.



Susan Ksiazkiewicz, president and Peggy Hooke, past president at Sweets and Swirls, community centre cafe. BRITTANY CARTER

Specifically, no political, religious or business affiliations.

“It’s for women of any age, but we would be pulling your leg to say there isn’t a dominate demographic.”

SUSAN KSIAZKIEWICZ,
PRESIDENT
NOTL NEWCOMERS CLUB

Susan Ksiazkiewicz, president, said it’s a common ground for like-minded women to come together.

“We try to keep it neutral.”

The NOTL Newcomers host Coffee and Conversations on the last Friday of every month in the Simpson’s Room of the community centre, offering members and those interested in joining an opportunity to catch up, chat and sign up for groups and events.

Ksiazkiewicz said the monthly meet-up is a great place for women who are interested in joining the club to get an idea of what they are all about. They provide

an added value to outings that wouldn’t necessarily be experienced individually.

Hooke said the monthly meet-up tends to be weighted to the new people.

“We also find that friends tend to be clustered, not by deliberation, but by when they come into the group. People who are new this year will tend to make friends with other people who are new this year, and they’ll join groups together. Five years down the road they’ll still be good friends.”

Hooke said they do more than just visit an attraction.

“We wouldn’t just go to a winery, we’d have a whisky tasting. There’s a program over and above what you yourself might do if you were to visit these places,” she said, adding that they don’t just go out to social events. “It’s important to note that we get added value from what we’re doing.”

As to why the group wanted to keep it women-only?

“That’s really a funny story,” said Hooke.

Rosanne Fedorkow, the founder of the NOTL University Women’s Club, with Betty Hilton, who had

recently moved to town, wanted to organize a club for people new to the area. Their aim was to provide intellectual stimulation while introducing members to NOTL.

The first meeting, held in Hilton’s living room, was attended by three women and one man. The man never returned for subsequent meetings – setting the woman-only precedence for the club.

Hooke said the club is open to women of any age, but membership tends to center around the age of retirement.

“It’s for women of any age, but we would be pulling your leg to say there isn’t a dominate demographic, that is which parallels the rest of the town. It’s the point in your life when you have finished work, your kids have grown up.”

Ksiazkiewicz said they are always hoping for new members. She said they want to encourage any woman in NOTL who is going through some kind of significant change in their lives to drop in and see if the club is for them.

“We have something for everyone.”



Enjoy authentic Sichuan & Dim Sum at home!

\$1

Dim Sum
All day, every day!

\$18.99

Dinner Special
Sunday - Thursday

\$15.99

Lunch Express Special
Monday - Thursday

\$20.99

Brunch
Saturday - Sunday

Takeout and Delivery Available

View our full take-out menu online.

CHILIJIAO.COM • 905.468.6114

271 MARY ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON

St. David’s
VETERINARY CLINIC

stdavidsvetclinic.com

How Kissable is your pet?

House-calls available

☎ 905.262.8777

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR GOURMET PREPARED MEALS

CACIO PEPE

WWW.CACIOPEPEMEALS.COM
@CACIOPEPEMEALS
PHONE: 905.358.4275

WE BRING DINING OUT, IN.

All welcome! Sunday 10:45am

redbrickchurch.ca

1775 Niagara Stone Road
Niagara United Mennonite Church

Advertising inquiries?
Email us at
advertising@niagaranow.com
or call Rob at 905-246-4671



niagara
NOW
News that hits home.



Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road | Virgil Business Park (905)-468-2135

JUST ARRIVED

Karastan Area Carpets

featuring designs by Scott Living



Editorial: Stop spending bad money

Richard Harley
The Lake Report

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake should reconsider spending funds on a series of legal battles, many of which don't bear much prospect of victory.

In April the town will defend its decision to claim historical significance of the entire Randwood Estate by means of designation.

Benny Marotta has said if he wins he will sue for the legal costs too. It isn't yet known how much that will be. So why don't we just not spend the money?

As much as some people might not like the idea of a hotel or another subdivision in town, fighting what is likely a losing battle and spending taxpayer dollars to do it doesn't seem like a wise reaction.

Fighting losing battles might do great things for campaigns, but it hurts the town as a whole when it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars — maybe more.

Besides, it's looking very much like municipal elections won't be the same next time around anyway, so our council members should toss any cares to the wind

when it comes to votes and just do what's fiscally responsible.

If we don't back down, we have to keep in mind we could be sharing the costs with another municipality soon.

It wouldn't be the most kind start for us to ask our new spouse(s) to swallow up our debts when we marry.

It's a safe bet other developers are impacted by the town's actions too.

That fire has already started to smoulder, and developers know each other and work together.

Given the loud, negative public sentiment toward Marotta, skilled lawyers could make the case that the town made a political decision to take him on and is acting out of malice.

It really does seem like we're fighting a losing battle.

If a hotel at Randwood isn't going to cause the apocalypse, we might as well let it happen. Or we can wait to see how much it really costs us.

Better solution: stop spending our money frivolously.



More letters

Re: 'snobby NOTLers'

Dear Editor,

I recall the original letter which spawned this issue of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Old Town residents against the good people of St. Davids. The letter was actually a comment on the quality of homes built by the developer who has bought land throughout NOTL and feels he should be able to build what he wants, where he wants and when he wants, without regard to municipal limits or the identity or character of the town. The original letter was certainly not an attack on people desiring to live in this amazing area, known for its history, its artistic colony, and its century's old architecture. In fact, residents such as ourselves in Old Town welcome, respect and include new residents in areas such as St. Davids, Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Green (and any others I have missed) as full members of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The original letter was simply a comment on mega-developer Solmar Development Corporation's purpose, which seems to be, to build high-density housing crammed together to generate maximum profit, and to hell with the unique character of the town. In fact, the developer has a long history in other areas such as Caledon in which he waged dubious war with local government as chronicled in the Toronto Star and the Globe & Mail. Right now, Solmar (in its fifth legal battle with our town) is in court fighting the Niagara-on-the-Lake's designation to include Randwood Estate properties under the Heritage Act which would limit the alteration or destruction of historically significant buildings contained therein.

Unfortunately, when developers such as this find a desirable area they often move in and bully local councils with limited budgets and build, build, built until they compromise, or even ruin, the character of the area which made it desirable in the first place. Then they find a new area to serve their greed. Their companies are essentially all about profit. If they were smart, they would study a town and then try to enhance it's uniqueness and character with their projects. For instance, the Queen's Landing is certainly an example of respecting the character of the town which leans more towards Colonial than Bauhaus.

Finally, let me add congratulations to The Lake Report and particularly founder/editor Richard Harley for taking such a large personal financial gamble to bring local news back to NOTL's residents. Your paper certainly deserves our support and I, for one, will try to patronize your advertisers whenever possible. Thanks for doing an excellent job.

J. Richard Wright



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to rethink approach to annual grants

Dear Editor,

It is unfortunate that NOTL Council did not set a target that kept planned increases to our 2019 municipal taxes at or below the cost of living index.

That, plus setting realistic priorities for ongoing and future spending, should have been at the heart of its budget deliberations this year.

I recognize that finalizing a budget and determining spending priorities is challenging work. However, it makes no sense to me that Council has opted to close the NOTL Community Centre on statutory holidays in 2019, including Family Day, while providing fund-

ing to Niagara College, the Niagara District Airport, and the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, among other organizations.

Niagara College, according to media reports, had a \$13-million surplus in 2017-18 and receives substantial provincial funding. Surely it did not need a \$20,000 grant from NOTL.

The Chamber exists to represent and benefit its members, which fund the organization through their membership dues. While it may make sense for NOTL to contract with the Chamber to list and sell tickets for local events, there is an argument to be made that providing annual funding

to the Chamber to promote tourism does not. Many residents believe that NOTL attracts more than enough tourists already, which has resulted in traffic and pedestrian congestion, parking and noise issues, and local events being inundated with out-of-towners, making NOTL a less attractive place to live and work. Tourists may be good for the Chamber's members, but they're not necessarily good for town.

As for the airport. I can see Council providing one-time financial support for capital projects, but providing annual funding towards the airport's operating costs does not make sense over

the long term unless there is a realistic expectation — backed by a strong business plan — that the airport can become a viable enterprise that will generate economic or other benefits to local residents and businesses.

The bottom line is that grants from Council to third parties should not be annual line items in the municipal budget. They should only be considered in years when town can provide them without reducing the level of services it provides to residents, or raising property or business taxes, and only in exceptional circumstances.

Terry Davis

The Lake Report

Editor-In-Chief: Richard Harley

Publisher: Niagara Now

Design & Layout: Richard Harley

Advertising: Rob Lamond (sales), Kurtis Hubert (graphic design)

Staff: Jer Houghton, Brittany Carter, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, Jill Troyer, Tim Taylor, Eunice Tang.

Contributors: Denise Ascenzo, Owen Bjorgan, Ross Robinson, NOTL Writer's Circle, Catherine Skinner, Tim Carroll, Jim Smith and many members of the community.



BLIND TASTING *experience*

Let your taste buds guide you through this one of a kind experience. Only \$25/person.

konzelmann.ca

konzelmann
estate winery

Shaw Festival film series shortens winter weeks for fun-loving local folk



Anticipating "A Star is Born" last Saturday afternoon at the weekly Shaw Festival Film Series, long time Niagara residents Brian and Rachelle Delaney (left) and Dana McDonough and Debi Pratt (right) have a sip of Cabernet Sauvignon with new pals Karen and John Agnidi, who they met last week at the Irish Harp after the film. They have moved to LaLa land from Toronto, and John has already been mistaken for his doppelganger Mayo Ridesic. ROSS ROBINSON

Ross Robinson
Special to The Lake Report

Quietly over the past fifteen years, a very special film phenomena has crept into the social fabric of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Many Canadians are snowbirds, heading south for the winter. But many of us stay in Niagara and find ways to entertain ourselves as the hours of darkness trump the hours of light.

A Shaw Festival film on a Saturday afternoon is so much more than just a movie. We could drive over to St. Catharines or Niagara Falls for Two Dollar Tuesdays, pay way too much for a tub of popcorn with extra butter and a sugar filled, supersized soda pop, or stay home and watch Netflix on TV. But the cachet of sitting in the elegant Shaw Festival Theatre, surrounded by interesting and open-minded film lovers, adds a certain sense of je ne sais quoi to the occasion.

The weekly two-hour film psychologically cuts three or four days out of each week. It is so easy to phlegmatically remain housebound, as the winter weeks slide by.

Some keeners arrive early at 1:30 to spread their winter

coats, brightly-coloured scarves or purses over their seats. The crowd in the foyer grows, the chattering noise levels rise, and the whole ambience just seems so festive. More gossip is spread than at the produce counters at Valu-mart. So NOTL.

Goodness me, film lovers have travelled from as far away as Niagara Falls and Welland and Grimsby to enjoy yet another NOTL experience

My colleague Tim Taylor limned the history of the Shaw Festival Film Series in his edifying story on Jan. 24 in The Lake Report.

The creativity, determination and generosity of Stephen Levy, Carol and John Walker and their wingers have provided so many "who knew" moments.

