Randwood owner denies demolition by neglect

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Local activists in Niagara-on-the-Lake say the controversial Randwood Estate is being neglected, while the property owner denies the claim.

Michael McClelland of ERA Architects made a delegation to town’s committee of the whole Monday night, representing Save Our Randwood Estate, a local citizen group that’s advocating for the preservation of the historic buildings and landscapes within the estate boundaries.

One of the concerns the group shared was in regard to alleged damage done to the property from a flood which happened back in January. McClelland asked how the damage is being remediated. There have also been reports of people wandering through the site, which raises safety concerns, McClelland said.

"(The estate) is a very valuable resource," he said. "We want to make sure it’s secure." McClelland suggested the town to look at Toronto’s

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Flood prep ongoing in wake of fluctuating lake level

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake’s staff is taking more measures to prevent flooding and protect the equipment from vandalism, as the water level in Lake Ontario continues to fluctuate.

Brett Ruck, the town’s manager of environmental services, made a presentation to the committee of the whole Monday night, addressing residents’ concerns and providing updates on flood prevention works.

The water levels are fluctuating up and down about an inch, said Ruck, and the water level hasn’t crested, according to Environment Canada.

"I don’t see that we’re going to be in a great panic that’s going to go much higher," Ruck told council.

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Protesters persist, residents resist

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The ongoing conflict between animal rights activists and horse-drawn carriage supporters in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s heritage district stirred up more controversy during the weekend, with a no-show by the protesters during one of their planned demonstrations, and another ill-received display at the clock tower cenotaph.

On Sunday, just a week after animal rights group At War For Animals Niagara projected “anti-speciesism” images on the cenotaph, members placed a wreath bearing the group’s acronym AWFAN at the foot of the war memorial. Members recorded the wreath laying and posted it on the group’s YouTube channel.

Carriage supporters said placing the wreath on the cenotaph without a ceremony or permission from the Royal Canadian Legion was just another affront to common decency on the heels of the first cenotaph debacle.

Adam Stitt, spokesperson for the protesters, conceded that the clock tower was a poor choice for the group’s previous demonstration. The wreath was laid to pay respect to the fallen soldiers and offer reconciliation, he said.

"I wouldn’t necessarily call it an apology. It was

Continued on Page 2
Protesters no-show for ‘Occupy NOTL’ protest

Carriages operated as normal on Sunday, planned protests had no effect on business, said Laura Sentinel. BRITTANY CARTER

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admitting that the site may have been selected in bad taste and there was no disrespect intended.”

The wreath was promptly removed by town staff, and the protesters’ gesture was ridiculed as disingenuous by many of an estimated 250 horse carriage supporters who showed up Sunday to counterprotest.

Longtime NOTL resident and carriage supporter Blair Cowan said he doubts Stirr’s sincerity.

“I believe it (the disrespect) was intentional. I think it’s like trying to get us over the line,” Cowan said.

Niagara Falls resident Tyler Vachon said he is a longtime supporter of the Sentineals, and said he found the cenotaph debacle to be “extremely disrespectful.”

“They decided to attempt to fix the problem by making it worse, and displaying a wreath without speaking to the legion first. They de-filed the memorial again by creating chaos and causing problems,” Vachon said.

Rhys Beak, from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, said the organization was unaware of the wreath and its removal, but he thanked the municipality for taking it off the cenotaph.

Beak said ceremonies at the cenotaph need to be prearranged with the legion, which the protesters failed to do. Anyone wishing to pay tribute to Canada’s fallen soldiers should contact the Legion beforehand.

Some residents who showed up Sunday said they think the cenotaph conflict is part of the reason the animal rights group didn’t follow through with its planned demonstration, dubbed “Occupy NOTL.”

Instead, Locals for Carriages, a group of residents who support the town’s horse-drawn carriage company, Sentinel Carriages, arrived at King and Queen streets early Sunday morning to claim the four corners and curb the protesters’ anticipated plan to take over the heritage district.

About 250 people came out to support the horse carriages over the course of the afternoon, said Jennifer Jones-Butski, one of the founders of the support group. About 50 of those people were wearing “Locals for Carriages” shirts to support the cause, she added.

Stirr claimed his group never actually planned to protest on Sunday — just that the downtown area was to be “occupied,” though not necessarily by his group.

He also claimed the group often receives encouragement from residents who feel horse-drawn carriages should be banned in NOTL, though they haven’t given their support publicly.

“We still have a very strong, albeit silent, group of supporters in town. We always have people giving us positive words when we’re down there,” Stirr said.

Some residents had a distinctly different take on the weekend’s events.

Vachon said if anything, the weekend demonstrated a sign of solidarity for the carriages.

“The protesters had the audacity to say that the Locals for Carriages group helped them by creating chaos and crowding the city, when in reality it helped prove that the protesters have made no progress whatsoever and that they aren’t welcome,” Vachon said.

First-time protester and longtime NOTL resident Dana Weiglandt said she was fed up with the protests and the constant bombardment of signs and protesters on the street.

She said in the protesters’ absence people were out taking pictures with the horses in front of the Prince of Wales like they have for years.

Speculation that the protesters were asked by the police not to hold their Sunday protest couldn’t be confirmed or denied, said Const. Phil Gavin, a media relations officer for the Niagara Regional Police.

“I can’t speak to the specifics of any conversation we’ve had, but I can tell you that we are working with both sides, at times providing them counsel and at times providing them advice, but ultimately decisions for their actions rest upon them,” Gavin said.

He said police are in constant contact with both groups and that both sides have been asked to come back to the table to discuss revising protocols that were put in place a year ago. The protocols are essentially a good faith agreement between both parties, he said. A written agreement was signed by a spokesperson from each side outlining terms to be followed for all future interactions.

In the signed agreement, each group agreed to allow for the free and safe flow of traffic of vehicles and pedestrians near the protest points and to maintain peace and order in their groups.

It was also agreed that members of both groups would remain six feet from each other, and the protesters would remain 10 feet from the horses. No verbal communication would occur between each side and any concerns would be reported to the protest liaison officer.

Stirr said he wants Sentinel Carriages to change its business model.

“The end goal that we have been pushing has remained consistent the whole time. It is for (Sentinel Carriages) to transition into an electric carriage business,” Stirr said, adding that if the operators do so, he believes they would save money and in turn be able to afford to convert the stables into a sanctuary for horses.

Stirr said he remains hopeful the company will change.

“I know there’s some animosity, but I certainly don’t think any ill-will toward the parties involved.”

Laura Sentineal, co-owner of Sentinel Carriages, said the company has no plans to switch to electric carriages.

“The magic of it all is the horse,” she said. “The carriage is just the means to an end I suppose. Without a horse, it’s just a car.”

She said no horse is forced to work if they show signs against it.

“Horses are excellent communicators, if they don’t want to be a carriage horse they let us know pretty early in the process.”

According to some residents like Cowan, Sunday was a victory for the carriage supporters and members of the NOTL community.

“It’s kind of hard to occupy when we live here. We’re home,” Cowan said.

He thinks the week-long protests brought the town closer together, if anything.

“This town is pretty community-minded to begin with. Because it’s so small, we do get behind each other when asked.”

Carriages operated as normal on Sunday, planned protests had no effect on business, said Laura Sentinel. BRITTANY CARTER

Got your weekly taste of local!

Go where the Locals go! Meet you at the market!

Located by the colourful picnic tables 111 Garrison Village Drive
(In front of the Garrison House) Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 25 to Oct. 5
Developer denies Randwood neglect

Continued from Front Page

heritage building property standards in order to address a potential demolition by neglect issue at Randwood Estate.

Demolition by neglect takes place when, “the owner or tenant of a designated heritage property, either intentionally or unintentionally, allows the buildings and/or structures on the property to deteriorate to the point that they are beyond reasonable repair,” according to the 2007 minimum property standards report prepared by the city of Hamilton’s planning and economic development department.

NOTL’s property standards bylaw states that all water, electrical and gas services should be turned off at vacant buildings, and weatherproof sheet plywood should cover all openings to prevent entry. McCelland also suggested the town enforce these two requirements to prevent further damage to the estate.

“I’m hoping that property standards can either be amended to consider heritage buildings because you don’t want to slap on plywood, you want to make sure it’s done properly,” he said. “I think there’s a necessity make sure we don’t lose these properties.”

Thomas Richardson of Sullivan Mahoney spoke on behalf of Two Sisters Resort Corp. and Solmar Development Inc. He denied the claims of demolition by neglect. His clients, Two Sisters Resorts Corp. and Solmar Niagara 2 Inc., have maintained the property under the Ontario Heritage Act, he said, and before the flood happened, all the buildings had been heated, air-conditioned and had running water, he said.

One of the main sprinkler pipes in the building burst causing flood in January. The water on the street was turned off at that time, Richardson said, but during the valve repair, the water was turned on again, causing a second flood in the building.

Heat and electricity will be restored by this fall and the cleanup is currently underway without any damage to heritage features, said Richardson.

“Our clients continue to look forward to continuing working with the town and SORE, if SORE is prepared to do so, in an attempt to resolve outstanding heritage issues,” Richardson told council.

“We believe the resolution of heritage issues can be achieved through these good-faith discussions.”

Lord Mayor Betty Disero noted town staff may be coming with a bylaw for demolition by neglect in regard to the heritage properties. She also said there have been many calls and complaints from residents, who live near Randwood Estate, about the length of time the water gets through.

Ruck also said there will be an independent review to look at how the shoreline can be protected on a long-term basis.

Coun. Gary Burroughs praised town staff for the “amazing job” it’s doing at the cleanup is currently under way.

“Once they put rocks into the water, it gets stirred up, Ruck said, explaining that the shoreline is already protected and he’s not overly worried if some water gets through.

“The stone is there. When the stone comes down a little bit and I can see what it is happening underwater. Once they put rocks into the water, it gets stirred up, Ruck said, explaining that the shoreline is already protected and he’s not overly worried if some water gets through.

Flood prevention has already cost $224,604

Continued from Front Page

the water level is still too high for staff to see what is happening underwater. Once they put rocks into the water, it gets stirred up, Ruck said, explaining that the shoreline is already protected and he’s not overly worried if some water gets through.

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Flood prevention has already cost $224,604

Lake Report releases special NOTL magazine

The Lake Report is proud to announce we’ve released our first magazine-style guide to Niagara-on-the-Lake, to give visitors and residents a little something for the summer season. Find a copy of Niagara-on-the-Lake: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers around town and check out some of our favourite pictures of NOTL, our top pick for restaurants of the summer, a list of picnic hot spots, and a variety of fun facts, stories about our town’s history, and information about some of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s best businesses.

We’re already working on our fall/winter magazine!
Editorial

News has to be reported, even if it’s bad

Richard Harley
Editor

It’s no secret the protests against Sentinel Carriages have become frustrating for many residents in town. The Lake Report is aware that by writing about the protests, the paper is giving a platform to the protesters. We suspect this is what the protesters want. Though it may pain us and other residents to see and hear their mostly delusional and quite frankly strange rhetoric, like ‘earthlings,’ ‘non-human species and ‘speciscisms,’ it is the job of the newspaper to report important happenings in our town — especially issues that draw resident concern on such a wide scale. After a year and a half of protests being on the street, the mere fact of them being there is, obviously, no longer news. However when there is significant resident concern, The Lake Report will be there to cover it. When groups are planning demonstrations titled, ‘Occupy NOTL,’ we will be there to cover it. When our cenotaph is used as a backdrop for a (any) group to project its message, we will be there to cover it. Reporting the news is The Lake Report’s duty and commitment to the community, as the town’s most respected newspaper. We keep in mind giving the protesters another platform for a message we do not agree with, is it our mandate that the need for residents to know what’s happening locally is more important than our beliefs. We will make our stance known, and we have done so, but we will not take sides when it comes to reporting. The news must stay objective. It allows people to make their own decisions. Most, like us at the paper, have seen the protesters are misguided in their efforts. We are sure there are others who agree with their views. The Lake Report does not support the idea of banning all horse carriages. We do not believe the Sentineals fit into the category of carriage operators who should be protested. Work animals and pets are an important part of human life, and I personally have seen the relationship between animals and humans is symbiotic in many ways. As a pet owner myself, I know animals can be companions. And I believe many animals actually quite enjoy being around people too. All over town I regularly see happy dogs that, if any thing, ‘own’ their masters more than their masters own them. And that’s a great thing. The idea that you can have a pet, but can’t “own” it, is just poor wordplay. That any group would want to put an end to all domesticated animals, and the bond an animal and human can share, is soulless and heartbreaking. To Locals for Carriages, keep focused on your goal — share about how the horses add positively to our beautiful town, and keep on going through the procedures to have council step in with a permit system. To the members of At War For Animals Niagara, I have a few suggestions for you and places where your drive — the only thing I can commend about your group — might actually make a positive impact. 1. Marineland — you know, the place where the Walrus died a couple of months ago, that keeps a wide-variety of animals for entertainment, and that has had employees speak out against the treatment of those animals. 2. Skyway Animal Hospital — well, you’re too late actually, it’s closed because people have a real concern with animal cruelty — like a pet-beating vet — the cause actually gains traction. 3. Cat boarders — you’d be surprised how many are right here in Niagara. Bob Barker and the folks at the Price is Right would be pleased. 4. Groups that want to see all domestic animals extinct. Oh, wait … that would be you.*face palm* editor@niagaranow.com

Shaw column: Man and Superman a superb experience

Kimberley Rampersad
Special to The Lake Report

Since introducing myself in an article a few weeks ago, I have truly enjoyed speaking with many interested readers regarding the Shaw Festival. One of the most popular questions I hear is, ‘What is Man and Superman about?’

It is billed as a comedy and a philosophy. Following our hero, John Tanner, whom I consider an avatar of Shaw himself, we engage with the world. For fear of leaving out a theme the play tackles, I will not attempt to list them. But like Shaw’s approach to life, the play is critical, rigorous, humorous and stimulating. Man and Superman by Bernard Shaw, is the final play to open on the Festival Stage this season — starting on Aug. 24 with only 17 performances. It is an opera of a play, being performed in its entirety from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. You read correctly: six hours of some of the most delicious word-music ever composed, being lifted off the page and onto the stage. Never fear, there is an intermission between Acts I and II, III and IV, and a lunch interval between Acts II and III. I invite you to join us. In a time when we can commit to luxurious rounds of golf, evenings of binge-watching terrific programming, and following our favourite teams through the playoffs and beyond, participating in this is not beyond any of us in either endurance or fortune. In fact, I delight in knowing the audience will be preparing in a similar way to the actors and theatre makers presenting the play. You will consider the play days in advance of attending. You will ensure you get a good night’s sleep and eat the kind of breakfast your Olympian avatar would eat on performance day. And with everyone gathered in the theatre, you will collectively participate in this most Herculean adventure together.