The effervescent smiles of the volunteer team as they enthusiastically welcome us, and sell four lucky draw tickets for ten thin dollars. (All proceeds remitted to the Shaw Festival, the wonderful partners who provide their world class theatre for our small town outings.)

Lucky draw prizes are always appreciated, donated by the award winning Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Show, Garrison House, Treadwell's,

Ginger and the Dollar Store on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines.

At almost exactly 3 p.m. each Shaw Film day, the uniquely talented Stephen Levy takes to the stage to provide a brief preview of what's coming.

Intuitive, incisive, easy-to-love, and occasionally irreverent and politically incorrect, he calls a spade a horticultural instrument.

Thank goodness the house lights have been dimmed, because sometimes there are a lot of blushing cheeks in the audience.

Last week, the mood in the theatre was so positive as Stephen finished his remarks, he was overcome by the vibe, and invited everyone over to his home after the film to toast marshmallows.

Most of us tend to live in our own spaces, and we have learned so much at the Shaw films.

And, the community social credits are rolled. Who was the key grip and who was the best boy on this one? Around NOTL, many houses are rockin' as post-show cocktails and dinners are served.

Last Saturday, I was so happy to share post film

fellowship at Helmi Moehl's foresty home in Chautauqua.

Truly a tree lover's delight. During our delightful time together, we solved a few problems, created a few problems, and unanimously decided to pass on a few problems.

The optimistic and learned comments by Salli and Don McDonald, retired High School bosses, reminded us all how great and interesting teenagers are during those challenging years.

"I love teenagers," they kept saying. The always effulgently dressed Charlotte Lewis delighted in describing her recent trip to South Africa, and her most recent luncheon at the StageCoach on Queen Street.

The Shaw Festival Film Series is a catalyst for community spirit.

For a couple of days after a film, we think about it, we talk about it, and we plan for next Saturday. It has become so, so much more than a film. Not just a movie, but now an integral part of living in our special Niagara Peninsula.

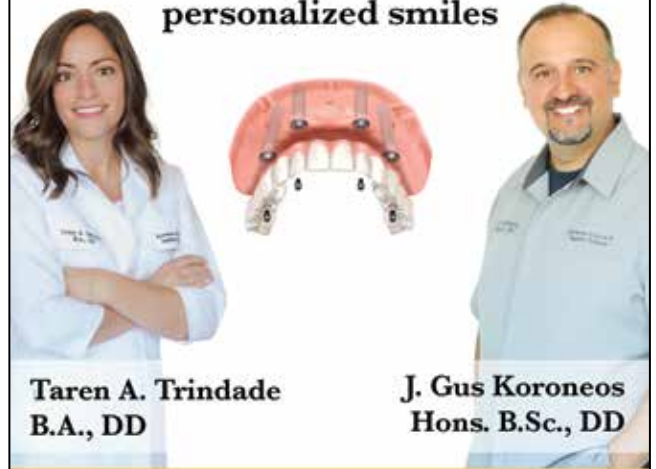
Vive the Film Series. Vive le Shaw Festival. Vive Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada in 2019.

GUS KORONEOS DENTURE & IMPLANT SOLUTIONS

Bring your smile back to life with permanent teeth in one day.

In-house lab for custom personalized smiles



Taren A. Trindade
B.A., DD

J. Gus Koroneos
Hons. B.Sc., DD

Offering complimentary consultations at
1630 Niagara Stone Road,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4444
www.niagaradentures.com

CABIN FEVER SALE

20% OFF
STORE WIDE

February Sat 16th – Sun 24th
Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures

855 Lakeshore Rd, NOTL
Open 10-5, No Additional Discounts



Our offices are here to serve you!

Niagara-on-the-Lake Office
open Fridays, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
at the Public Library

905-357-0681 • WayneGates.com



Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls
Serving Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie

Have an opinion you want heard?

Send a letter to the editor to
editor@niagaranow.com



CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS + RENOVATORS

Mark Holmes 905 468 0895 BrockBuilders.ca
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Good winter for **grapevines** - so far

Jill Troyer
The Lake Report

Grape growers in Niagara have a dedicated ally when it comes to protecting their vines over the winter and his name is Jim Willwerth.

He is the senior viticulturist at the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University and for the last nine years he has been meticulously gathering and compiling data to help grape growers prevent winter damage to their vines and mitigate the impact when there is damage from extreme cold.

Because of an effective partnership between the viticulture institute and the grape growers themselves, "We're leaders in the world," Willwerth says.

Matthias Oppenlaender, chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario concurs. "It's a fantastic relationship. The research is very valuable to the industry because it is based on our needs."

Willwerth and his team gather samples of buds from vineyards at regular intervals and test them to determine their cold hardiness, which varies depending on the time of year, the location and the grape variety.

"We put the buds into a temperature chamber that simulates a cold event, reducing the temperature by four degrees an hour, and note the temperature at the point where the bud becomes damaged to determine its cold hardiness," Willwerth explains.

More than 40,000 buds are tested each winter. Growers use that information to determine when to use their wind machines to prevent damage. According to Oppenlaender, "We were losing crops until we brought in wind technology. It's an absolutely critical piece of the puzzle and the research helps us know when to use it."

A given block of vines might be hardy to -10C in December, but as the winter wears on, the vine will develop hardiness to even lower temperatures, such as -20C.

So when a cold snap is forecast, growers can look at Willwerth's data online,



Jim Willwerth, senior viticulturist at the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute at Brock University, tests grapevine buds in the lab. JILL TROYER



Jim Willwerth places buds in a temperature chamber. JILL TROYER



Jim Willwerth reviews data on Vine Alert website. JILL TROYER

where it's broken down by date, location and grape varietal. If it says their buds are cold hardy to -20C and the temperature is going down to -25C, they know they need to use their wind machines to moderate the temperature around their vines to prevent damage to the buds.

Conversely, if their buds are cold hardy to -20C and the temperature is going down to -17C, they know they don't need to run the

machines. Willwerth says that precision helps growers collectively save as much as \$2 million a year in fuel costs, because they're not running the wind machines unless they're sure they need them.

"There are more than 400 users who take advantage of the data and the majority are in the Niagara region," he says.

Oppenlaender says he has 60 wind machines and "they each take 30 litres

of fuel per hour. It costs \$2,000 an hour to run them, so it's important to know when to use them" to avoid unnecessary cost.

Willwerth notes that many growers used wind machines during two recent cold snaps, on Jan. 23 and Feb. 5. The machines move the warmer air down to ground level and moderate the temperature on the vines.

He says there was "just a little bit of damage to some of the sensitive varieties,

like Merlot and Syrah, but nothing severe." When there is limited damage to buds, growers adjust their pruning methods to leave more buds on the vine, which mitigates the impact of the damage, he says.

Luckily, the freezing rain this month was no threat to the buds, Willwerth says. "The freezing rain ice on the plant will actually protect the vines from cold, plus they are supported on the trellis, so the ice won't cause them to break."

He emphasizes "the crop is dependent on the buds. If they die, there is no fruit," so preventing damage is critical. "When there is serious damage to vines, it takes up

to five years to get the vine back into production, so it's a significant loss for growers. They still have costs related to caring for those vines, but without any crop."

"The summer growing season is important, but winter can be even more nerve-wracking," says Oppenlaender, but so far, so good this winter.

"There are some concerns for some very site specific sensitive varieties like Syrah and Merlot, but they have survived well so far, and I feel very optimistic right now."

All of the data can be found on the viticulture institute's Vine Alert website, at www.ccovi.ca/vine-alert.



Joseph's
ESTATE WINES
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

WINTER CASE SALE
STARTING \$8.95 A BOTTLE
MIX AND MATCH *Limited Inventory*

COMPLIMENTARY
Tasting For Two
Present This Coupon
Valid Until March 31st 2019

OPEN DAILY SINCE 1996 11AM - 5PM 1811 NIAGARA STONE ROAD, NOTL

NOTL residents talk late-night Amber Alerts

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

For some Niagara-on-the-Lake residents, late hours don't matter when it comes to a missing child.

Many Canadians were left shocked after an 11-year-old girl was found dead Thursday night. She had been abducted and her father is charged with murder in her death. Many others expressed anger and indignation after they were wakened by late-night Amber Alerts.

Peel Regional Police issued their first Amber Alert just after 11:30 p.m. The second alert, stating the girl was found, was sent at around 12:30 a.m. The third notification was issued early Friday morning.

Police report Riya Rajkumar was out for her birthday with her father, 41-year-old Roopesh Rajkumar.

Roopesh was supposed to return Riya home to her mother by a certain time but didn't. According to police, he later indicated he was intending to harm himself and his daughter.

The girl was found dead at a home in Brampton, police said. Her father was arrested and is now in the hospital with the self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to media reports.

Some people started complaining after the Amber Alerts were issued, startling or waking them up.

Police said the alerts helped them locate the suspect and his vehicle. "The system works," they said. "Thank you to all those that called with tips."

The Lake Report asked NOTL residents what they thought about Amber Alerts.

When Kathryn Hoshkiw got the alert, it wasn't something that bothered her, she said.

"There are greater things in life to complain about. You need to save your complaints for something that is a little more stressful. To get woken up when a child is missing is not something that you should complain about."

However, she said the entire system needs to change but



11-year old Riya was out for her birthday with her father Roopesh Rajkumar when she didn't return home by a certain time on Feb. 14. Police issued Amber Alert later that night. SUPPLIED PHOTO

"it will never be (changed)."

Phil Leboudec said the issue isn't with the alert system because it is "effective."

"I have two kids and I'm grateful that the system like that exists," he said. "To have a system in place where everybody becomes involved and it becomes a larger community that can keep their eye out, I don't think it's a bad thing. The issue is that there are selfish people who out there who care less about other people's safety."

Blair Cowan said the Amber Alert system was great and he was happy with it.

I don't think there are any changes to be made," he said. "And alerts shouldn't be limited to any area."

Sandra Knof said she has no issues with Amber Alerts but it "needs a different way of working."

"Instead of getting mad at people who complain, you need to look at what's wrong with the system," she said. "Let's figure out how to solve this. Because we don't want people shutting off all Amber Alerts when they need it because it helps during the day."

Many NOTL residents expressed their opinions on Facebook too.

Margery Banks said people need the Amber Alert system.

"Turn off your phone if your sleep is more important

than finding a missing child," she said.

Many agreed that late-night alerts should be issued at any hour.

Ruth Dueck-Maltese said Amber Alerts "shouldn't have a time limit on it" because "it's an emergency."

Carrie Friesen DeBon was "definitely in favour of 24/7 alerts," while Daniel Oliver commented that "it's worth the small annoyance it may cause people."

"Any time, any hour," said Michael Dunn. "When children are involved, it should be all hands on deck – drop everything."

Liz Pullman shared the same sentiment.

"I can't understand the people who would complain. It's an emergency and the alert should be issued as soon as possible, regardless of the time."

Another resident, Gail Kendall, pointed out how the alert helped find the girl and her father.

Paolo Miele also commented telling to "keep the Amber Alerts at any time of the day or night. It might be one of us who may need help from all of our neighbours in Ontario."