Consider spending the morning and afternoon with us, downloading something extraordinary into your most precious device — you. Kimberley Rampersad is the interim artistic director at the Shaw Festival.
Stopping for a conversation with the horse protesters

Graham McMillan
Special to The Lake Report

While enjoying a walk on Canada Day, I was jolted and bemused by the sight of three placard waving individuals protesting the horse-drawn carriages parked beside the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Seeing these much-beloved icons of NOTL being so brashly opposed brought me up short and I felt it only fair to hear the demonstrators’ arguments. Perhaps they had slaughtered out some horrific animal cruelty. I needed to know.

I approached the nearest two picketers; let’s call them Anna and Brenda. Anna informed me they opposed the cruel exploitation of animals for profit. Brenda added the animals were forced, without their consent, to walk in dangerous traffic, sometimes in very hot weather.

I was startled. “Whoa, there’s a lot to unpack there,” I exclaimed. “The animals well-fed and cared for, and have never suffered injury. What is this cruelty of which you speak?”

Anna admitted, grudgingly, the horses were indeed well-fed and cared for. Still, it was cruel to force them to work under such conditions, and without their written consent. (She didn’t say written, I just made that up. But she might as well have.)

I needed to parse their argument. Would they be satisfied if the horses simply didn’t operate on extremely hot days? “Absolutely not!” Brenda thundered, her voice shaking. “It must be a total ban!”

So I pressed on. “You mentioned the issue of profit. If that’s your concern, would you be okay if the carriages were nonprofit rather than running on a business model? Or if they donated all their profits to charity?” Once again, Anna and Brenda would not be mollified by such half-measures.

“Alright, hot weather and profit are your talking points, but they’re obviously not the issue. So perhaps, I suggested helpfully, “your real issue is the traffic danger involved. Would the horses be safer still if the carriages came equipped with bigger warning signs and reflectors?”

Once again, Anna squirmed but still bristled. She knew as well as anyone the industry’s safety record in NOTL was unblemished. By this point she was eager to disengage from further dialogue. “Look,” she said, “obviously you disagree with our position, so why don’t we agree to disagree and you just move along?”

I explained this was premature; I needed to clarify her argument further before deciding if I agreed or disagreed with it. Perhaps she still had terrific arguments which would convince me that opposing horse-drawn carriages was some new front in the war against slavery and oppression. Was she opposed to all forms of working animals “for profit”? Or just this particular animal and this particular work? Anna hesitated. “We are opposed to the exploitation of animals for profit,” she parroted, leaving me to ponder the career implications on future generations of seeing-eye dogs, sheepdogs, oxen, milk cows and pirates’ parrots, some of whom already faced diminished work opportunities.

“But if the carriages stopped rolling tomorrow, what should become of the horses?” I asked.

Anna informed me the horses should be placed in a pasture or reserve, and allowed to live out their natural days in bucolic idleness, freed from the rigours of human-induced labour. Humans could feed them when food was scarce, but presumably only if they consented to do so. Although I was pretty sure Anna and Brenda would be there to protest if they didn’t.

This did indeed sound like horse heaven. But paradise comes at a cost, and as my ancestors were fond of saying, “talk is cheap, but it takes money to buy good whiskey.” So I asked if we might expect a cash contribution from them anytime soon to turn their dream into reality. Despite their obvious zeal, I was unable to persuade either Anna or Brenda to write a cheque to subsidize this horse Nirvana.

“They’re our horses,” Brenda scoffed. “It’s up to their owners to create a horse preserve for them, at their expense.”

A beautiful sentiment indeed. But one doesn’t have to be Nostradamus to predict the outcome of Anna’s idealistic equine vision – that more horses would be put down. So much for reducing animal cruelty! It is good to see young people display idealism and purpose. I admire it. I really do. I only wish this particular group would focus their energy on selecting more critical wrongs to right, and on thinking through the foreseeable effects of their proposed policies.

The world is awash in serious problems to tackle. If these folks share a passion and concern for horses, why do they not picket race tracks, where race horses by the score are being injured and euthanized every year? What have they done to address the deplorable conditions on some poultry, hog and dairy factory farms? Clearly these are far more egregious examples of “animal cruelty” “for profit.” Were I young again, and had but one summer to devote to furthering the cause of animal welfare, I wouldn’t waste it attacking a small family business that has brought joy to many and never harmed a horse.

Graham McMillan is a NOTL resident with little patience for specious arguments about specism.
Cycling tourists are an accident waiting to happen

Dear editor:

I’m driving down Creek Road (again, no helmets) and weaving and darts, doesn’t one end up in the ditch.

Going down Line 3 (no bike lanes) has been a chore, with groups of bikers going from one winery to the other, often about 15 with a guide. Really! Coming out of Line 2 at Four Mile Creek Road and I see about 15 bicycles coming from Niagara Stone Road and down Creek.

I can’t get out fast enough to beat these dangerous people. And, coming out of Silks, here are about eight cyclists on the sidewalk going down Stone Road. (I can’t blame them for staying on the sidewalk, as it’s much safer there and not many people use these side-walks anyway).

This is a serious accident waiting to happen. What the hell is this all about? Oh wait: making money!

Little village has gone to hell in a bicycle basket. Don’t get me started.

Sandie Schultz
NOTL

How much tourism is enough?

Dear editor:

Re: “Don’t fear new ideas, like corporate branding,” July 4.

Here is a new idea: let’s consider the residents, taxpayers and citizens when discussing the growth of tourism.

The owners of tourism-related businesses benefit from increased investment and growth, but do the taxes they pay even offset the additional infrastructure cost and maintenance? New jobs are important, but how many of the tourism-related jobs are filled by people who live here?

Is bigger always better? What would reaping “millions by working with corporate brands” do for our day-to-day quality of life?

I think most people just want to live in a community where you know your neighbour — rather than wondering who your new neighbour will be every weekend.

I think most people are happy to share the town with the tourists, but how much is enough? Where does it stop? Wouldn’t we rather a livable town than “remain current in world events.”

I am not afraid of anything, I just don’t agree that more tourism makes it better to live in.

Don Stewart
NOTL

Outdoor cannabis facility proposed for Airport Road

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva

The Lake Report

An outdoor cannabis operation has been proposed on Airport Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Nicholas Dell, a planning consultant of Harper Dell and Associates, made a delegation to the town’s committee of the whole Monday night to speak on behalf of his client and also address several concerns, including regarding lights, noise, odour and security, brought up by residents and members of the agricultural committee.

The proposed 10-acre facility would have a hoop building, 20 feet tall and 40 feet wide, surrounded by a screening fence. The security plan is mandated by Health Canada, said Dell.

The seasonal operation would take place from April to October. The plant would be outside for three months of the year, then it would be brought inside for drying, extraction and packaging, Dell said, but there may be an odour while the plant is outside.

“Smell is, probably, the greatest impact indicator for this use and the greatest threat to people concerned living close to something like that,” Dell said adding that with minimum distance separation requirements and odour mitigating measurements, such as fog cannons or smell-diffusers, the smell can be alleviated.

The sun-grown plant, which would be grown on open soil, would also be used for squeezing for oil, he said. Coun. Clare Cameron asked if the plants require pesticide spraying to which Dell replied that it can be used if it conforms to the intent.

As Health Canada requires the plant to be packaged on site, Cameron noted, “there is no apparent agricultural production of cannabis that would only be an agricultural activity.”