Const. Akhil Mookan, the media relations officer for Peel Regional Police, said it was "disappointing and upsetting" that some people were complaining about the

alerts.

"I appreciate that a lot of people were sleeping but the immediate need to locate the child outweighed the momentary inconvenience that some people encountered," he tweeted. "Tragically this incident did not have the outcome we were all hoping for but the suspect was located as a direct result of a citizen receiving the alert and calling 9-1-1."

The Amber Alert is a warning system that notifies the public of an abducted child who could be in imminent danger. The alert provides information about the abducted child, the suspected abductor and any vehicle description available.

In Canada, each province operates its own Amber Alert program and only police agencies can issue the alert.

According to Alert Ready, Canada's emergency alert system, notifications are sent through broadcast channels, such as television and radio, as well as compatible, LTE-connected wireless devices.

If the device is turned off, it will not receive an alert. If the phone is set to silent, it will display an emergency alert but there might not be any alert sounds.

People can stop the alerts by sending "STOP" or "ARRET" to 26237 (AMBER).

14 Weatherlone Court
Niagara-on-the-Lake



\$897,000

MLS 30711565- 3 bedroom with 2.5 bath, tastefully appointed townhome in desired neighbourhood. Over 2500 sq.ft. of crafted living space.

HELEN McCALLUM
Sales Representative
905-468-8600
hmccallum@bosleyrealestate.com

BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE
5-233 King Street | bosleyniagararealestate.com

BOSLEY REAL ESTATE | **90 years**

Doing the right thing for our clients since 1928!

The Lake Report

The Lake Report strongly encourages readers to support the local businesses that advertise with us. When reading, we ask you to remember the businesses you see allow us to operate and keep the paper free and independent. When you're looking for a service or product, check the paper and try someone local first. There are a variety of great businesses inside to choose from – don't forget to mention you saw them in the paper! The Lake Report would also like to acknowledge and thank those who have made financial contributions to the paper, whether through our donate button online or by mailing us a cheque. The paper encourages all residents to support the paper through a "voluntary subscription" annually. For those interested in supporting us, we suggest \$1 per issue, per household, at 52 issues per year. That's only \$52 – less than most people spend on pizza and wings. Larger donations are also greatly appreciated. For transparency, donations of more than \$1,000 will be published in the paper (with a big thank you) and donors will receive an exclusive limited edition Lake Report mug, as well as a copy of the first edition of the paper signed by staff. (Limit of 20 special mugs) To support The Lake Report, mail cheques to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Post Office, L0S1J0, PO Box 724. Please make cheques payable to Niagara Now Ltd. and note it as a donation.

Thank you.

Did you know?

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

Advertising inquiries?
Email us at advertising@niagaranow.com or call Rob at 905-246-4671



Rancourt WINERY
1829 CONCESSION 4 ROAD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
905-468-2271

FINAL CASE SALE
ALL VQA WINES REDUCED!
UNTIL FEBRUARY 28
RETAIL STORE OPEN DAILY 11AM-5PM



Residents encouraged to explore local history during Heritage Week

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake is well-known for its numerous historic sites and heritage buildings.

In light of Ontario Heritage Week, the Historical Society is encouraging locals and tourists in the town and across the country to visit museums, sites and cultural centres, and celebrate their diverse heritage.

Since 1974, the third Monday of February has been identified as a Heritage Day in Canada.

In 1985, the Ontario government identified the third week of February as Ontario Heritage Week.

Each town and historic organization across Canada celebrate this week differently, from holding educational events to provid-



The Niagara Historical Society Museum.
DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

ing free access to unique historic spaces.

The theme for this year's week is Heritage: The Tie that Binds.

"In celebration of our past and our future, we encourage all Canadians – whether young or old, deeply rooted or new to Canada – to visit museums,

historic sites and cultural centres, and connect with traditional knowledge keepers, educators, parents and grandparents to experience Heritage: The Tie that Binds," said the National Trust of Canada website.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum representatives said they don't have any special

events planned for this year's Heritage Week.

Coun. Clare Cameron, who is a member of the town's municipal heritage committee, said preserving local heritage is important.

"The fact that we have a large collection of heritage buildings in Old Town but also some interesting sites in other villages within Niagara-on-the-Lake is part of what attracts people to come and visit and that's what attracts people to want to live here. So economically, I think it's a defining feature of what we are as a community. For that reason, too, I think it's important that we protect it."

Cameron said she would like to see the committee consider developing a mobile application or a map that would let users recognize and learn about historic sites and properties

as they're walking around different parts of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Of course, we ask a lot from people who act as volunteers, there's only so much you can do," she said. "But that's something I'd love to see because we have so many good stories to tell about the buildings around us."

For people who want to learn more about their roots, NOTL Library is holding monthly workshops led by David Hemmings.

Hemmings, president of the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, said he started hosting Practical Genealogy and DNA workshops as a "service to the community."

The first session, Practical Genealogy, is for people who don't know where to start their genealogical research, said Hemmings.

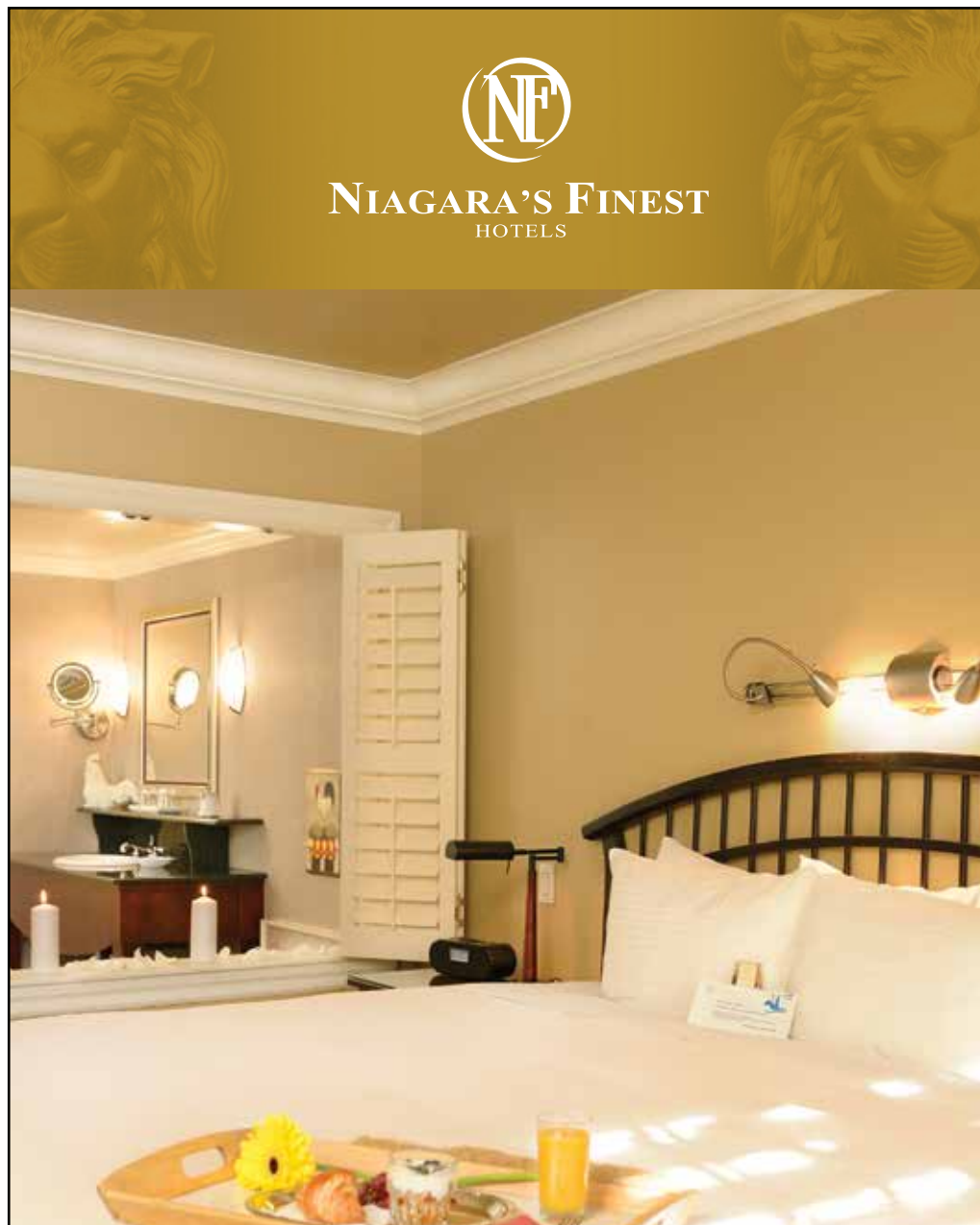
These workshops are also valuable to people who might not have money to buy subscriptions to genealogical databases.

The second session, the DNA workshop, is for more experienced participants who already have some understanding of the testing.

However, people should be ready to discover something they might not like.

"I always say 'beware of what you ask for,' said Hemmings. "You might have people in your background you wouldn't make friends with. People who had occupations or life experiences that led them doing things you wouldn't do. But that's a reality. That's life too."

Knowing your heritage and roots is important because it is "valuable to your overall awareness of who you are," said Hemmings.



NIAGARA'S FINEST
HOTELS

Escape The Winter Blah's with a Niagara Staycation

Starting at \$149.00 for a Traditional*

Starting at \$169.00 for a Premium Guestroom*

Available March 1-31, 2019

Book today with promo code: NIAGARA

Enjoy overnight accommodations and a \$50 dining voucher for use at HobNob, Zees Grill, Niagara's Finest Thai, Masaki Sushi, or Chili Jiao.

OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE NIAGARA REGION. PROOF OF ADDRESS WILL BE REQUIRED UPON CHECK-IN.

Plus taxes, resort fee (*if applicable) and gratuities. Blackout dates may be added as rooms are sold. Rate above is based on room type and rate plan availability. Rate is per room per night based on double occupancy. Food credit is applicable to food only during regular dinner hours in the restaurant. No cash refund or credit if not used in part or in whole. Not applicable to group bookings. Other restrictions may apply.

THE CHARLES HOTEL

Shaw Club

HARBOUR HOUSE

niagarasfinest.com | 1.800.474.0632 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Purveyors of Fine Cheeses and Charcuteries

CHEESE SECRETS



Don't forget to ask for your local secret discount!!!

Come visit!

38 Market Street
NOTL, ON

(905) 468-2555

cheesecretsniagara@gmail.com



Author speaks of Indigenous discrimination and her **hope for change**

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

After centuries of shameful atrocities committed against Canada's Indigenous population, award-winning investigative journalist Tanya Talaga is counting on the next generation of native Canadians to continue the push to preserve Indigenous language and culture.

"I am very much hopeful," Talaga told a sold-out audience at the Hare Wine Company on Feb. 13.

Retaining Indigenous languages is "so important" and native youth are taking it upon themselves to keep them alive, Talaga said. "We often say how resilient our communities are. Our youth are getting smarter." She said change is coming, "You can see the weave throughout (the native community)."

Talaga, an Indigenous issues columnist and long-time investigative reporter for the Toronto Star, was speaking as part of Wine and Words hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

She spoke with fierce conviction about her bestselling book, *Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City*.

The book focuses on systemic failures of the institutions that should be protecting and encouraging the native community. It's a narrative on the lives of the seven native students who died between 2000 to 2011 in Thunder Bay, 50 years after 12-year-old Chanie Wenjack froze to death after running from a residential school. An inquest was called after Wenjack's death, but none of the resulting recommendations were implemented.

With only standing room left available, the event was the busiest co-ordinators have seen.

The audience, predominantly non-native, was keenly interested in what



Tanya Talaga signs her book Feb. 13. BRITTANY CARTER



Lenore Richards, Ronald Boaks. BRITTANY CARTER



Liz Bonisteel at Tanya Talaga talk Feb. 13. BRITTANY CARTER

Talaga had to say.

The book is steeped in Canadian culture, or more accurately, a deep-rooted, shameful piece of Canadian history. It's about the atrocities in the native education system and how the deaths of seven children went otherwise unnoticed and ignored by most of Canadian mainstream media.

A member of the audience asked about the importance of family and community, adding that parallels can be drawn locally between the strength of community, and when the community is weakened, the whole system can be broken.

While Talaga said she agrees family is important, she is telling a different story altogether.

"It has never been an even playing field for Indigenous people," she said, adding that the inequality

is vast.

Experiences covered in the book and throughout her talks are matters that hit home with Talaga. While she didn't attend residential schools herself, she is of Polish and Indigenous descent, and is surrounded by family and friends who can tell the story of racism and inequality. Her great-grandmother, Liz Gauthier, was a residential school survivor.

In her presentation, Talaga talked of how her path was altered to tell the story that needed to be told.

When she began her journey, the goal was to write an article about the lack of native votes in the federal election. She met with Stan Beardy, the Nishawbe-Aski Nation's grand chief. Looking for answers as to why Indigenous people never seemed to vote, she said she rambled about native

voting patterns, commenting on the fact that Indigenous people could act as a swing vote in many ridings.

While she continued to ask questions along that vein, she said Beardy retorted with concerns about the disappearance of 15-year-old Jordan Wabasse.

In an excerpt from *Seven Fallen Feathers*, she said: "I launch into my spiel, trying not to sound like a salesperson or an interloper into his world, someone who kind of belongs here and kind of does not. This is the curse of my mixed blood. I am the daughter of a half-Anishnabek mom and a Polish father."

After 15 minutes of the same line of questioning, she said she told herself to smarten up and listen to what the grand chief was trying to tell her.

From that point, she

began to investigate the deaths of the seven fallen feathers, a term coined by Christian Morrisseau, father of one of the students and cover artist of her book.

Her newest book, *All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward*, explores youth suicide rates in Indigenous communities across not only Canada but also reaching areas of the United States, Norway, Brazil and Australia.

Debbie Krause, community engagement co-ordinator for the library, said the talk by Talaga set a different tone than other speakers the library has hosted. Often, Krause said the authors brought in are fiction writers.

"I think it was wonderful. She was a very poignant speaker. She told a story that needed to be told and she had the audience's

attention the whole time, which is phenomenal because she spoke for quite a while."

She said the venue was perfect as well, adding that (The Hare Wine Company) did a great job hosting the event.

Those in attendance were offered refreshments and a glass of wine after the question and answer period. Many were local teachers, both current and retired.

Liz Bonisteel, of Miskito descent, which is one of the First People groups Indigenous to Nicaragua, is a teacher librarian at Harriet Tubman Public School in St. Catharines. She said she came to the event with colleagues.

Talaga spoke of common experiences across the globe, Bonisteel said, adding that All Our Relations was meaningful to her because it delves into a global Indigenous perspective.

"It's a common experience. (Talaga) tries to answer the question; how do I support the next generation?"

Among other teachers in the audience, Maria Rocca Martin, retired teacher for 36 years with the Niagara Catholic District School Board, said the book spoke to her.

"I read her book and I was riveted. It was thoughtfully written with a kind of sad desperation. It makes you wonder, when will things change?"

Rocca Martin said she taught at Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories for a portion of her career, where 90 per cent of the students were native.

She asked Talaga at the end of her speech what she would say to native children to keep them strong and looking ahead during tough times they face.

Talaga responded that the kids are "very much at the forefront," adding that, "You draw on your strength. It's going to take a long time for all of these institutions to change."



SOUTHBROOK
ORGANIC VINEYARDS

Shop Local, Buy Organic

Organic and Biodynamic Winery, Open daily 11 am to 5 pm | 581 Niagara Stone Rd. Niagara-on-the-Lake | www.Southbrook.com

Days of Wine & Chocolate
Every weekend in February

Canadian Framboise made with 100% Royal Organic Raspberries paired with a framboise truffle. Tickets on sale now!





READ THE LAKE REPORT WEEKLY

The L
PIN U
LO

LIDA KOWAL MBA, CPA, CMA
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT



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

FREE LOCAL PICK UP FOR SENIORS
1627 Niagara Stone Road, Unit B2, Virgil, ON

For appointment call
905-468-5300

*Tax preparer is approved by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

LIDA KOWAL
MBA, CPA, CMA*



RIVERBRINK ART MUSEUM

Exhibitions • Education • Events
Gift Shop • Free Parking • Accessible

Winter Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

116 Queenston St, Queenston
905-262-4510 riverbrink.org



TINA PAGNOTTA & SAM FUTIA
CO-OWNERS/OPERATORS

PHONE: **289-868-9503**
FAX: **289-868-9831**


1607 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD, UNIT 1, VIRGIL, ON, L0S1T0



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



Pauline Reimer Gibson, Audiologist
905.468.9176 | 504 Line 2 Road, Virgil, ON



Dr. John Gleddie, B.Sc., D.C.
Chiropractor

110A Hannover Drive, Suite 102 St. Catharines, On, L2W 1A4 **905-935-2110**

RENT MY HUSBAND
in Niagara-on-the-Lake

See what he can do for you at:
<https://www.rentmyhusband-notl.com>

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



P.O. Box 348
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Ontario L0S 1J0
T. 905.468.2127
www.warrenmechanical.ca
warrengorge@sympatico.ca

905-988-6263

HAMBLET'S
ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS

Let The Professionals Handle It!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>COMMUNITY FAVOURITES: Legion Fish Fry every Thursday! Duplicate Bridge at the Community Centre, Tuesdays and Fridays</p>			
24	25	26	27
<p>2019 Fabulicious! - Day 4 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL</p> <p>Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL</p> <p>Niagara Pumphouse: Family Friendly Drop in Art Studio - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</p> <p>Teen Literary Alliance - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p>	<p>2019 Fabulicious! - Day 5 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL</p> <p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Famous & Infamous with Suzanne Hebert: Shah of Iran, Pt 2 - 2 p.m. - Niagara Historical Society & Museum</p> <p>French Conversation Group - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Public Meeting: Official Plan Review - 6 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>2019 Fabulicious! - Day 6 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL</p> <p>Power Off and Play - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Seniors Golden Age Club - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>NOTL Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p>	<p>2019 Fabulicious! - Day 7 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL</p> <p>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Simply STEAM Story - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Painting Drop In - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Winter League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange</p> <p>NOTL Toastmasters - 8:30 p.m. - Niagara Community Campus</p>
3	4	5	6
<p>Winter Wonderland Food Tour - 1 p.m. - Niagara Culinary Tours</p> <p>Jazz and Brunch - Noon to 3 p.m. - OLIV Tasting Room & Restaurant</p>	<p>Line Dancing - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>French Conversation Group - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Committee of the Whole - 4 p.m. - Council Chambers</p> <p>Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Drumming Night - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre</p>	<p>Power Off and Play - 11 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Nobel Prize Series: Nobel Prize in Economics - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Spirit of Niagara Awards - 6:30 p.m. - Queen's Landing Conference Resort</p>	<p>German Conversation - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Simply STEAM Story - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre</p> <p>Movie: First Man - 2 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</p> <p>Trivia Night: Exchange (Winter League Week) - 7 p.m. - The Exchange</p>

Know of a local event? Tell us. Submit it directly to www.niagara.on.ca

LOCAL CALENDAR

Feb. 21 - Mar. 9



UPPER CANADA MECHANICAL
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
905-651-0470

KeepRite

Ravenshead Homes
Proudly serving Niagara-on-the-Lake and the surrounding area.

We offer:
Small & Large scale Renovations
Additions
Bathrooms
Kitchens
Basements

289 969 5991

Info@RavensheadHomes.com
www.RavensheadHomes.com

Inspect ~ Design ~ Build

Hear Better Niagara

Niagara-on-the-Lake
1630 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-4999

Call us today to book your complimentary hearing test

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	21 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 1 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Bridge Seniors Casual Drop-in: Bridge - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Niagara Regional Native Centre: Community Social - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Niagara Regional Native Centre	22 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 2 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Spanish Conversation Group - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Community Centre Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL Cribbage for Seniors - 1 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Seated Laughter Fitness: Laugh Yourself Healthier - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Whisky Tasting at Navy Hall - 7 p.m. - Navy Hall	23 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 3 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Tech Talk: Engine Performance Workshop - 10 a.m. to noon - Clare's Harley Davidson Artist Workshop: Exploring Colour with Robin Nisbet - 10:30 a.m. - RiverBrink Art Museum Days of Wine & Chocolate - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wineries of NOTL Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery
27 Day 7 - f NOTL ion Group m. - NOTL y Time - 11 Public Library 3 p.m. to 5:30 ity Centre ange Brewery (ek 7) - 6:30 Brewery - 7 p.m. to College, NOTL	28 2019 Fabulicious! - Day 8 - Signature Kitchens of NOTL Short Film: C'est Mois (with Howard Davis) - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	1 World Day of Prayer: Ecumenical Service - 1:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul Church Pumphouse Instructors' Exhibition - 11 a.m. - Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Seated Laughter Fitness: Laugh Yourself Healthier - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Shaw Festival Annual Meeting - 2:30 p.m. - Shaw Festival Theatre Lobby St. Davids and District Lions Club: Friday Fish Fry - 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Davids and District Lions Club	2 St. John's Babysitting Course - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery
6 ion Group m. - NOTL y Time - 11 Public Library 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. ange Brewery (ek 8) - 6:30 Brewery	7 Babies and Books - 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Seniors Fitness: Healthy Safe & Strong - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Minecraft Club - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - NOTL Public Library Tinker Thinker Thursdays - 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	8 International Women's Day Live Learn Jazz Series: "Women of the Hour" Part 1 - - Suprise Pop up Location in NOTL Yoga with Jenny - 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - NOTL Public Library Seated Laughter Fitness: Laugh Yourself Healthier - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre Knit a Bit - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Public Library	9 Culinary Regions of Italy with Emily Romagna, North East Italy - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Canadian Food and Wine Institute, NOTL Campus Customization Clinic - 10 a.m. to noon - Clare's Harley Davidson Cricut Design for Children - 10 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library Skating and a DJ - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery & Distillery

Call Mark at 647-888-1753

Niagara Paint and Reno
mark@niagarapaintandreno.com

(289)-868-9603 oldtowngoodies.ca

OLD TOWN GOODIES

29 QUEEN ST.

ICE CREAM - SANDWICHES
PUZZLES - GAMES - LUGBAGS

Grace United Church
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
222 Victoria Street 905-468-4044

Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m.