“Anyone of these facilities will introduce the further usage of industrial activity on agricultural lands that otherwise could grow fruit,” she said. Dell objected saying processing facilities are “quintessential for agricultural uses.”

Earlier in June, town council extended an interim cannabis bylaw prohibiting new cannabis operations and expansions within the municipality for one more year.

Dell said he was advised to speak before the committee of the whole before making a presentation to the town’s cannabis sub-committee, consisting of Coun. Stuart McCormack, Coun. Wendy Cheropita and Coun. Erwin Wiens.

The councilors didn’t make a decision regarding Dell’s presentation as they didn’t complete their agenda by 11 p.m. The town then voted to resume the meeting on Wednesday, July 10, at 5 p.m.
Fix It: Manholes on Lakeshore Road

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva

The Lake Report

When Francoise Rothschild was coming home from St. Catharines back in June, she hit one of the raised manholes on Lakeshore Road, near Firelane 4. It was a sunny day and the manholes couldn’t be properly seen because of the shadows across the road, she said, and there were no signs indicating raised manholes ahead. There were cones in the construction zone but not next to the manholes, she added.

“It barely said it was construction,” Rothschild said. It cost her $620 to replace the shredded tire. Rothschild questioned why there were no cones or proper signage over the raised manholes. The drivers couldn’t always swerve to avoid the manholes due to the oncoming traffic, she noted.

Niagara Region started the project there to reconstruct Regional Road 87, from Townline Road to Four Mile Creek Road. The first phase of the project started at 1315 Lakeshore Rd., moving towards Konzelmann Estate Winery, and involved installation of the new storm sewer outlet. The Stevensville-based company, Peters Excavating Inc., was awarded the tender for construction.

Before the road between the winery and Four Mile Creek Road was reconstructed, there were a number of raised manholes spread across the right side of the road. Perry Quinn, a sales professional at Royal LePage, also damaged his car while driving down Lakeshore Road. The incident happened two weeks ago near Konzelmann Winery where he left him with a blown-out tire, a bent rim and another ballooned tire, he said.

“They did circle the manholes covers, which are raised about two inches or so, with orange or red paint but … when I got there, there was little left of the warning paint,” he said in a phone interview.

The running cost for two tires and the rim was about $2,800 but as Quinn had a rim and tire protection as well as Canadian Automobile Association service, he only had to pay $18 for two new tires and a new rim.

Dorothea Enns, an owner of the Enns Battery and Tire on Four Mile Creek Road, said there were about six people who came to the shop with their tires damaged from hitting the manholes. She said she was surprised there would be something “so dangerous left out” and there were “no accidents as a result of that.”

“One person had completely ruined a tire and it was a very expensive tire,” Enns told The Lake Report noting that the repair costs could range, “anywhere from $500 of damage to $3,000 of damage.”

After the incident, Rothschild contacted the region to submit a damage claim. Once the region reviewed her claim, it referred her to the contractor company and its insurer as they’re “obliged to respond to claims of this nature,” said the region’s law clerk.

The contractor’s insurance broker, Masters Insurance Limited, denied Rothschild’s claim due to the lack of “substantiating evidence” which would support her claim. The company has met the requirements for work zones outlined in The Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 as well as the Ministry Minimum Maintenance Standards, said the company’s spokesperson in an email response to Rothschild’s claim.

“Why then have a claim area on the website if you never, ever approve them, pay them out,” Rothschild said. “There’s no point if they’re always going to deny it like this.”

The regional project’s manager couldn’t be reached for comments by press time Wednesday.

Action: Town promises to assess troublesome intersection

Kevin MacLean
Managing Editor

A resident’s concern about westbound drivers ignoring a stop sign on Niagara Boulevard will be reviewed by the Town of NOTL.

“Town staff will be reviewing the site, make improvements where possible, and if necessary, bring forward any recommendations to council,” spokesperson Victoria Steele said in response to a June 27 Fix It column in which Amelie Robinson said someone might get hurt.

It column in which Amelie Robinson said someone might get hurt.

The popular Ryerson Boulevard traffic (the one from Vincent Avenue are deferred after residents objected).

Weston noted North American statistics show that on average only 23 per cent of drivers make a full stop at an intersection, while 73 per cent make “rolling stops,” and three per cent don’t stop at all.

Many of the drivers using the intersection are visitors or one-time road users, she said, so it is unlikely that greater enforcement would improve stop sign compliance.

She might be right that ticketing won’t be helpful and is a questionable use of police time, since they would be enacting it.

Which brings us back to the “can of paint” alterna-

tive. With a stop sign that is visible but somewhat obscured by trees and the distracting lake view, would the visual “barrier” of a wide white line painted on the road help? Or at least mollify resident concerns? Is something broken or in need of attention in your neighbourhood? Tell us about it. But you must include your full name and contact information. No anonymous complaints will be entertained. Email us at FixIt@niagararow.com.
NOTL needs an advocate for seniors, says elderly resident

Shaila Hirsch-Kalm was among hundreds of attendees at the Art of Ageing forum held at Niagara College from June 26 to June 28. DARYYA BAIGUZHIYEVA

The age-friendly network in Niagara Region is more active than in other municipalities and regions, said MaryLou Hilliard, the principal at AgeWorks, noting 11 municipalities in the region are over-index when it comes versus the Canadian population aged 55 and over.

NOTL’s index is the highest, she added, with half of the population in town now aged 55 and older. The town should be concerned, Hilliard said and suggested it should continue to follow the World Health Organization’s eight features of an age-friendly community. Some of these eight criteria include having accessible outdoor spaces and buildings, affordable housing and accessible community and health services.

Following the Niagara Ageing Strategy and Action Plan, which was launched in 2015, NOTL’s then-Lord Mayor Pat Durne formed a steering committee to assess the town’s age-friendly situation.

“We were busy networking with as many organizations as we could in preparation for Niagara-on-the-Lake’s next move, but the next move never happened,” said Hirsch-Kalm. “There was a lot of effort put into those four years.”

Better transportation is another major need in town, said Hirsch-Kalm, noting an older person can’t get to a doctor’s appointment if there is no accessible mode of transport or if the person can’t drive.

She suggested looking into other age-friendly community initiatives to see what approaches can be adopted in NOTL. Hirsch-Kalm, who is a member of several organizations including the Ontario College Retirees Association, the provincial Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee and the regional joint accessibility advisory committee, said the forum was an excellent start for providing people with tools they can use to prepare better for their retirement.

“It’s a full-time occupation. Maintaining your health, your wealth, everything that you’re committed to and being ready to adjust to this as it happens,” Hirsch-Kalm told The Lake Report. “It’s like being your own management.”

The next step following preparation is looking at its realities, she said.

“The preparation could be outdated within a very short time when you retire,” Hirsch-Kalm said explaining that people, who are transitioning into retirement, need to be ready not only with a plan “A” but also plan “B,” “C,” “D” and so on. “You have to be realistic.”

The 83-year-old Hirsch-Kalm said she has been active since a young age, and has never let anything, including a longtime battle with cancer, stop or control her life.

“You can’t just sit and wait for the end to come. Boring,” she said.

Hilliard noted that “Ageism is the only acceptable social form of prejudice that still exists. Racism or sexism… any other ‘-ism’ is not tolerated in society yet we accept ageism just the way it is.”

The boomers, now aged 55 to 75, are completely reshaping what it means to age today, she said.

“They’re working longer, they’re living longer, they’re changing the face of the economy,” Hilliard said in a phone interview.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero is “vitally important” the town helps promote services for young families as well as seniors.