Check us out at...
www.graceunitedchurch.com

ATTENDANTS HOMEWATCH

Contact Nancy
Established 2012
nancy@homewatch-attendants.com
(905) 468-7111

J&S CONSTRUCTION


289-697-5757
WWW.JS-CONSTRUCTION.CA
Renovations - Additions - Custom Homes

Marketing
ALL-OF-ALL-TRADES

Specializing in:

- Social media for professionals, salespeople and small businesses
- Trade show and corporate event planning
- Marketing communications design and production
- And a variety of marketing services for your growing business

Contact us at marketjilloftrades@gmail.com or visit our website marketingjillofalltrades.ca



Drums and tales celebrates **Black History Month** at library

Continued from Front Page

He also founded Drums et al, a company “meant to bring the joy of drumming, and to educate, inspire and entertain all at once.”

From his workshop, the Nigerian native said he expects people to learn something new and understand the principles of community and collaboration.

“The drums always come out when we need to talk about anything important in the community in Africa,” said Williams.

The reason why participants use Djembe, one of the types of drums, is thanks to its structure, high range, and how easy it is to carry it around.

“The Djembe represents all African drums in this workshop,” said Williams.

During the event, he taught the audience the basics of drumming and told the story of The Turtle and The Pot of Wisdom, one of the West-African folktales Williams said he grew up hearing. The moral of the story, he said, is to be humble and disciplined.

“The drums are for adults,



Babarinde Williams plays drums for the crowd on Saturday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

the stories are for the kids,” Williams told The Lake Report. “The part of the session is for grown-ups to drum and listen to the stories. But I want the kids to be part of the stories. If I ask the question, it’s for the kids. I allow them

to talk and this way I teach the kids.”

After the event, Williams said he loved the energy.

Debbie Krause, the library’s engagement coordinator, said she was pleased with the event’s turnout.



Drums rang out at the public library Saturday. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

“The response was wonderful, very positive,” she said. “I think we learned a lot and we had a lot of fun doing it.”

One of the attendants, Joy Mcfarlane Brown, said the event was fantastic.



“It was an excellent activ-

ity to do,” said Brown. “The (event resonated) with me through rhythm, the sound and just thinking about my ancestors (who came from Africa).”

Monica Armstrong, another participant, said she also en-

joyed the event.

“I have one of these little drums at home. And I didn’t know exactly how to work it so now I know how to work it,” she said laughing. “I love rhythm. And this is a lot of rhythm.”

Your Mid-Winter Break Staycation!

Starting at \$149.00, Traditional*

Available Sunday - Friday, March 1-31, 2019

BONUS Saturdays at Queen’s Landing

Book today with promo code: NIAGARA

Enjoy overnight accommodations and a \$50 dining voucher for use at Cannery, Tiara, or Noble.

OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF THE NIAGARA REGION. PROOF OF ADDRESS WILL BE REQUIRED UPON CHECK-IN.

Plus taxes, resort fee (*if applicable) and gratuities. Blackout dates may be added as rooms are sold. Rate above is based on room type and rate plan availability. Rate is per room per night based on double occupancy. Food credit is applicable to food only during regular dinner hours in the restaurant. No cash refund or credit if not used in part or in whole. Not applicable to group bookings. Other restrictions may apply.

Prince & Wales

QUEEN’S LANDING

pillar[®] post

vintage-hotels.com | 1.888.669.5566 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Find what you need right at home. Check the paper weekly to find great local businesses.

809 Newark Air Cadets *Speak their minds*



Members of the 809 Newark Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

Continued from Front Page

The second part of the competition included a two-minute impromptu speech on why speakers loved being cadets.

“One of the things that I found about the effective speaking with our cadets is they have a very interesting perspective,” said Lemoine. “They don’t usually speak about their thoughts and how they flow. With effective speaking, they get to pick a topic and unravel their own thinking on it so it’s a glimpse in how they think, how they see things they wouldn’t otherwise get.”

Thomas Forsyth, James Couroux and Shaelynn Lett were announced the winners. They now have a chance to go to the regional competitions and, in case of the win, they can advance to the provincial and national competitions.

The first-place winner Forsyth said he chose to talk about a tactical perspective on the battle of Vimy Ridge after he watched Peter Jackson’s

They Shall Not Grow Old documentary.

The runner-up Couroux decided to talk about the uses and advancements of ballistic body armour.

“It was one that I was really drawn to as liking universes that incorporated specific ballistic armour tactics because that’s a really wide side to choose it,” he said.

Lett, who finished third, said what is a Canadian “was always a topic that stuck out to me the most.”

There were three judges at the event. One of them, Lynn Taylor-Roehm, has been fulfilling this role for three years.

“I’m totally blown away by these kids. I think they show maturity much beyond their age and any self-confidence they’ve developed is terrific,” she said. “And every year they get much more confident, much more knowledgeable. I can’t say enough good things about it.”

For another judge, Louise Leyland, it was a “pleasure” to be there.



Niagara-on-the-Lake’s squadron Capt. Jody Lemoine. DARIYA BAIGUZHIEVA

“The only thing I would suggest is there should be some award for courage,” she said. “But it was a wonderful event.”

Sandra Ross-Gowans, who’s been in charge of or-

ganizing the event, thanked cadets’ parents for bringing their children out and encouraging them to be a part of the effective speaking program.

“It is skills that they’re

going to learn and carry on through the rest of their lives,” she said. “I hope that these skills help them, that they will remember the skills that they’ve learned at the effective speaking

program. So, thank you for bringing the cadets.”

The squadron’s administration officer Ruxandra Nicolescu told The Lake Report she was proud of cadets.

“Every year they mesmerize us with their speeches,” she said. “I think the themes this year were really something they cared about, they knew about, and they spoke with passion. And with maturity. I’m really very proud of them.”

Neeti Mehrotra, a secretary of the squadron’s sponsorship committee, shared the same sentiment and said it is amazing to see cadets grow up.

“It’s just seeing kids come in at 12 years old, they’re so shy. And within six months, you see them become young adults,” she said.

Retired Flight Lieut. Sam Kingdon agreed the event was great.

“The kids really catch on to it. It makes them a little more confident and that’s great.”



Ginger RESTAURANT

Reopening January 18th
 Winter Hours: Wednesday to Sunday
 5pm - 9pm
 Tel: (905) 468-3871
 390 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Serving Fresh Asian-Fusion Cuisine In a Cozy Atmosphere

Proud to support local news!
Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls Riding
 Serving Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie
 905-357-0681 • WayneGates.com • w gates-co@ndp.on.ca



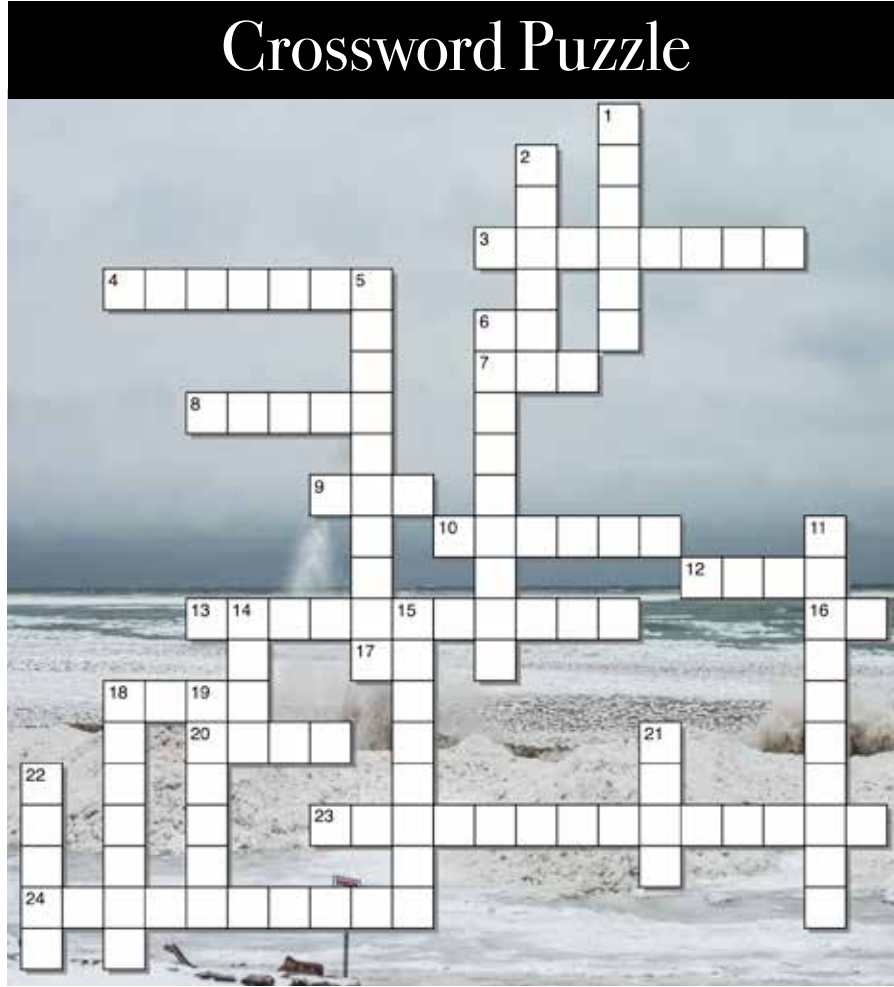
Have some fun

Crossword by Debbie Whitehouse, Richard Harley

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

- Across**
- This "old" place in St. Davids serves up a cold pint.
 - Shaw's artistic director.
 - "The" in our other official language
 - Opposite of even.
 - The Court _____.
 - We eat their spuds (province).
 - Niagara Home of yummy reputation.
 - Your party host will appreciate this
 - A railway to freedom
 - Some are stubborn
 - Abbreviation for city across lake
 - Rick Mercer does this well
 - Jazzy Fitzgerald, not SS Edmund
 - School teacher who helped preserve NOTL's history.
 - Keeps time on Queen Street

- Down**
- Slave who escaped imprisonment.
 - _____ Empire Loyalists.
 - The best community newspaper.
 - Unique name for the top role in town.
 - This pharmacy is open only to look.
 - Our town.
 - John Graves Simcoe was Lt. _____.
 - A place of retreat.
 - Our Neighbours.
 - The other royal street.
 - A Queenston monument stands in his honour.



Last issue's answers

1	N	A	S	A	3	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	8
A	W	B	P	N	E	D	I								
10	T	H	E	R	E	F	O	R	E	11	Q	U	E	E	N
	I	E	G	S	E	U	P	T							
12	O	U	T	L	A	S	T	15	S	K	I	T	T	L	E
	N	E	N	O											
14	A	C	N	E	19	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	S	
	L	E													
16	P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E	21	F	R	A	U	
22	N														
24	E	X	C	E	R	P	T	27	O	X	S	H	O	T	T
	V	A	U	A	U	C	R	R							
28	A	S	P	E	N	29	H	A	R	M	O	N	I	C	A
	D	R	C	O	R	T									
30	A	R	I	T	H	M	E	T	I	C	31	N	E	A	T

Sudoku

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



125 QUEEN ST, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
DIRECT: 905.468.4214

[f](#) [i](#)

NIAGARA'S LUXURY LEADER

14757 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY, NOTL
\$3,795,000



MLS# 30678390
James O'Connor* & Margie van Gelder*

285 WELLINGTON STREET, NOTL
\$1,360,000



MLS# 30708808
James O'Connor* & Margie Van Gelder*

223 VICTORIA STREET, NOTL
\$749,900



MLS# 30709417
Gloria Szylak**

121 REGENT STREET, NOTL
\$1,999,000



MLS# 30669622
Michelle Reynolds** & Stefan Regier*

58 JOHNSON STREET, NOTL
\$2,250,000



MLS# 30656160
Michelle Reynolds** & Stefan Regier*

15 RIDGEVIEW CRESCENT, NOTL
\$749,000



MLS# 30678957
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

17 CRIMSON CRESCENT, ST.DAVIDS
\$664,000



MLS# 30711903
Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp***

2018 LUXURY MARKET SHARE



Based on Residential Market Statistics ORTIS MLS® 2018



NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

◆Based on residential unit sales \$500,000+ 2018 year to date ORTIS MLS® in Niagara Region* | Brokerag
*Sales Representative **Broker ***Broker - Royal LePage NRC Realty KR



Michelle Reynolds
Broker

Stefan Regier
Sales Representative

REYNOLDSREGIER.com
905-468-4214

michelle@royalpage.ca stefan@royalpage.ca



NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

FEATURED 

Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

ICE JAM OF '55



At the end of March 1955 the Niagara river was completely jammed with ice 50-feet thick above the waterline. Two houses, ten cottages and numerous docks and boat houses were completely destroyed. The picture shows the ice in the entrance to the Niagara marina with two boat houses and Shepherd boat works in the background.

SUPPLIED/JIM SMITH



Niagara-on-the-Lake Community
Palliative Care

You are not alone...



176 WELLINGTON ST.
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
WWW.NOTLPC.COM
905-468-4433

Calling all chefs!

Local recipe book planned for 2019

The Lake Report is calling on all cooks, chefs, bakers and food enthusiasts in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We want your favourite family recipes, and the stories that go with them, to share with the community. Whether it's a special stew, soup, or salad; the best bread or muffins; or a decadent dessert, we'd like to hear from you!

We'd love it if you could include pictures of the food where possible, and of the family member who might have passed the recipe down. If there is any family folklore associated with the recipe, we'd love to hear that too. Maybe there's a certain occasion when it's always made, perhaps there's a funny or sad story to tell that relates to that particular recipe, or certain traditions that accompany it.

We will publish selected recipes regularly, and at the end of the year we'll compile all the recipes together as a book of NOTL family favourites. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to a local charity.

Please send your recipes, pictures and stories to: recipes@niaganow.com

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

Did you know?

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

The ink is also vegetable-based.

Advertising inquiries?
Email advertising@niaganow.com

ARCHITEXT

A brief interlude

Brian Marshall
Featured

Recently, I received a comment on this series from a landscape designer who said, "You're talking about architecture but I use the same principles in what I do." This got me to thinking that perhaps I had 'skipped a beat' by not properly introducing this series of articles at the get-go. You see, she's right; the half dozen key principles featured in these articles are ubiquitous to all residential design disciplines. Indeed, many iconic architects considered this so vital in composing a property with intuitive 'liveability' that they'd handle every design aspect, including landscape and



Tract McMansions. SUPPLIED

furniture, to ensure flawless integration.

I've always believed that the best client was the educated client. These folks could ask the questions which invariably produced the best results. However, learning key design principles, often couched in techno-speak and obscured behind clouds of marketing (by those who would rather you didn't have the knowl-

edge to raise questions that really need to be asked), can be a challenge. But, without these 'educated' questions, things will often go awry.

Take for example the Millennium Mansion; a late 20th Century builder-friendly style focused on the upscale market. In far too many cases, designers working in this style would ignore the principles of

good design and produce a cacophony that justifiably earned the nickname "McMansion". I'd like to believe that had the builders been faced with educated buyers most of these flawed designs would never have seen the light of day.

Hopefully, this series on Design will give you a basic framework to assess "the good, the bad, and the ugly."

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Find what you need right at home. Check the paper weekly to find great local businesses.

Chapter One from the novel, Caught Between the Walls by Sharon Frayne

Do You Believe in Ghosts? (Continued)

Incredible, I thought. You'd never know there used to be a building here. It's bad enough now. What was this place like in winter, back in 1817, when it was a jail?

I hesitated, hoping the storm would die down, then gave up. It just wasn't going to stop. I decided to continue the journey back to my warm home. It was tough going. Like walking through frozen quicksand. After a few plunging steps, I had to stop to let my heaving lungs and racing pulse settle down. I gasped for breath and the cold air burned like fire inside my lungs. The footprints I'd left behind drifted in as the relentless wind erased the visible world and wrapped everything in a frozen white powder. I made it home, and hung everything up to dry out.

A little later, with a hot drink in hand, I sat before a blazing fireplace and thought again about the plaque. I remembered seeing the words... Courthouse, jail, radicals, sedition, and slavery, forcible rescue... what else had happened in that long lost building? According to the terse explanation on the plaque, it had closed as a court in 1847. Then, for about 20 years afterwards it was a gaol. I knew that the modern term for 'gaol' was 'jail'. And I knew enough that conditions back then — in the 'gaol' — must have been hellish.

Aside from the plaque, there were no clues that stormy afternoon to tell the story of that 'once upon a time' building. There has to be a way to figure this out, I thought.

The storm kept me inside for the rest of the day, and I became restless imagining a building that no longer existed. I couldn't stop thinking about it and the people who must have been there. Around midnight the storm gave up and I decided to head back and take a second

look at the plaque. I checked the thermometer. It was still -20 C, but no wind, and the inky starlit



Sharon Frayne. SUPPLIED PHOTO

sky was bright with silvery moonlight. This second time across the park, it was harder to beat a path. The snow was deep and hid my earlier trail. A crunchy film of rock hard ice crusted the surface. Each step felt like punching through plaster and the surface cracked in chunks around the foot holes.

"Hey, whoever's in charge around here — it's cold enough to freeze my nose!" I yelled to the dark. The frigid air seeped through my heavy winter clothing, and my feet felt like heavy stumps. The shadowy trees that grouped like ominous watchmen around the perimeter hid all signs of life outside the park. The park was empty and silent, and suddenly I felt very alone.

It was calm, the storm was over, and the cool clear moonlight illuminated the sparkling silvery field ahead. A dazzling display of tiny stars swirled in the jet dark sky. I thought I could almost hear some strange, far away music. Like the hum of an orchestra warming up before a big concert. A few fat flakes of snow drifted slowly down from the heavens and glimmered in the ghostly light like gems on my gloves. Finally, I stood again before the historic plaque. The golden words gleamed against the enameled blue background.

The park was dead silent. I gazed at the ancient star formations as they danced

above and watched the hot vapour of my breath vanish in the air. My heartbeat slowed. I closed my eyes and rested, leaning against the plaque.

My thoughts were still and my mind cleared. Then my thoughts were filled with a vision of a large brick building. Like the one I'd seen earlier in the day. The one that called to me in the storm.

Yes, it had once stood on this same spot. Something big and important had happened here. A strong cold squall came from out of the west and a whirl of light snow circled around me. I shivered. The building vanished.

There was a sudden ear splitting crack not far away and then a loud creaking sound close by. Frightened, I gripped the post beneath the plaque. I was alone, wasn't I? Was there someone else in the park with me?

"Who's there?" I called fearfully. "Where are you? Are you hiding from me? What do you want?"

From the far side of the park a large dark shape hurled towards me. It crashed through the snow, coming closer and closer. Terrified, I clung to the post for safety. I was the only human foolish enough to be outside and something powerful was rushing through the dark towards me. I could hear the racing footsteps breaking through the snow

and the sound of hot heavy panting.

A large black shape, like a two-headed monster with gaping mouth and bright red eyes was rapidly bearing down — directly upon me. Then the horrible shape divided and something charged by — on either side of me.

I was terrified, and my heart pounded like it would burst. I watched it — or rather them — flee. They roared away in hot pursuit of an invisible moving target. Then they went beneath the children's swing set, disappeared behind the playground and into the darkness. The empty swing soared high in the night air, stretching the chains as tight as they could go. The seat flipped and tossed in the wind. It was like something invisible was pumping to the sky. Did I hear a voice?

"Where are you?" someone called. "Are you hiding from me?" It sounded like a little boy echoing me. But what would a child be doing outside on a night like this?

I relaxed my death grip on the post and watched the empty swing doing its crazy midnight dance. Back and forth it flew, like a winter bird searching for safety after a storm.

Abruptly the wind stopped and the swing collapsed in mid-air. Bang! It dropped back down towards the ground.

There was silence once again.

I knew I was alone that night, but also that I was standing on the very spot, where in the past, thousands of people had come to the Courthouse/Gaol. Some would have come in despair and desperation; and some would have come with hope. Some escaped to freedom and a hopeful future, others met with torture and death. I brushed a few little snowflakes off my shoulders. They felt heavy, as if they carried the pressure of something bigger.

"Ok," I yelled. "I get it. There's something here." I accepted the responsibility of discovering and sharing the tales.

To be continued

Euston Station

Richard West
Writer's Circle

The train had been in the station for about five minutes and the passengers had already boiled out onto the platform. Being under no deadlines and with only the prospect of getting into yet another experiment at the lab in University College London, I sat back and read my book. I would have plenty of warning before the train would leave again and so I got lost in the novel.

"What are you doing?"

I looked up to find a rather perturbed looking policeman of about my age speaking to me.

"Reading," was my sheepish response.

Without further ado he instructed me to go with him, now!

Scrambling to put my book in my bag I exited the carriage and jogged a couple of steps to catch up to him. We strode side by side down a completely empty platform towards the unmanned ticket barrier. The station was eerily quiet. No noise of trains. No hubbub from crowds seeking their trains. Almost silence.

As we padded through the platforms gate onto a deserted concourse my bobby muttered, "Bomb scare."

He led me through the concourse. We weaved our way between newspaper stands, advertising bollards, benches and other obstacles. At each of these he was twisting his head right and left looking at the ground behind each obstacle.

The concourse main doors were open and we boldly marched through into the sunshine and turned right. Before me at the edge of Melton Street I saw a police tape barrier and a small crowd being watched over by two policemen.

Everyone stared at us as we marched in step up to the barrier. Once there my bobby lifted the tape and I ducked through. I turned to face my policeman believing he may wish to ask more questions.

Before he could speak there was a deep muffled bang, followed by large areas of the plate glass side to Euston Station crashing to the ground!