“We need to encourage young families to our community as well as look after the services for seniors. But one is not more important than the other,” she told The Lake Report. “We’re doing things for both areas of our population, and daycare is an extremely important part of what we need to provide in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

In June, the federal government announced plans to spend $55 million on dementia prevention to help patients and caregivers. The national strategy will increase awareness and reduce stigma around dementia as well as develop treatment guidelines and practices for its early diagnosis.

CROSSFIRE

Ontario Provincial Police seized a number of restricted firearms and a quantity of drugs from a St. Davids residence last week. While executing a search warrant July 3, the OPP’s Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit found a variety of guns at the residence, as well as “numerous components and tools used to manufacture restricted firearms,” and “evidence of previously manufactured and trafficked restricted firearms.” Police also seized a quantity of Xanax, “psilocybin” and OxyContin.

Taige Johnston, 23, of St. Davids, was arrested and faces a number of alleged weapons-related charges, including manufacturing and trafficking a restricted or prohibited firearm. Johnston was also charged with possession of a controlled substance. Among the weapons seized were two restricted GSG 1911 .22 calibre converted firearms; a 16-gauge shotgun, a .30-30 SKS rifle with ammunition; and two Airsoft guns. The weapons-related charges, including manufacturing and trafficking a restricted firearm. Johnston was also charged with possession of a controlled substance. Among the weapons seized were two restricted GSG 1911 .22 calibre converted firearms; a 16-gauge shotgun, a .30-30 SKS rifle with ammunition; and two Airsoft guns. Johnston was held for a bail hearing in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

No further details were released. Ontario Provincial Police are asking any one who has information to contact them at 1-888-330-1122, or their nearest police authority.
Voices of Freedom app kicks off

Dariya Baiguzhiyeva
The Lake Report

The walking tour app, complementing the Voices of Freedom Park, was officially launched on Tuesday, July 9. The app launch ceremony took place at the park, located on the corner of Regent and Johnson streets in Old Town. The Voices of Freedom Park, which opened in November 2018, was designed to celebrate Niagara-on-the-Lake’s black history. The town, which had black settlers since the 1780s, is also the place where the first anti-slavery legislation was introduced in the British Empire.

Produced by the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake in collaboration with the Voices of Freedom Education Committee and the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, the app allows its users to learn more about the town’s black history. Featuring photos, an interactive map and audio stories of people of African descent who lived and worked in NOTL, the tour starts at the Voices of Freedom Park.

Making its way through Old Town and stopping at 15 locations, such as Fussy Rowe House on King Street or Daniel Waters slave cottage on Gate Street, the tour ends at Tanbark Road in St. Davids.

Around two dozen people were on hand at the launch event Tuesday morning, including town officials Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coun. Allan Bishack.

“Please tell everyone you meet about this park, about this app, about our history because we’re really a significant place in this county,” Disero told the crowd.

The launch date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Act to Limit Slavery which was passed on July 9, 1793. Some of the influential Black people who lived and shaped NOTL’s history include Chloe Cooley, Solomon Moses, Richard Pierpoint, the Waters family and more.

Dorothy Abbott from Ontario Black History Society said she is “a strong supporter” of events celebrating and recognizing black history.

“My family are descendants that came up from the underground railroad in the 1850s and I celebrate this all,” she told The Lake Report.

Vanya Abrahams, Juliet Dunn, Sarah Rowe and Allan Louis provided narration for the app with the background music provided by Danielle Marconi, Joe Lapinski and the 41st Regiment of Foot, Fife and Drum Corps.

The script for the audio tour was written and directed by Barbara Worby, a producer and writer.

Natalia Henry, president of the Ontario Black History Society, did research and provided historical consultation. Nancy Butler also contributed to the project by providing research and guidance.

“I’m very proud to be a part of telling a history that hasn’t been told before,” Worthy told The Lake Report. “There’s so much to learn about the history, it’s very profound, and I think it’s time we all understood the prominence of the Black community in this town.”

The tour is available on BaladóDiscovery app, a free application which offers self-guided tours, maps and routes across Canada as well as around the world. The tour can also be downloaded and accessed later offline.

The app is available for download for both iOS and Android users at vof-park.org.

Enjoy every moment, says NOTL’s newest centenarian on birthday

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

Four generations came together on Sunday to celebrate Roberta Stark-Chevers’ 100th birthday. There were more than friends and family in attendance, members of the community made their way out to the Queenston home, where Stark-Chevers still lives, to celebrate as well.

Maja Ristic, a resident of Niagara-on-the-Green, read an advertisement in The Lake Report about the celebration and, with a home-made card in hand, said she came down to offer birthday wishes.

Stark-Chevers has lived in NOTL her whole life and is surrounded by friends and family who come to help her at her home.

Her best advice to following generations is to just enjoy every moment, she said.

“I’m just happy I’m still here,” she said. Alert and healthy, she beamed as she was surrounded by family to mark a century of life.

Calling all cooks!

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 love to hear about 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@niagaranow.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!
### Sunday
- **Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment** - All Day - Fort George
- **Walking Tours of Old Town** - 11 a.m. - Queen’s Royal Park
- Music Niagara’s Opening Gala: Countermeasure - 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - St. Mark’s Anglican Church

### Monday
- **Fun Duplicate Bridge** - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Community Centre
- **Therapy Tails with Jasper** - 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - NOTL Public Library
- **Town Council Meeting** - 6 p.m. - Council Chambers
- Music Niagara’s From Vienna to Broadway: Cabaret - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Oast House Brewery

### Tuesday
- NOTL Rotary Club - Noon - NOTL Community Centre
- **Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted)** - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Seniors Euchre** - 1:30 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre
- **Ghost Tours of Fort George** - 8:30 p.m. - Fort George

### Wednesday
- **Simpson’s Seniors’ Day to 8 p.m. - Simmons Maker Club: Sculpt with Polymer Clay**
- **NOTL Maker Club: Sculpt with Polymer Clay**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted)**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Euchre**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Ghost Tours of Fort George**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment**

### Thursday
- **Legion Fish Fry** every Thursday - 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Fun Duplicate Bridge** - 9 a.m. to noon - NOTL Public Library
- **Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted)**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Duplicate Bridge (Sancionted)**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Ghost Tours of Fort George**
- **Niagara Golden Age Club: Battle of Fort George, War of 1812 Re-enactment**

### Friday
- **Music Niagara: Famous & Infamous**
- **Music Niagara: The “Jeru” Quartet**
- **Music Niagara: The Village Orchestra**
- **Music Niagara: The “Jeru” Quartet**
- **Music Niagara: The Village Orchestra**
- **Music Niagara: The Village Orchestra**

### Saturday
- **Music Niagara: The Village Orchestra**
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<td>Clare’s Bike Night - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Science Fun Fridays - Noon to 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Farmers’ Market - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Maker Club: Build Your own Inspiration Board</td>
<td>Duplicate Bridge (Sanctioned ACBL) - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>Music Niagara: Young Historical Society &amp; Museum</td>
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<td>Barbecue Marinades and Ribs - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Mahjong Game: Drop in - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - NOTL Community Centre</td>
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<td>Music Niagara: Syrene Saxophone Quartet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - 56th Annual Lions Family Carnival - Noon to 11 p.m. - St. Mark’s Anglican Church</td>
<td>Music Niagara: Syrene Saxophone Quartet - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College</td>
<td>Tria</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - NOTL Public Library</td>
<td>Music Niagara: Young Virtuosi 2 - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. - St. Mark’s Anglican Church</td>
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**Saturday, July 11th - July 27th**

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**Hort Society Garden Tour**

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The NOTL Horticultural Society’s annual garden tour brought aficionados and novices together to walk through eight of the best gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake’s historic district on Saturday.