We stared at the mess for a couple of seconds. Then we stared at each other. Both of us were probably thinking the same thing. Less than a minute before we were walking across the concourse and now it's probably in a terrible mess. He raised a small smile, turned and ran back into the station.

I turned on my heel and walked over to University College arriving about five minutes later.

That evening when arriving home I told Rhiain I had been close to an IRA bomb when it went off in Euston Station. She looked at me for a few moments then asked

if I was alright.

"I'm not injured", I reassured her.

"Yes, but are you alright?" was her concern.

"I assure you, I am absolutely Fine!"

Forty years later, in 2013, I related my story to two impressionable students who were working with me on a construction site North of Cobourg, Ontario. They were wide eyed. Being plugged in, they soon had the Google reference for the Euston Station and King's Cross Station bombings on the 10th September 1973.

To my surprise they informed me there had been two bombs that morning and thirteen people had been injured. The first five at King's Cross Station, followed 15 minutes later by another eight at Euston Station.

I had no idea there had been two bombings that day and was ignorant of people being hurt.

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



Pauline Reimer Gibson, Audiologist



Miracle-Ear® Your Local Hearing Healthcare Provider

Call today to schedule your FREE hearing test
905.468.9176 | 504 Line 2 Road, Virgil, ON

Penner MacKay: The **rhythm** of life

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The beat of a marching band drum started it all for Penner MacKay more than 60 years ago, setting him on a life-long musical journey, carving out his own path.

MacKay, bright, happy and enthusiastic, has a passion for life. That passion is demonstrated through a love of drumming, the only career he ever considered.

His studio, a small building starting out as a bare-bones structure on the NOTL property purchased with his wife, holds an uncountable number of drums.

The studio allows for sound reverberation unlike any other, attributed in part to the many drums in the small space. There was nothing to the structure when he started out - no floor, no drywall, no windows, no beams. He transformed it into the studio it is today.

"I think we got lucky. I really didn't think about the acoustics that much when we did all this. You hit one drum and you're getting a bigger sound. You can throw a blanket over it if you don't want that kind of reverb."

The room is lined with photographs of momentous occasions, gifts from his many students over the years and, of course, drums of various sizes, styles and origins.

Stepping out of the cold into the warm studio is like stepping through a gateway to another time, burning incense, dim lighting, dated memorabilia; it tells the story of MacKay's history.

He says his foray into a drumming career began at the age of five in Cornwall, Ont. His neighbour was in a marching band and brought home his drum for the summer.

"I just thought, that looks like a lot of fun."

After his neighbour gave him a pair of drum sticks for Christmas he began drumming on every piece of furniture in the house.

He didn't pursue the hobby further until high school when he signed up for music classes and joined the band. He says it was the



Penner MacKay in front of one of his homemade drums, constructed from a Shaw Festival prop of a ship's air vent. BRITTANY CARTER

lifestyle that inspired him.

"I just got the bug, I really saw what it could be like."

In high school, his teacher was an old big band trumpet player from England. MacKay says he helped him along his path, knowing he wanted to make a career out of music.

"We had a really good relationship."

He set MacKay up for a drum lesson. A well-known drummer in Montreal, Spike McKendry, was home visiting family for a week. His music teacher sent him to get a drum lesson from a "real amazing player."

"It was 1969. I still have the three pages of foolscap that he wrote out - books I should get, (drum beats) I should learn. He said if you ever want to come to Montreal to hear me play, you're welcome to come and crash on my couch."

MacKay took the offer to heart.

"Next Friday, who's out on the 401 with his thumb out? Me."

MacKay has been playing in bands of various genres ever since. He says he doesn't have a favourite type of music or a favour-

rite band, it all depends on mood. He's not simply a rock musician, or a jazz musician, but he is, undoubtedly, a musician through and through.

His love of drums and drumming doesn't end in performing. He's been teaching local kids for more than 20 years. Building his own drums is also a passion.

The wine-barrel drums he built were inspired by a book he read while on the road, written about Mickey Hart, drummer for the Grateful Dead, called *Drumming at the Edge of Magic*.

The book referenced a friend of Hart's who ran a summer camp for kids from rough neighbourhoods. It was suggested Hart bring the drums and put something together for the kids.

"He would grab a barrel and cut it in half, got a hide, made a camp drum. When I got home, I thought, I want to make a barrel drum."

The wine-barrel drums opened new avenues for MacKay. He was asked to play at the SkyDome, now the Rogers Centre, before some Argonauts games as part of a martial arts dem-

onstration. He says that's not something he would have had the opportunity to do if the wine-barrel drums were never created.

The SkyDome gig was unpaid, but MacKay says he didn't mind. He never scoffed at playing gigs for free, especially when it was for a good cause. He's performed at the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre for special-needs kids.

"I don't need money to do that. I'd bring bands in and pay them myself for god's sake. You've got to give sometime."

For the SkyDome performances, he says he was able to bring his boys along.

"My kids were young. We'd take the football with us and play until they told us we couldn't."

His boys, Andrew and Jesse MacKay, are both drummers themselves. MacKay says it's really something to be able to play gigs with his sons, "It's kind of cool that we can share that kind of passion."

His wife, Susan MacKay, is a writer - a family of creative minds.

Raising a family in his line of work wasn't easy,

driving him to seek out different aspects of drumming. If artists can do a bunch of things in their fields, he says it's possible to make a living.

Building the wine-barrel drums, teaching aspiring musicians and branching out in his field are some of the ways he ensured to keep the magic alive.

"The fact that I can diversify. That I can go do a theatre gig in the pit, or I can do a movie soundtrack, or I can go play rock and blues every Saturday night at a club in Niagara-on-the-Lake - it keeps it interesting."

He has no reservations about how lucky he has been. Though, with the time, effort and dedication that went into building up his career, luck has little to do with it.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I just turned 68, and I've been doing this for more than 50 years."

That wasn't the first time he referred to himself as the luckiest guy in the world. He treasures his life, glowing while talking of past experiences and boasting about still being able to play - it's clear he's being genuine.

That's not to say he hasn't had his rough patches. Mentioning near-misses with mobsters in clubs when he first started playing gigs and working through broken bones on tour, he's seen his fair number of obstacles. It's all in how you react to them. MacKay says they can make you give up or they can be pushed through - he always chose the latter.

Living in NOTL has given him so much creatively and socially, though he wasn't as enthusiastic when he and his wife first moved to the town more than 30 years ago. He says he didn't think he could thrive as a musician in this town; Toronto was the hot-spot for musicians.

Over time, he says he came to love it. Lasting friendships have been cultivated, ice-skating and going for beers weekly. He plays every Saturday at the Old Winery Restaurant with a group called The Niagara Rhythm Section.

"The people I play with

on a Saturday night, four of us live in this neighbourhood. Our guests come from all over."

"I used to joke with my wife, 'If I build it, they will come,' that line from that movie, *Field of Dreams*."

"Sure enough, all of a sudden these amazing musicians, some I knew from Toronto, they were moving out here. Eight years ago, Graham Lear, well-known drummer who played with Santana for 10 years, we met in '72, '75, and now he lives right around the corner. We're best friends, we go skating a couple times a week."

A lot of semi-retired musicians still get together and play. MacKay asked, almost to himself, "How do they all get here?"

"We've got such a scene, it's really something."

What's next for MacKay? "More of this," he says. His love for music and creativity isn't going anywhere. He says while he's not looking for gigs, he's open to the possibility when they come around. He talks of plans to make more drums, learn new music, keep as active as he can - he has no desire to stop.

"My father, he worked for the Woolworth company for 45 years, a store manager. He had to retire a little early, in his early 60s. When I look back, he just flipped the switch, like, I don't have to think anymore."

MacKay says that's not the path for him.

"That is the kiss of death, if you don't have to think anymore. I really believe if you keep the old muscle going, you have a better shot. I mean I'm forgetful, but who isn't forgetful at 68."

Every step MacKay has taken and every person he has met along the way led him to this point in his life. Acknowledging that everything kind of falls into place, he says he couldn't be happier with the outcome so far.

"It's like the guy when I was five; if that guy doesn't have a drum next door, maybe none of this happens. It's funny how the triggers in our life really set us on a path."



Lisa WALE
Broker/Manager
Niagara-on-the-Lake Office

COLDWELL BANKER
MOMENTUM REALTY BROKERAGE

P: 905 935 8001
C: 905 329 2348
Lisawale53@gmail.com
Lisawale.com
1501 Niagara Stone Road Unit #6
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

Tender fruits



Denise Ascenzo
Featured

Three hundred years ago, there were no orchards of peaches, cherries or any type of fruit tree and no vineyards in the Niagara-on-the-Lake region.

The first Europeans to arrive in the Niagara region were the French who occupied the east side of the Niagara River, what is now the United States. The French encountered an Indigenous people, on the west side of the river, the Attiawonderok, whom they named "la Nation Neutre" because they were "neutral" during the wars of the Haudenosaunee (Five Nations of Iroquois), and the Wendat (Huron).

The Neutrals were primarily farmers, fishermen, game hunters and gatherers (wild berries and grapes). The land in the NOTL region was perfect for their farming with the hot summers, mild winters, sufficient rainfall and well drained soil. They planted in the traditional method used throughout the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes regions, the "Three Sisters" method.

This method saw the fields cleared and then planted with three different types of seeds; corn, runner beans and squash. The corn grew tall enough for the beans to climb up them while the squash covered the ground below to hold in moisture.

With the arrival of the Europeans in the 1600s, the fur trade flourished but it created massive rivalries amongst the indigenous nations. Many nations wanted full control of being the middleman between the French and the tribal nations in southern Ontario. The "Beaver War" in the 1640s saw the Haudenosaunee destroy the Wenro, Wendat, Petun, Erie and

Neutral Nations.

In 1726 the French had established a permanent fort, Fort Niagara, on land then claimed by the Seneca. During this period, the lands on the west side of the Niagara River were used for farming to supply the fort with fresh food. It is possible that some fruit trees, found years later, might have been planted as well.

By the end of the American Revolution in 1783, 80,000 Americans (United Empire Loyalists) left the United States. Of that number, 50,000 Loyalists settled in Canada where free land grants were offered by the British government.

The Loyalist who had arrived at Fort Niagara, were soon crossing to the east side of the Niagara River, land grants in hand, to build new homes and to farm the land. The first crops planted were wheat, oats, barley and corn. It is speculated, that a few fruit trees were brought over as well by Loyalists for their own private gardens.

However, it must be noted that in the diary of Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of John Graves Simcoe, Lt. Governor of Upper Canada (1792-96), while they were stationed in Newark (NOTL), was an entry written in 1792: "We have 30 large May Duke cherry trees behind the house and three standard peach trees." These cherry trees were quite large which might suggest that they were possibly the trees that the French had planted many years before.

In 1792 the Niagara Agricultural Society was founded under the government of Lt. Gov. Simcoe. It was the first of its kind in Upper Canada, with its main purpose to promote and expand farming in the region. The original founders were made up of merchants, politicians, clergymen and a few gentlemen farmers.

By 1794 the importation and planting of fruit trees was in full swing. Commercial fruit farming was officially in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While farming



SUPPLIED PHOTO/PIXABAY

was thriving the Niagara Agricultural Society folded in 1805.