The Lake Reportandered some of the gardens to discover what enticed people to visit the private greenspaces.

No two people had the same story – the walk attracted people from all over, including local garden and out-of-town admirers.

Some people, like Brian and Michele Schmidt from Buffalo, are devoted garden tour followers who travel from town to town, stopping to visit as many greenspaces as they can manage.

Brian said they enjoy the tours both to find ideas for their own space back home, and to appreciate the beauty of each varied location.

Some walked, some biked, some drove, but those who came shared their love of landscaping and garden design, while admiring the skill and hard work that has gone into each unique space.

Other tours, like Dennis and Martie Murray from Port Dalhousie, said Saturday’s tour was the first garden walk they had ever attended.

“We always wanted to visit the gardens,” said Martie, adding that she found there to be an abundance of great ideas that she planned to take home to her own garden. The variety from house to house really struck her, she said.

“Ther’s been something new every tour,” said Appel of stopping.

As well as collected art pieces, many of her own paintings line the walls. She said her favourite were the flying apron pieces in the kitchen.

“In the kitchen I have my flying aprons, because once I retired, my aprons went flying,” said Appel.

Her artistic eye is what made her space one of the stops on the garden tour several years ago. Now, she said she just admires the work of the other gardeners.

The garden tour has been happening annually since at least 2012 and shows no signs of stopping.

With about 1,100 people taking part this year, the society was “thrilled and so pleased,” with the tour this year,

Dennis and Martie Murray from Port Dalhousie are out for their first garden tour on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

For future dates and information, go to the NOTL Horticultural and Gardeners’ Society’s annual garden tour.

**Library takes reading on the road**

Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The library hit the road on Thursday for its first Power Off and Play: On the Road event.

This one at Chautauqua Park.

The free program, which invites residents to visit local parks for interactive activities and story time hosted by the NOTL Public Library, is an initiative created to bridge the gap between the varied neighbourhoods of town.

Kasia Dupuis, the children’s library services associate with Sarah Flowers, library staff, brought library services to the first of seven community parks across town on Thursday. Each week at 2:30 p.m., library staff will meet at a different location for an hour of art, reading and “good old-fashioned outside summer fun,” as promised in the library’s summer programming pamphlet.

Dupuis said she was happy with the turnout for the kick-off event. Between 10 to 15 kids came out, and Dupuis said it seemed like they were all having a good time.

“We’re happy to be able to bring the library services out to people who may not be able to make it to the library,” she said.

The next Power Off and Play: On the Road will be held at the Niagara-on-the-Green Park on July 11 at 2:30 p.m.

For future dates and cancellations, check the library’s website.

**Local Snaps**

Top: Jeff Peller with wife Lisa lead the charge into Frogpond Farms Winery during the Wellington Waterloo Hunt Peller Estates Gala Wine Ride. Bottom: Lidija Brovane serves wine to the more than 40 riders who made their way to Frogpond Farms on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER
Brittany Carter
The Lake Report

The arts help the arts during the Shaw Festival’s Town Previews program, which gives proceeds raised during select performances to local charitable organizations. This year Yellow Door Theatre Project was one of nine recipients who applied for the program – receiving a cheque for $750 which will support their school workshops for Bremen Rock City, a performance by the junior company in December.

Andorlie Hillstrom, founder and artistic director of Yellow Door and first-time recipient of the Shaw’s Town Previews program, was in attendance to accept the cheque on Tuesday morning. “We are a charity organization, so this is an opportunity for us not to be passed up. And so, fingers crossed, I was hoping that they would be interested,” she said. “We want to expand our programming so that we can begin taking workshops, these are pre-show workshops, into the schools this fall.”

Hillstrom said the money will go directly toward bringing the preshow workshops for Bremen Rock City into the school’s that will attend the performances. Other organizations that applied and were awarded cheques during the presentation in the Shaw Festival Theatre lobby, were the Upper Canada Lodge, The Niagara Workers Welcome, Canadian Cancer Society, NOTL Soccer Club, NOTL Public Library, NOTL Community Palliative Care, Royal Canadian Legion and the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Janet Ellis, associate head of wardrobe at Shaw, said Town Previews showings are open to all NOTL residents. This season the select performance was A Horse and his Boy. “We invite not-for-profit and charitable organizations to apply. They send us a letter to tell us what their project is, and what the budget is, and how much they’re asking for. We have a committee on this end that has the money, and we donate it all to the charities,” Ellis said, adding that typically, everyone who applies gets something. “This year we raised over $5,000. We have a really good mix of arts and senior facilities, and children’s activities,” Ellis said. It’s nice to be able to give back to the community, said Tim Carroll, Shaw’s artistic director. “We spend so much time trying to get money, so it’s nice to be able to give it out once in a while,” he said.

Eight of the nine recipients of the Shaw’s Town Previews program stood with artistic director Tim Carroll and executive director Tim Jennings after the cheque presentation on Tuesday. BRITTANY CARTER
GAMES

Have some fun

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Cavalry soldier (7)
5. Sawbones (7)
9. Middle Eastern bread (5)
10. Game show player (9)
11. How bidding goes in bridge (9)
12. Topic (5)
13. Unintended discharge of a fluid (7)
15. Green-eyed (7)
17. Live together (7)
19. Offensive (7)
21. Money bag (5)
23. Where dolly mixture can be bought (5,4)
25. E.g. the DUKW (9)
26. Harvests (5)
27. Convert (7)
28. Parked (7)

Down
1. Average (7)
2. Bone manipulator (9)
3. Long flat piece of timber (5)
4. Contemptible person (7)
5. Genuine (7)
6. Kinsfolk (9)
7. Best of a group (5)
8. Chats (7)
14. Lake Windermere town (9)
16. Picked up accidentally (9)
17. Skipper (7)
18. Bear witness (7)
19. Maritime (7)
20. Laid open to view (7)
22. Mature (5)
24. Trunk of the human body (5)

Sudoku

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Last issue’s answers

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

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MLS® 30705563
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Jo-Ann Cudmore* Jo-Ann Cudmore
Arthur Wosinski*
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$939,000 | MLS 30748639

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MLS® 30740843
4 Crimson Drive, NOTL
$669,900 | MLS 30738225

MLS® 30740843
179 Cole Crescent, NOTL
$649,900 | MLS 30740843

MLS® 30740843
31 Confederation Drive, NOTL
$669,000 | MLS 30749935

MLS® 30749935
44 Cookley Lane, NOTL
$1,039,999 | MLS 30747954

MLS® 30752169
11 Elden Street, Virgil
$824,900 | MLS 30728444

MLS® 30752170
317 Confederation Drive, NOTL
$779,000 | MLS 30752170

MLS® 30752170
44 Cooley Lane, NOTL
$1,139,000 | MLS 30752170

MLS® 30752170
31 Confederation Drive, NOTL
$699,000 | MLS 30752170

MLS® 30752170
16 Norton Street, NOTL
$750,000 | MLS 30752170

MLS® 30752170
31 Confederation Drive, NOTL
$750,000 | MLS 30752170

MLS® 30752170
31 Confederation Drive, NOTL
$750,000 | MLS 30752170

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Mike Keenan
Special to The Lake Report
At Shaw plays, there are often props — some more subtle than others, employed with a symbolic nature — that often pass by, barely unnoticed. At the conclusion of the haunting production of “The Glass Menagerie,” Tom (André Sills) holds three candles in his hand. He softly blows each out, slowly eliminating sister Laura (Julia Course), mother Amanda (Al-legra Fulton) and himself, plunging us into darkness.

In Hannah Moscovitch’s “The Russian Play,” adroitly directed by Diana Donnelly and magically designed by Gillian Gal-low, there is little fear of that. Nothing is subtle. A young flower girl, Sonya (Gabriella Sundar Singh), lies dead on an institutionally sparse metallic bed, surrounded by clumps of flowers that she used to sell. The lighting is cleverly designed by Michelle Ramsay — one might associate with interrogation. A violinist-spirit (Marie Mahabal) whose sounds embody Sonya’s emotions. Two men starting the action off like a hockey game, Ryan deSouza’s music spot on with their loud singing of what must be the Russian national anthem — much like in the 1990 film, “The Hunt For Red October.” Esie Mensah’s movement direction wonderfully ballet-like, her depiction of Sonya’s two lovers simultaneously finding her — both remarkable and repulsive.

For the storyline, as Shaw’s program promotion suggests, “A small-town flower girl falls for a gravedigger in Stalinist Russia. What can go wrong? Well, it’s a Russian play, so: everything.” Tim Carroll presents us with another short production from an artistic director who asks that we stretch and go for it, much like his skilled cast. Singh’s superb Sonya, the star of the show, commands a standing ovation. Peter Fernandes, her true love, Piotr, the filthy grave digger, talented Mike Nadajewski, the capital-istic thug Kostya, who wears fancy furs, owns a factory, seduces young girls at will and is politically connected and Marie Mahabal, the violinist, an ethereal entity who floats amid the set like one of famed artist Marc Chagall’s painted angels. Singh acts as a comic yet cynical narrator, grabbing a program from a patron in the front row and warning him there’s no intermission for escape.

Moscovitch challenges us and her heroine to bounce from Russian sarcasm to moments of love and lust and extreme misery. Singh is so accomplished that she carries it off like a professional gymnast. “The Russian Play” entertains but is emotionally moving. Piotr, caked in mud from grave digging, and the pretty flower girl, such a contrast yet deeply in love. Their burial scene so well done that it paralyzes the audience and takes one’s breath away. The wealthy Kostya, always fancy dressed yet morally repugnant, even loathsome. This is Canadian play-wright Hannah Moscovitch’s Shaw debut, and we welcome much more, her irreverent juxtapositions exciting and alarming.

You might mistakenly assume that you are in for Anton Chekhov, but the play begins with a quote from feminist punk band “Pussy Riot” based in Moscow. They demonstrated against Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the group considers to be a dictator. One member served 21 months in jail. Sonya doesn’t fare as well. The Russian Play directed by Diana Donnelly plays at the Royal George Theatre to Oct. 12.
Cherries abound

It was cherries abound on Saturday for the St. Mark’s Anglican Church’s annual Cherry Festival. Within the first 45 minutes of being open, all of the baked pies for sale sold out, said Anita Miller, one of the events volunteers and a member of the church.

She said about 750 pies were made for the weekend. The church sells about 500 baked fresh and frozen pies and hold the rest to sell by the slice throughout the afternoon, she said.

Among pies and fresh cherries, the event also offered the book sale, a kid’s tent, “The Holy Grill” barbecue which was open through the duration of the festival, and a variety of “treasures,” clothes and items for sale.

All proceeds raised go to the church for programming and operating costs.

Your hearing: The neglected sense

The crunch of snow beneath your feet, the punchline of a joke, the whispers of wind through the trees, the sermon at church, the tune of a familiar song, the laughter of a child. As you read these words on the page, you can hear them, and that is how powerful hearing is.

To quote William Shakespeare, “The world has music for those who listen.”

When the words on the newspaper become blurry or the colours of the world dull, we seek the assistance of the eye doctor for an eye exam. When we no longer hear our loved ones, or the tune of that song does not sound quite right, whom do we seek out for assistance? Our hearing gets neglected. We have regular eye exams, dental exams and physical exams, but rarely does hearing become part of our health routine.

Society is putting an increased effort on wellness with a strong focus on active aging. After all, we are all living longer lives. Why not strive for the best quality of life by utilizing the supports around us? The journey of aging is not always a particularly kind one. Nonetheless, it is a journey we are all buckled in on. Along this journey, we all find ourselves at different points with frequent reminders that things do not work or are not as they use to be.

Alas, we do have a choice we can control, and that is how we are going to adapt to these changes we face to optimize our quality of life for as long as possible.

Hearing affects many facets of our lives — one of the biggest being our ability to communicate with each other and the world around us. It is an integral part of the evolution of our society. It is how we share ideas and exchange information: how we build and maintain relationships, how we stay connected to the things and people we enjoy. Thus, quality of life, the life we wish to optimize, suffers.

So, what is the call to action, you may ask? Well, if you haven’t already guessed, or the frequency of advertisements has not given you the gentle nudge, the call to action is, get your hearing tested. Be proactive and make it a part of your health routine.

Come visit HearingLife for a free hearing test at our new office in Virgil and have an honest conversation about hearing health with me.

Who am I? Just your new, friendly neighbour—hood audiologist. My name is Vanessa Vani, born and raised in St. Catharines, resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and I’m excited to be an advocate of hearing health with the goal to help residents lead active lives that reflect this beautiful community we live in.

Vanessa Vani BA., AuD., Reg CASLPO
Doctor of Audiology

Call to book your FREE hearing test today.

Virgil | 1561 Niagara Stone Road
Call Elena at 1-855-763-1200

Trouble Hearing?

Your hearing: The neglected sense

Vanessa Vani. SUBMITTED PHOTO

NEWS

Cherries abound

It was cherries abound on Saturday for the St. Mark’s Anglican Church’s annual Cherry Festival. Within the first 45 minutes of being open, all of the baked pies for sale sold out, said Anita Miller, one of the events volunteers and a member of the church.

She said about 750 pies were made for the weekend. The church sells about 500 baked fresh and frozen pies and hold the rest to sell by the slice throughout the afternoon, she said.

Among pies and fresh cherries, the event also offered the book sale, a kid’s tent, “The Holy Grill” barbecue which was open through the duration of the festival, and a variety of “treasures,” clothes and items for sale.

All proceeds raised go to the church for programming and operating costs.
The Soap Box Derby

The annual Soap Box Derby was a big event for boys in the Niagara Peninsula. Each boy found a sponsor to pay for the wheels and axle and used official plans to build his car. During the competing races, held in groups of three, the cars would reach speeds of 27 miles per hour (more than 40 km/h) downhill. The boy who came out the winner of the St. Catharines race would go on to Akron, Ohio, to compete for the All-American Soap Box Derby title. That championship is still held in Akron and this year’s event is July 14-20. This picture shows my dad flanked by my two older brothers, Terry and Don, behind the cars they built and raced in 1956.

SUPPLIED PHOTO/JIM SMITH

Exploring Photos: with Jim Smith

Exclusive to The Lake Report

Early Gothic four-panel, arched Gothic fancy and Queen Anne decorated doors. BRIAN MARSHALL

To complement this, the popularity of simpler door designs (four- and two-panel) increased; these taller, unbroken panels having the effect of drawing the eye upward and accentuating the arch. On grander homes, the head (top) of doors would be curved to echo the arched opening. Over time, these doors gradually became more intricately worked, often pierced by shaped recessed panels, moldings, bosses, and so on. Then, after being hung, the doors were commonly painted in colours chosen to make the design “pop.”