It was in the 1820s that a group of regional farmers developed the new Agricultural Society, one that was more cognisant to the development of farming and in particular tender fruit orchards.

The 1880s saw the Niagara Peninsula region below the escarpment become Ontario's largest (and still is) tender fruit growing area. Tender fruits include peaches, nectarines, apricots, pears, grapes, as well as sweet and sour cherries.

Grapes grew wild in the Niagara Peninsula prior to the coming of the Loyalists and would have been harvested by Indigenous people. Another entry in Mrs. Simcoe's diary stated that Captain Smith made wine from wild grapes and "it turned out very tolerable wine".

Imported grape vines came to Ontario as early as 1811 by German settler Johann Schiller, who planted them on his farm in Cooksville.

By the turn of the 20th century there were over sixty private vineyards and cottage wineries in the NOTL region but prohibi-

tion in the early part of the century stymied the growth of the industry. By 1960 there remained only six wineries in operation.

The vineyards we see today are quite young with the majority having been planted in the 1970s. In-niskillin received the first winery licence in Ontario in 1974. Ontario now produces 71 per cent of wine in Canada.

Large scale fruit farming was restricted to a seasonal market, lucrative but not long term sustainable. A new method of not only getting fresh fruit to markets but also to produce a product that consumers could put away for winter use was needed. Canning was the answer.

Canning was a relatively new concept. First started in France in the 1790s, many methods were experimented with to preserve food. Glass jars with specialty lids, clay pots with wax seals or tin canisters, hand cut, with small circular discs (lids) soldered in place, usually using lead, were all experimented with.

The first successful canning factory to process foods at a commercial level was in Boston in the 1820s. The actual term "can" was

an abbreviation of the word canister, which not only was a noun but became a verb as well "to can".

The first cannery in Ontario was established during the 1870s in the Picton area. By the 1880s there were many canneries in the NOTL region.

St. Davids had several canneries, one of which was owned by the Lowry family. It was called the Lowry Grist Mill and Cannery, built in the 1890s. The cannery preserved all varieties of tender fruits from the region. Today the Cannery Park Housing Development occupies the original site of the canning factory.

NOTL (Old Town) had a huge cannery in operation canning peaches and tomatoes from the 1890s to 1957 when it finally closed its doors. The Pillar and Post Hotel took over the site. You can still see upon entering the lobby the wonderful beams of the old factory.

In the 1940s the Niagara Canning Company was established by Peter Wall and the Mennonite Community. Unfortunately by 1948 the cannery went bankrupt. Today you can find the remains of the buildings when you visit Strewn

Winery.

By the 1980s most canneries in Ontario had been shut down.

Besides the growing and canning of the tender fruits, which in itself is labour intensive, many auxiliary industries developed. A basket factory was located down near the docks. Willow trees, used in the manufacturing of the baskets were planted near the factory. Several of these trees are still growing in the dock area and can be seen to this day.

Transportation developed quite rapidly with the railway lines being brought right into Niagara-on-the-Lake. The steamships on Lake Ontario also came to NOTL, meeting up with the train's schedule to transport the fresh fruits to Toronto and markets beyond. These two means of transportation expanded the market for the farmer's fresh fruit immeasurably. Now we have the transport truck industry that relies on the tender fruit farmers for business.

The Niagara Peninsula, between the escarpment and Lake Ontario produces the largest amount of Ontario's tender fruit. Ninety-four percent of Ontario grapes come from this region. Peaches are at 90 per cent, plums 80 per cent, sweet cherries 75 per cent, pears 72 per cent, and sour cherries 60 per cent.

From a few peach trees brought over to NOTL and planted in 1793, the Ontario tender fruit industry is now worth over \$100 million.

More of Denise's articles about the history of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at www.niagaranow.com.

Denise is a regular Niagara Now contributor and a respected voice in the community on historical matters.

She has dedicated countless hours to promoting and advocating for the preservation of local history. If information is disputed, please send us a message.

To get in touch or story idea, please contact editor@niagaranow.com.



JOIN US FOR THE SPIRIT OF NIAGARA

Tuesday, March 5, 2019- 6:30 pm

as the Chamber of Commerce salutes the Town's Finest Citizens at the Queen's Landing Conference Resort

Celia Liu Award
for Excellence in Hospitality
Christopher Newton Award
for Extraordinary Vision in Business
Company of the Year
Chamber of Commerce
Community Leadership Award
Peter Ling Award to the
Entrepreneur of the Year
Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence
to the Citizen of the Year

Tickets are \$40 each
available from

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
call 905-468-1950 or online at
www.niagaraoonthelake.com



COMMUNITY

All Niagara-on-the-Lake residents and visitors are welcome to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Please send submissions to editor@niagaranow.com.



Artifact of the Week: **Tussie Mussie**



Answer: This week's artifact is the Tussie Mussie, sometimes referred to as a nosegay or posy holder. It gained popularity during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) when small bouquets of flowers became a trending fashion accessory. The Tussie Mussie also served as an odour-eliminator that masked the smell of the streets and other repugnant scents due to poor personal hygiene. This funnel-shaped vase (c.1870) would be attached to the wearer's clothing or carried by hand through the ring at the bottom. It is believed that this artifact may have been donated by Miss L.F. Clement.

Can you guess next week's artifact?

Clue: I contained dangerous heat for safety.
Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com
The first winner will be listed next week.



A deer tries to get some seeds.
KAREN MOORE/SUBMITTED



Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol Inspecting NOTL's bathrooms: Trius Winery

We enjoyed our visit to Trius Winery and our tastings of Trius Sauvignon Blanc and Trius Dry Riesling both whites. The tasting room and accompanying washrooms are however all about the red. When it comes to restrooms it turns out we are also fans of the Red. We gave Trius Winery and their red themed facilities 3/5 plungers.



3/5 Golden Plungers

RIDDLE ME THIS:

I'm tall when I'm young, short when I'm old. What am I?

Last Week's answer: A cat.
Answered first by William Hargreaves.

Email answers to editor@niagaranow.com for a chance to win a prize.



Carol MacKenzie of Virgil with her four-month-old cockapoo Angus taking a brisk stroll around Centennial Park.
JER HOUGHTON

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Find what you need right at home. Check the paper weekly to find great local businesses.



FEATURED LOCAL STORY

‘Historical Gossip’: films about **who we were**

Local filmmaker capturing essence of small town Niagara



Filmmaker Barbara Tranter captures winter footage of the icy Niagara River in Queen's Royal park, with the town's iconic gazebo in the background. The gazebo is a signature image in Tranter's Historical Gossip film series. TIM TAYLOR

Tim Taylor
The Lake Report

Barbara Tranter is determined to make a full-length documentary film capturing the social fabric of her home town, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And she's already started. For the last couple of years, Tranter (all her long-time local friends call her Barbie) has created short film vignettes highlighting the personalities and memories of mostly-octogenarian local characters. She's working feverishly to make sure she captures these social histories while the central characters are still with us.

She calls both the concept and the films *Historical Gossip*. She has made five short films so far and several more are in the concept and planning stages. Her subjects to date include Norman Howe, Blanche Quinn, Al Derbyshire and Donald Combe.

Each film has been premiered in front of a live audience at the Shaw Festival Film Series, as a prelude to the featured presentation.

Tranter loves attending the live screenings. "There is nothing better than hearing 700 people responding, laughing at the right moment and getting into the characters of the films," she says proudly. "People are stopping me on the street and telling me to keep going, they are learning so much."

She is adamant that the films are not about Niagara's factual history. "I call it gossip, because it is only the recollections and feelings of the people who were here through the second half of

the last century," she says. "Each story tells a heartfelt, often funny, very tangible picture of our town, from one person's point of view".

Tranter hopes the current short films and the larger documentary when it is completed, will help everyone, long-time resident and newly-arrived, get a feeling of the strength of the town's sense of community. She likens the idea to Stephen Leacock's *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, about life in Small Town, Ontario at the turn of the last century.

The filmmaker believes the real changes in the town began with the first season of the Shaw in 1963. "Before that, we were really just any old small town", she says. "The start of the change was the arrival of Shaw. We loved it. There was so much happening".

Tranter's Historical Gossip films document the town in transition, from pre-Shaw to post-Shaw.

She has a perfect pedigree for task.

Born in Niagara-on-the-Lake in the early 1950s, daughter of a town dentist and dietician, she was drawn to filmmaking as a young



The first stirrings of the Prideaux street gang, circa 1954. From left: Filmmaker Barbie Tranter, her siblings Judith and Jim, and neighbours, Patsy Drope (Balasiuk) and Kathy Drope (Taylor). SUPPLIED PHOTO

girl, sitting in the back row of the Brock Theatre (now the Shaw Festival's Royal George theatre on Queen Street), sometimes seeing the same film twice, on Friday night and then the Saturday matinee. And she knows all the personalities she is now featuring, as part of her own life experiences in the town.

"We were just a small town. In the 50's, our small block, just off Queen Street, had 27 children. We were a roving gang of unsupervised children," she chuckles. "There was no crime. It was an idyllic place to grow up as a child."

Now after almost 45 years of filmmaking experience, in every facet of the industry across North America, she is cobbling together all the elements of a feature documentary. "There is so much content, so many stories, my head just whirls," she muses. "Now I just have to make it happen."

A graduate of Niagara District Secondary School, York University, Simon Fraser and the University of California, Tranter has won several film and TV awards. In 1987, she earned

a Gemini Award for her production of *The Canadian Conspiracy*, and in 1988, the Best Canadian Documentary at the Toronto International Film Festival for *Artist on Fire*. She's been cinematographer, editor, director, producer and independent cinema owner, several times over.

For *Historical Gossip*, Tranter uses a small film crew and her own footage, shot on both a professional camera and her iPhone. She rough-edits the footage and then sends it to professional editors for finishing.

First and foremost, for Tranter, is the desire to entertain. "I hope these stories on the town's social fabric do that," she says.

But she takes pains to make sure her focus on the past doesn't mean she values the

present less. She is encouraged by Niagara Now. "So many of the new people in town are talented," she says. "There is a real brain trust that is accumulating with people choosing to move — or move back — here. The town is exciting again, but for different reasons".

You can tell, as she's thinking about the project, her mind is racing with new creative ideas. But she acknowledges the most important step at this point is creating a business plan. To date, *Historical Gossip* has been entirely self-financed. "I need to convince the networks who will air the documentary, and the people who will support it," Tranter concedes.

You can tell, she has the skill, drive and passion to make it happen.

“The Niagara River really is a character.

In the 50s and 60s, the river was a part of who we were. You woke up and looked at it every day. We went back and forth across the river to party and for cigarettes—20 cents a pack! We all had access to boats. We sailed all the time. Customs on both sides knew us and just waved us through.”

BARBARA TRANTER
MEMORIES OF THE NIAGARA RIVER IN THE 1960S

Mr Furnace 
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

289-205-1242

**WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE
LIMITED UNITS**

**UP TO \$3000 OFF ON HOME COMFORT
SYSTEMS + GOVERNMENT REBATES
SERVICE 24/7 365 DAYS, NO EXTRA CHARGE**