After what many thought of as the excesses of the late Victorian period and the Industrial Revolution, public opinion swung back to the natural materials and hand-wrought appearance of the Arts & Crafts style, together with the staid conservatism of Edwardian Classicism designs.

English Arts & Crafts homes saw the return of the planked door and, from the American interpretation, came the Craftsman door design. On houses of the uniquely Canadian Edwardian Classicism style, the main entry door typically returned to the panel form of the Georgian and early Gothics while often eliminating decoration except for subdued leaded or stained glass inserts.

And then, enter the Modernists...

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SOFIA GULYAK & VICTORIA KOGAN
MONDAY, JULY 29
A beautiful French program played by two of the greatest pianists of our time.

JANINA FIALKOWSKA
SUNDAY, JULY 21
This renowned concert pianist performs nostalgic pieces with a Paris connection.

21ST SEASON | JULY 14 - AUGUST 10
MUSIC NIAGARA FESTIVAL 2019
Where the world comes to play
This is the second installment of a three-part series looking at some of the magnificent houses of NOTL’s historic Queen Street.

175 Queen St., Anderson house and the Cottage Hospital

This house is unique in that its property straddles two of the 1791 surveyed lots, #50 and #51.

The current property was pulled together around 1819-1820 by Tenny Peabody, a watchmaker, who built the present stage house sometime in the early 1820s.

It is as a hospital that this property is known. Around the time of 1875 until 1919, the property became the site for the new Niagara Cottage Hospital. It had six small wards when it opened. A baby was delivered on its opening night, perceived by many as a good omen. The building served in this capacity until the hospital on Wellington Street was opened in 1951.

184 Queen St.

This is a good example of a wealthy American style cottage, built at the turn of the 20th century. Lefloover materials from the construction of the Cottage Hospital in 1875-76 were used in the construction of the Clock Tower in 1919-20.

187 Queen St., Roslyn Cottage or Chrysler-Burroughs House

It is unclear if there ever was a house built here prior to the War of 1812 – an 1810 plan of the town shows a small structure facing Simcoe Street just to the back of the current house but no designation was given as to what it might have been used for. It would have certainly been destroyed in the fires of 1813. The purchaser of the lot in 1821 for around 100 pounds was Ralph Chrysler who built the house in 1822.

He sold the house in 1839 to Charles Latham Hall for the sum of £900. Hall improved the house during his period of ownership by adding the Greek revival finishes, notably the pilasters with Ionic caps and the side porch. The house’s woodwork was done by carpenter John Davidson, who is notable as the builder of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church’s ornate pulpit.

In 1895, George Birge purchased the home and did major renovations. The 19th-century conservatory was removed but the 1839 balcony was saved. The next owner was Mr. Page Baker, the publisher of the New Orleans Times. He sold it to Cleveland railway magnate Donald McBain, who restored all the out buildings, painting them white with green shutters.

209 Queen St., Richardson-Kiely House or Charles Inn or Heritage Inn

The original building on this site was constructed for Charles Richardson in the 1830s. The frame of the house was constructed with hand-hewn white oak beams.

Charles Richardson was a lawyer and political figure in Upper Canada and served in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada from 1834 to 1841 as the representative from the Niagara Region. The house was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hall. Mr. Hall was a lawyer who came from the Windsor, Ont., area to practise law in Niagara Region.

By 1894, Garrie Birge had bought the property. The original building was enlarged in the latter part of the 19th century to encompass the galleries. The main additions to the original house (guest and servants quarters) were added in the early 1900s. The building was designated as a heritage site in 1986. This property has had a number of names over the years – the Richardson/Kiely House, Green Acres, the Richardson/Drope House, Neagh Hall and, finally, today it is known as the Charles Inn.

More Niagara’s History Unveiled articles about the past of Niagara-on-the-Lake are available at: www.niagarанow.com

Clockwise from top left: 175 Queen St., 184 Queen St., 187 Queen St. - Roslyn Cottage, 209 Queen St.-Charles Inn. SUPPLIED PHOTOS
We invite you to submit photos and stories for consideration in this section. Send your submissions to editor@niagaranon.com for a chance to be featured.

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Answer: Dog
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Email answers to editor@niagaranon.com for a chance to win a prize.

On the tee: Derbyshire and Simpson come up big
Richard Harley
The Lake Report
Mark Derbyshire rolled to another even-par 36 but Sean Simpson dominated the winner’s circle in NOTL Golf Club men’s league play on July 4, scooping closest to the pin (#1), longest drive (#3) and two $40 skins.
Randy Busbridge was the “A” flight winner with 23 points and John Kozik took “B” flight honours with 26 points. Other winners: closest to pin, Peter Falconer (#4), Paul Shelestowsky (#9). Long drive: Don Allen (#8). 50/50: Michael Nolan, $180.
Friday night Couples league: The powerhouse team of Joe & Cathy Taylor and Glen & Cathy Murray rolled to first place with a 2-under 34. Second by regression calculation, also with 34, were Paul & Ginny Green and Brodie & Maria Townley. Third were Jim & Janice McMacken and Oleh & Kim Hrycko (35).
Most honest: Gerry Shelly & Peggy Larder and Martin & Margot Richardson. Closest to pin: Gerry Sibbald.
Long putt: Jim McMacken and Sharron Marlow.

Betty & Jane: Plunger Patrol
Inspecting NOTL’s bathrooms:
Palatine Hills Winery
Charles Neufeld accepts the Gold Plunger award at Palatine Hills Estates Winery.

After four decades of grape growing, Palatine Hills Estate Winery has a lengthy history in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It has preserved artifacts that go back to the 1800s. Not just a winery you might stop at for a quick tasting, Palatine Hills has lots to do and is more of a destination stop. Check out the great patio, where you can enjoy a charcuterie board with your wine while engaging in patio games. People come for the history, the wine tours, the tastings, a gathering place for friends and, of course, the wine. Known for its pinot gris this visit had us curious for the rosé. For a small winery, it has many destination qualities. Our destination was the bathrooms. Quality and an attention to detail that began in the vineyard made its way to their bathrooms. Kudos for being totally accessible. The bathrooms were roomy and well-appointed. Something that really stuck out was the fabulous smell. The bathrooms, like the whole place, smelled of wine, in a good way.

3.5/5 Gold Plungers

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“Wesley” pretends to be an airplane at Veterans Memorial Park.

Victor Verbitsky slides into the water with a big splash at the St. Davids Pool.

Mike Clarkson takes 2-year-old Penelope Clarkson for a swim at the St. Davids Pool on Sunday.

The Lake Report

Sometimes words just aren’t necessary.

We don’t need to tell you how this summer has been a beautiful one, filled with blue skies and sun. So instead of describing what we are all fortunate to have in our backyards, this week we decided to put out a series of photos of people out enjoying the season, to compliment our summer special edition, Niagara-on-the-Lake: A Guide for Distinguished Explorers.

If you haven’t seen a copy yet, it’s a high-quality print that highlights some of the best summer activities and businesses NOTL has to offer, and a memento of our beautiful town for 2019. The Lake Report will be bringing you another high-quality magazine for fall/winter, and we can’t wait for that either, but for now, let’s kick back and enjoy the summer sun and warmth.

Don’t forget to pick up your copy of The Lake Report weekly

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• NOTL Community Centre • Avondale • Mori Gardens
• Simpson’s Pharmacy • Sandtrap Pub & Grill • Our office

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